

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NORFOLK

## Meeting Minutes

The Economic Development Authority of the City of Norfolk called, and held, a special meeting on Wednesday, April 9th, 2020 at 12:00 P.M. on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor in City Council Chambers, 810 Union Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23510

### **DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Michael Lee – Chair  
Antonio Sisco – Vice Chair  
Kim Brown  
Jaeson Dandalides  
Linwood Fisher  
Robert E. Garris, Jr.  
W. Craig Reilly  
Ursula Rhodes (*Remote Participation*)  
Carter Smith  
Richard Ottinger

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Jared Chalk – Executive Director  
Sean Washington – Secretary-Treasurer  
Dawn Ryan – Assistant Secretary-Treasurer (*Remote Participation*)

### **COUNSEL PRESENT:**

Barry Hunter– Kaufman & Canoles

### **GUESTS:**

Christine Garczynski – Director of Finance

### **ABSENT:**

Jeffrey Brooke - Director

## **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chairman Lee called the meeting to order at 12:02 P.M. and thanked staff and directors for attending in the midst of the pandemic.

Mr. Garris moved to permit director Ursula Rhodes to participate remotely from her home located at 7473 Hughart Street, Norfolk, Virginia [**NOTE: Address to be redacted before any disclosure pursuant to a FOIA request**]. This motion was seconded by Ms. Brown and unanimously approved.

## **BRIEFING**

Mr. Chalk provided an overview of the agenda and updated the Board on the efforts of the Development Department in response to the pandemic.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Garris made the following motion to convene in a closed meeting:

Mr. Chairman, I move that the Directors of the Economic Development Authority of the City of Norfolk convene in a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.3 of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussion and consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, and the disposition of publicly held real property, in each case, with respect to the property located in the Military Highway area of the City, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the Authority's bargaining position or negotiating strategy. Roll call vote: Ms. Brown, Mr. Dandalides, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Garris, Mr. Lee, Mr. Reilly, Ms. Rhodes, Mr. Sisco, Mr. Ottinger and Mr. Smith all aye, with no nays. (Vote 10-0-0)

## **OPEN MEETING**

After reconvening in an open meeting, Mr. Garris made the following motion:

The Directors of the Economic Development Authority of the City of Norfolk certify that to the best of their knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened, were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Directors of the Authority. Mr. Fisher seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Brown, Mr. Dandalides, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Lee, Mr. Reilly, Ms. Rhodes, Mr. Sisco, Mr. Ottinger and Mr. Smith all aye, with no nays. (Vote 10-0-0).

Mr. Sisco moved to approve the Resolution authorizing the execution of the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Developer Site, Military Circle, Norfolk, VA. Mr. Fisher seconded the motion and the Board approved the Resolution by a vote of 10-0-0. (Attachment #1)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Washington presented a Resolution regarding loans(s) under the Revolving Loan Fund Program (the "RLF Program") in response to the effect COVID-19 has had on Norfolk businesses. Mr. Washington explained that funding for the loans would be derived from the previously approved Revolving Loan Fund initially capitalized by the Federal Economic Development Administration (the "Federal EDA") [Carter Smith left the meeting at 1:00 P.M.]. The EDA staff determined that \$350,000 of the remaining budget would be used for this new COVID response loan program. The Resolution approves the modifications to the RLF Program that were previously approved by the Federal EDA. After discussion, upon motion by Ms. Brown subject to two modifications (i.e., that (i) the RLF Committee as used in the Resolution shall mean a committee consisting of Sean Washington, Craig Reilly and Chris Topping, instead of the RLF Committee as formerly referenced, and (ii) the RLF Committee be given the authority to approve RLF Loans for businesses affected by COVID-19 if, in the reasonable discretion of the Executive Director or the Secretary-Treasurer, a meeting of the Board could not be convened in a timely manner to consider the application). The motion was seconded by Mr. Fisher, and approved by a vote of 9-0-0. (Attachment #2)

Mr. Washington presented a second resolution regarding loan(s) under the RLF Program. The Resolution included approval for 5 businesses that applied for the COVID-19 disaster loan assistance. The business names and the amounts applied for are as follows: The Bold Mariner Brewing Company/\$35,000; Legal Video Solutions, Inc./\$20,000; Wing Tai Trading Company/\$35,000; Hamilton Perkins Collection/\$35,000; Freshtopia VA/ \$17,500. The Bold Mariner Brewing Company, Legal Video Solutions and Wing Tai Trading Company were accepted as submitted. After discussion, regarding whether the applicants had applied for federal funds such as the Paycheck Protection Program, the advisability of making loans in the face of declining revenues and the risk of not being repaid, the Board lowered the approval of the loans to Hamilton Perkins Collection and to Freshtopia VA to \$25,000 and \$10,000, respectively. Upon motion by Mr. Sisco and seconded by Ms. Brown the Board approved the Resolution for the 5 loan requests, with the modified loan amounts for Hamilton Perkins Collection and Freshtopia, VA by a vote of 10-0-0. (Attachment #3.) [Richard Ottinger left the meeting at 1:45 P.M.].

## OLD BUSINESS/BRIEFING

Mr. Garris asked about the status of the Pamunkey tribe, their casino efforts in relation to Cordish, and their position that the contract between them and the City had been breached. Mr. Chalk noted that the City is still waiting on the state's decision regarding commercial gaming and that Cordish is in communication with the City Attorney's office.

## ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 2:11 P.M.

Approved by *Michael V. Lee*

Attachments:

1. Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Developer Site
2. Resolution approving loans(s) Under the Revolving Loan Fund Program
3. Resolution regarding loans(s) Under the Revolving Loan Fund Program
  - The Bold Mariner Brewing Company
  - Legal Video Solutions, Inc.
  - Wing Tai Trading Company
  - Hamilton Perkins Collection
  - Freshtopia VA