

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NORFOLK  
Meeting Minutes

The Economic Development Authority of the City of Norfolk called, and held, its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 12:00 PM, 4th floor of the Dominion Tower, 999 Waterside Drive, Suite 400 Norfolk, Virginia 23510.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Antonio Sisco – Chair  
Jeffrey Brooke – Vice Chair  
Kim Brown – arrived 12:16pm  
Jaeson Dandalides  
Henri Patten  
George Polizos  
Carter Smith (Remote Participation)  
Morgan Whayland

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Sean Washington – Secretary-Treasurer  
Dawn Ryan – Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

**COUNSEL PRESENT:**

Barry Hunter – Kaufman & Canoles, P.C.

**ABSENTEE DIRECTORS:**

Richard Ottinger  
Kelsey Host-Sarcone

**GUESTS:**

Bob Sharak - Department of Economic Development  
Mia Byrd - Department of Economic Development  
Maya Keplinger - Department of Economic Development  
Bre Henderson - Department of Economic Development  
Larry Pendleton – CPA PC Financial Advisors  
Dawn Best – Vansant & Gusler

## **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chairman Sisco called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon and thanked staff and directors present for attending.

Chairman Sisco asked if there were any public comments. There being none, he proceeded with the business of the meeting.

## **REMOTE PARTICIPATION**

Director Smith, having notified Chairman Sisco that he would be unable to physically attend the meeting due to a death in his immediate family, requested, prior to the meeting, that he be permitted to participate in the meeting remotely from 313 Carter Forest Dr., Ashland, VA 23005. After establishing a quorum was physically assembled at the primary meeting location and that Director Smith's voice could be heard by all of the Directors at the primary meeting location, Chairman Sisco entertained a motion to approve Director Smith's participation in the meeting remotely through electronic means. Director Brooke moved to allow such participation and Director Polizos seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with a vote 6-0-0. This is the first instance in which Director Smith has participated remotely for a personal reason.

## **MINUTES**

Chairman Sisco asked the Directors to review the minutes of the November 18, 2022, Board Retreat and provide any comments or corrections. There being no comments or corrections, Chairman Sisco entertained a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Director Brooke moved to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Director Whayland and unanimously approved. (Vote 6-0-0).

## **AGENDA OVERVIEW**

Mr. Washington briefly reviewed the agenda and noted the final audit had not been received.

## **NEW BUSINESS / UPDATES**

Chairman Sisco then thanked all presenters at the retreat and solicited a discussion with the Directors on initiatives to pursue for the upcoming year. Chairmen Sisco started this discussion by commending the CARES Act Grant/Loan Funds programs and suggested additional grants and loans be made to small businesses. Vice

Chairman Brooke also thanked the organizers of the retreat and questioned whether the EDA should be more independent from the City or continue in the traditional role due to limited time, resources and personnel. He also expressed a desire to clarify the status of Military Circle Mall and Mac Arthur Mall and what transitional role the EDA will play in these projects. Director Patten said since she is new to the Board the retreat was informational for her in understanding the traditional role of the Board and how it is set up to align with, and assist, the City Council. Director Whayland stated that she would like to see the Board use opportunities for leveraging state jobs and, with a possible recession on the horizon, help the City be that collaborator. Director Polizos seconded the comments about the grant and loan programs and desired to see what the EDA can do to assist small businesses. (Director Brown arrived 12:15pm) Director Dandalides, noting the decline in retail, suggested focusing on Industrial space that is essentially nonexistent in the City compared to prior years. Direct Brown had no comment at this time.

Mr. Washington gave a brief Director's Report that included development updates on Riverview, 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Lafayette Blvd., and East Little Creek. Mr. Washington also advised the Board that Director Hales had resigned in November and that that City Council will appoint a new Board member when they are back in session. Chairman Sisco asked if there were any additional questions; there were none. Mr. Washington requested the financial update and audit review be postponed to the following meeting as the financial review of audit should be completed by then. Review of the budget for the upcoming year will also be presented at that time.

Mr. Washington reminded the Board of the Mobile Welding Lab graduation the following Friday, the 26<sup>th</sup>, and that all were invited to attend.

Chairman Sisco asked if there were any additional questions or concerns. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Approved by



Attachments:

1. Director's Report - Presentation