

The Portsmouth Port and Industrial Commission

February 28, 2023

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Angelia Allen - Chair
Arnette McSwain - Treasurer
Bracey Parr
Ronald Peterman
Benjamin Foster
Roniqua Jackson (Arrived 9:07am)

ALSO PRESENT:

Brian Donahue – Secretary
Jeff Miller – Deputy City Attorney
Mimi Terry – Interim City Manager
Thomas Cross – Port of Virginia
Mark Hugel – City Council Liaison

ABSENT:

Sarah Rogers Garner – Vice Chair
Patti Phillips – Finance
Flora Berisha – Finance
De’Andre Barnes – City Council Liaison
Kelsey Swieringa – Assistant City Attorney

Welcome & Call to Order

- The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and recognized newly appointed Commissioners Ron Peterman and Ben Foster.

Roll Call

- Mr. Donahue called roll. A quorum was present.

Election of Officers -Treasurer

- Ms. Allen requested nominations for the position of Treasurer. Ms. Arnette McSwain nominated herself.

Action: On a motion by Ms. McSwain and seconded by Mr. Parr, the item was adopted by a vote of 5-0.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Peterman - yes; Ms. McSwain - yes; Mr. Parr - yes; Ms. Rogers Garner-absent; Mr. Foster-yes; Ms. Jackson-absent; Ms. Allen-yes

Minutes

- The minutes from the January 24, 2023, Regular Minutes were reviewed.

Action: On a motion by Mr. Parr and seconded by Ms. McSwain, the Commissioners approved the minutes from the January 24, 2023, Regular Minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Peterman - yes; Ms. McSwain - yes; Mr. Parr - yes; Ms. Rogers Garner-absent; Mr. Foster-yes; Ms. Jackson-absent; Ms. Allen-yes

Old Business

- **Port of Virginia Update**

Mr. Thomas Cross provided an update on the continued success of the Port of Virginia. Mr. Cross stated that the Port has seen a 10% increase in growth primarily stemming from the export of raw materials. Mr. Peterman inquired about existing backlogs at the Port. Mr. Cross informed the PPIC that the Port is not experiencing any backlogs. Commissioner Parr inquired about the possibility of a Port tour for the Commissioners and how that can be arranged. Mr. Cross advised the PPIC that he will look into the ability to coordinate a tour. Mr. Peterman asked about the Port's involvement in the offshore wind industry. Mr. Cross shared that the Dominion Energy Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project is being staged at Portsmouth Marine Terminal and is scheduled to be completed by 2025. Mr. Donahue added that the Port is playing a vital role in supporting the emerging Offshore Wind industry with the lease of Portsmouth Marine Terminal to Dominion Energy and Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy and the future wind turbine blade finishing facility. Councilman Hugel inquired about the role of PPIC with workforce development to support offshore wind businesses. Mr. Donahue stated that the Economic Development office and Portsmouth@Work program is working with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, regional organizations, and training providers to promote available skilled trades certification programs. The PPIC can assist with supporting the effort by being involved and can provide resources. There was discussion on the regional roles for funding and overseeing offshore wind training programs and the establishment of a committee to support workforce development efforts.

- **Port Host Community Revitalization Fund Program Update**

Mr. Donahue advised the PPIC that there has not yet been an announcement on the award of the pending FY23 Port Host Community Grant Program grant application. Applications are currently under review with the Governor's Office.

New Business

- **FY24 Budget Committee**

Chair Allen requested a volunteer to serve on a budget committee to assist Ms. McSwain, Treasurer in the preparation of the FY24 Budget. Ms. Jackson and Mr. Peterman volunteered. Ms. Allen stated she would select and appoint a committee to begin the budget preparation process.

Closed Meeting

Action: At 9:34 a.m., on a motion by Mr. Parr and second by Ms. McSwain, the Commission entered into a closed meeting pursuant to Virginia Code Subsection 2.2-3711 A.3 for the purpose of discussing the disposition of real property where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body,

specifically regarding the disposition of 3920 and 3930 Burtons Point Road and brokerage services.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Peterman - yes; Ms. McSwain - yes; Mr. Parr - yes; Ms. Rogers Garner-absent; Mr. Foster-yes; Ms. Jackson-yes; Ms. Allen-yes

Action: At 10:13 a.m., on a motion by Mr. Parr and seconded by Ms. McSwain, each Commissioner certified 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. Peterman - yes; Ms. McSwain - yes; Mr. Parr - yes; Ms. Rogers Garner-absent; Mr. Foster-yes; Ms. Jackson-yes; Ms. Allen-yes

Open Meeting

Action: On a motion by Mr. Parr and seconded by Ms. McSwain, the PPIC moved to amend the meeting agenda to add an item relating to Real Estate Brokerage Services.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Peterman - yes; Ms. McSwain - yes; Mr. Parr - yes; Ms. Rogers Garner-absent; Mr. Foster-yes; Ms. Jackson-yes; Ms. Allen-yes

Action: On a motion by Mr. Parr and seconded by Ms. McSwain the PPIC adopted the following resolution authorizing the execution of a contract for real estate brokerage services.

RESOLUTION (Real Estate Brokerage Services)

WHEREAS, in 2022 the City Procurement staff, on behalf of EDA, conducted a public procurement process for real estate brokerage services; and

WHEREAS, the procurement documents included cooperative language allowing other public entities to contract with the successful offeror on the same terms as EDA; and

WHEREAS, Harvey Lindsay Commercial Real Estate was the successful offeror; and

WHEREAS, PPIC now desires to enter into a contract with Harvey Lindsay Commercial Real Estate;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby RESOLVED that:

1. The Chair and Vice Chair are each hereby authorized to execute a contract with Harvey Lindsay Commercial Real Estate on the same terms as EDA;
2. The Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, and the Secretary's designees, are hereby authorized to take such other actions as may be required to further the intent of this Resolution; and

3. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Peterman - yes; Ms. McSwain - yes; Mr. Parr - yes; Ms. Rogers Garner-absent; Mr. Foster-yes; Ms. Jackson-yes; Ms. Allen-yes

Items submitted by Commissioners

- Mr. Parr shared that he recently attended a local meeting of the Local Initiative Support Corporation and there are opportunities for funding support for businesses.
- Mr. Parr suggested that the PPIC consider designating a real-estate committee to meet with Harvey-Lindsey and to report back to the PPIC on real estate matters.
- Ms. McSwain suggested continued support of the Bloom Co-Working Space for small start-up businesses and established businesses looking for additional office space.

Report Backs

- Mr. Donahue provided the dates of the City's upcoming Public Empowerment Forums. Interim City Manager Terry expanded on the need for the Public Empowerment Forums and the structure and topics of each forum.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Donahue
Secretary

Angelia Allen
Chair