

EDA Meeting
September 19, 2023

**Economic Development Authority of the City of Portsmouth
September 19, 2023
9:00 AM**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Malcom Mitchell – Chairman
Neal J. Barber – Vice Chairman
Anthony Brown
Barbara Smith (9:21am)
Theresa J. Saunders-Smith

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Donahue – Secretary
Jeff Miller - Deputy City Attorney
Kelsey Swieringa - Assistant City Attorney
Mimi Terry – Interim City Manager
William Moody – City Council Liaison
Vernon Tillage – City Council Liaison

ABSENT: Lavonda Graham-Williams – City Attorney
Flora Berisha - Finance
Kyera Pope – Finance
LaToya Boone – Commissioner
Alisa Winston - PRHA

GUESTS: Cliff Hayes – Chief Information Officer
Janey Culpepper – City Assessor
Mark Hugel – City Councilman (9:07 am)

Welcome & Call to Order

- The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Roll Call

- Mr. Donahue called the roll. There was a quorum.

Minutes

- The minutes from the August 15, 2023, Regular Meeting were presented and adopted.

ACTION: On a motion by Mr. Brown and seconded by Ms. Saunders-Smith,

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Barber - yes; Mr. Mitchell - yes; Mr. Brown - yes, Ms. Saunders-Smith yes; Mrs. Smith - absent; Ms. Boone – absent. Approved 4-0 vote.

Old Business

None

New Business

- **City Broadband Update:** Mr. Cliff Hayes, Chief Information Officer for the City of Portsmouth provided an update on the City's broadband initiatives including the municipal fiber network, Southside regional broadband network, and local benefits.
- **Economic Development Staffing Updates:** Mr. Donahue advised the Commissioners that Ms. Autumn Bailey, Sr. Business Development Specialist joined the Economic Development team in August. Ms. Sher're Dozier, Administrative Coordinator II has departed the office as of September.
- **Business Investment Grant Program Update:** Mrs. Aimee Tracy, Business Development Specialist, provided an update on the first round of FY24 Business Investment Grant applications.
- **EDA Property Update:** Mr. Donahue provided an update on the disposition of EDA owned properties and those under contract for acquisition.
- **Downtown Waterfront Development:** Mr. Donahue provided an update on the performance of a market study in support of the redevelopment of the City's downtown waterfront. Mr. Donahue reviewed the tasks and schedule that the project consultant AECOM will be following to complete the study.

Closed Meeting

ACTION: At 10:22 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mrs. Saunders-Smith, the EDA moved to go into a closed meeting pursuant to Virginia Code Subsection 2.2-3711 A.3 for the purpose of discussing the acquisition of real property where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, specifically regarding 1028 High Street, 1013-1015 Queen Street, 400 Hatton Street and 42 Afton Pkwy.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Barber - yes; Mr. Mitchell - yes; Mr. Brown – yes; Ms. Saunders-Smith – yes; Mrs. Smith – yes; Ms. Boone – absent. Approved 5-0 vote.

Open Meeting

ACTION: At 10:58 a.m., on a motion by Mr. Barber, seconded by Mrs. Smith, the EDA moved that each Commissioner certify that, to the best of his or her 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 closed meeting just concluded.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Barber - yes; Mr. Mitchell - yes; Mr. Brown - yes, Ms. Saunders-Smith yes; Mrs. Smith - yes; Ms. Boone – absent. Approved 5-0 vote.

Items Submitted by Commissioners

- Mrs. Saunders-Smith shared a video and information on food halls that could be a good concept for

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the City's Entertainment District.

- Mr. Brown proposed the idea of an Economic Development sponsored golf tournament.
- Mr. Barber asked if Mr. Donahue could share any feedback that was received on the Economic Development Update that was provided to the City Council at its September 12, 2023 meeting. Councilman Tillage stated that the EDA is doing a good job and suggested that additional conversation with the City Council was needed. The Commissioners discussed opportunities to encourage minority participation in economic development.

Report Backs

- None

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Donahue, Secretary

Malcom Mitchell, Chair