

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, April 10, 2024, at 12:04 PM, 4th floor of the Dominion Tower, 999 Waterside Drive, Suite 415 Norfolk, Virginia 23510.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Jeffrey Brooke – Chair  
Morgan Whayland – Vice Chair  
Kim Brown  
Jaeson Dandalides  
Richard Ottinger  
Henri Patten  
George Polizos  
Simon H. Scott  
Antonio Sisco  
Carter Smith

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**COUNSEL PRESENT:**

Barry Hunter – Kaufman & Canoles, P.C.

**ABSENT DIRECTORS:**

John Garrett

**ABSENT STAFF:**

Michael Paris – Secretary-Treasurer

**GUESTS:**

Amy Diggins – Department of Economic Development  
Ryan “Nikki” Southall - Department of Economic Development  
Mia Byrd - Department of Economic Development  
Robert Sharak - Department of Economic Development  
Carlisle Morrisette - Department of Economic Development  
Kendall Lawson - Department of Economic Development  
Brett Hall – WAVY-TV 10  
Samantha Peavy – The Lasagna Factory  
Kelsey Backe – Visit Norfolk  
Sarah Hughes – Visit Norfolk

## **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chairman Brooke called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM and thanked the Directors present for attending.

## **MINUTES**

Chairman Brooke asked the Directors to review the minutes of the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. There being no comments or corrections, Chairman Brooke entertained a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Director Sisco moved to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Director Smith. Director Ottinger and Director Brown both abstained from the vote and the motion was approved. (Vote 8-0-2).

## **AGENDA OVERVIEW**

Mr. Washington introduced Ms. Amy Diggins and Mr. Kendall Lawson as the newest members of the Economic Development Department team. Mr. Washington reported that due to Mr. Paris' absence for Department travel reasons, he would give the financial update.

## **DIRECTORS REPORT**

Mr. Washington provided the development updates for his monthly report. Mr. Washington also reported that a new Housing Authority Executive Director had been appointed, the position having been held by an interim Executive Director for some time. (Attachment #1) Mr. Washington then gave a brief financial report, noting that the EDA is still on track for spending for the fiscal year. (Attachment #2)

## **NEW BUSINESS / UPDATES**

Chairman Brooke invited guests Kelsey Backe and Sarah Hughes from Visit Norfolk to present their State of Tourism to the Board. (Attachment # 3) They explained that some of the numbers, while great because they have increased since Covid, don't reflect current numbers (explaining that those number are the most recent

posted). After the presentation, Chairman Brooke asked the presenters to send to the Board a copy of the presentation so the Directors could view the movie slide that wasn't available at the meeting.

Mr. Washington asked Ms. Southall to update the Board on the commercial corridor program. Ms. Southall summarized the Round 3 statistics and then presented a resolution for approval of grants. (Attachment #4). Director Ottinger moved to approve the resolution and Director Brown seconded the motion, which motion was unanimously approved. (Vote 10-0-0) Vice Chairman Whayland left the meeting at 12:50 PM.

Mr. Washington then provided an update on Military Circle Mall including the status of current building conditions and demolition undertaken in the area. He reported that Swaggath Plaza now has fencing around that area, and that Sentara is working with Dominion Energy to get their building separated from the Mall and parking lot lights in preparation for future demolition. Finally, he reported that conversations with ROSS will continue over the next 2 weeks, but nothing has been concluded at this time.

Chairman Brooke ended the meeting with announcements and adjourned the meeting at 1:05 PM.

Approved by                     *James Brooke, Chair*                    

Attachments:

1. Director's Report – Presentation
2. Financial Report/Statement
3. Visit Norfolk – Presentation
4. Commercial Corridor Grant Resolution