**The Portsmouth Port and Industrial Commission**

**February 27, 2024**

**COMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Angelia Allen – Chair

Ronald Peterman – Vice Chair

Arnette McSwain – Treasurer

Benjamin Foster – Commissioner

Keith Rice – Commissioner

Edward Barham, III - Commissioner

Peter Hansen – Commissioner

**ALSO PRESENT:** Brian Donahue – Secretary

Jeff Miller – Deputy City Attorney

Kelsey Swieringa - Assistant City Attorney

Chris Gullickson – Port of Virginia

Mark Hugel – City Council Liaison

LaKeitha Forrest - Finance

**GUEST:** Steve Edwards-Interim City Assessor

Dorothy Morgan – Deputy City Assessor

**ABSENT:** Flora Berisha – Finance

Kyera Pope - Finance

Mimi Terry – Interim City Manager

De’Andre Barnes – City Council Liaison

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**Welcome & Call to Order**

* The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**Roll Call**

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

**Minutes**

* The minutes from the January 23, 2024, Regular Minutes were reviewed.

**Action:** On a motion by Mr. Barham and seconded by Mr. Foster, the Commissioners approved the minutes from the January 23, 2024, Regular Meeting.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Peterman - yes; Ms. McSwain - yes; Mr. Hansen - yes; Ms. Allen-yes; Mr. Foster – yes; Mr. Rice – yes; Mr. Barham - yes. Approved 7-0 vote.

**Financials**

* The FY23 Financial Audit was presented for acceptance by the PPIC.

**ACTION:** On a motion by Mr. Hansen and seconded by Ms. McSwain, the Commissioners approved the FY23 Financial Audit as presented by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Peterman - yes; Ms. McSwain - yes; Mr. Hansen - yes; Ms. Allen-yes; Mr. Foster – yes; Mr. Rice – yes; Mr. Barham - yes. Approved 7-0 vote.

* **FY25 Budget Committee:**

Mr. Donahue advised the PPIC that the Budget Committee met on February 23, 2024 to begin the process of preparing the FY2025 Budget. A budget proposal is planned for presentation to the PPIC at its March 26, 2024 meeting.

**Old Business**

* **Port of Virginia Update:**

Mr.Chris Gullickson of the Port of Virginia provided an update on the Port’s activities stating for 2023, the port is experiencing freight normalization that took place pre-pandemic. The Port has seen strength in rail business, which is important to local markets. Mr. Gullickson announced the Port has a new service coming from the west coast of South America where they have an abandoned trade lane there at the Port mainly used for produce. Portsmouth Marine Terminal received the 3rd shipment of offshore wind turbine monopiles last week. The offshore wind industry is experiencing more activity. There is going to be an official announcement concerning the dredging project soon. The Port is known for being the deepest, but now also the widest. This should bring regional and global attention that the Port of Virgina is the safest harbor for ships.

* **3920-3920 Burtons Point Road:**

Mr. Donahue provided an update on 3920-3930 Burton’s Point Road stating that we will be finalizing the terms of the purchase agreement with Stonemont Financial Group to purchase the property. Stonemont is performing their due diligence because there are some wetlands issues and environmental issues. They are planning to build a 163,000-foot storage facility, which could possibly be used for chilled storage and could support the Port of Virgina.

* **NNSY South Gate Annex:**

Mr. Peterman provided an update on the Norfolk Naval Shipyard South Gate Annex site stating that he and Mr. Hugel met with the shipyard last week. The fence line on the property is an arbitrary boundary and the shipyard is open to discussing it. The pier needs to be renovated or demolished. The shipyard cannot be paid in cash, but in-kind services for the use of the property could be considered. It was suggested for the PPIC Board continue to court suiters and have this as an action item.

**New Business**

* **0 Sixth Street:**

Mr. Donahue gave a follow-up on the transfer of 0 Sixth St. from the PRHA to the PPIC. The PRHA is transferring the land at no cost, but the PPIC will be responsible for maintenance and insurance while it markets the property for development. There has been interest relating to the development of this property.

**Closed Meeting**

There was no Closed Meeting.

**Open Meeting**

There was no Open Meeting.

**Items Submitted by Commissioners**

There were no items submitted by Commissioners.

**Report Backs**

* Mr. Donahue stated he is working with Avangrid Renewable Energies representative to attend a future meeting to provide updates on the Kity Hawk Wind Project.
* Mr. Donahue stated that Mr.Gullickson mentioned UNIS Logistics Project located on Wild Duck Lane. The project is wrapping up and looks like it will be opening soon. Mr. Donahue stated that he will keep the PPIC Board informed on the future ribbon cutting and celebration.
* Mr. Donahue stated Southeastern Freight Lines is expanding their Elmhurst Lane location tripling their footprint. Mr. Donahue met with a representation of the company and this has been a long term plan of the company and is finally coming to fruition. This will help them grow throughout Hampton Roads and other markets.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Donahue

Secretary

Angelia Allen

Chair