

Economic Development Authority of the City of Portsmouth

July 21, 2020

Electronic Meeting via GoToMeeting

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Neal J. Barber
Bette “Cathy “ Drewry
Kyle J. Kovachik – Treasurer
Malcom Mitchell – Vice Chairman
Ray A. Smith, Sr. – Chairman

ALSO PRESENT:

Robert D. Moore – Secretary
Brian Donahue – Assistant Secretary
Kelsey Swieringa – Assistant City Attorney
Elizabeth M. Psimas – City Councilwoman

ABSENT:

Theresa J. Saunders-Smith
Barbara B. Smith

GUESTS:

Jacob Oberman – Rush Street Gaming
Brett Schweiker – Rush Street Gaming
Jack Horner – Rush Street Gaming

Due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, this EDA meeting was held electronically via GoToMeeting pursuant to Ordinance No. 2020-21; each Commissioner attended the meeting electronically.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The Chairman stated that the meeting was being held electronically, and identified the notices provided to the public to access the meeting.

Mr. Moore asked for a motion in order to amend the meeting’s agenda.

ACTION: On a motion by Mr. Kovachik and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the Commissioners approved removing two LIP applications for property located at 600 Court Street from New Business portion of the meeting’s agenda. **Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Barber – yes; Ms. Drewry – yes; Mr. Kovachik – yes; Mr. Mitchell – yes; Ms. Saunders-Smith – absent; Ms. Smith – absent; Mr. Smith – yes.

The minutes from the June 16, 2020 meeting were reviewed.

ACTION: On a motion by Mr. Barber and seconded by Ms. Drewry, the Commissioners approved the minutes from the June 16, 2020 meeting as presented. **Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Barber – yes; Ms. Drewry – yes; Mr. Kovachik – yes; Mr. Mitchell – yes; Ms. Saunders-Smith – absent; Ms. Smith – absent; Mr. Smith – yes.

Mr. Moore reported that Economic Development has put together a year-end video compilation in lieu of the annual "State of the City Address" event. He asked that the Authority fund some of the expense incurred. There was a consensus from the Commissioners to provide funding support.

Mr. Moore introduced Mr. Jacob Oberman, Mr. Brett Schweiker, and Mr. Jack Horner from Rush Street Gaming who provided an update on the Casino Project and introduced conceptual renderings of the future facility.

Mr. Moore reminded the Commissioners that their State of Economic Interest Forms are due to City Clerk, Debra White, no later than Monday, August 3, 2020.

Mr. Moore reported that Virginia now requires all EDA Commissioners to complete semi-annual Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) training, and an on-line training program is available to satisfy this requirement. Ms. Ogelby will forward the link for the training to the Commissioners. Mr. Moore asked that the Commissioners forward copies of their completion certificates to the Economic Development office.

Mr. Donahue presented a FY2020 recap of the Local Incentive Grant program.

Mr. Moore presented an Interior Build Out Grant application in the amount of \$15,056.80, received on February 20, 2020 (prior to COVID19) from Hansel Union Consulting, PLLC for property located at 640 North Street.

ACTION: On a motion by Mr. Kovachik and seconded by Ms. Drewry, the Commissioners approved an Interior Build Out Grant application in the amount of \$15,056.80, received on February 20, 2020 (prior to COVID19) from Hansel Union Consulting, PLLC for property located at 640 North Street. **Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Barber – yes; Ms. Drewry – yes; Mr. Kovachik – yes; Mr. Mitchell – yes; Ms. Saunders-Smith – absent; Ms. Smith – absent; Mr. Smith – yes.

Mr. Moore reviewed the COVID-19 Business Recovery Grant Program.

ACTION: On a motion by Mr. Kovachik and seconded and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, the Commissioners approved the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION
(COVID-19 Business Recovery Grant Program)**

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant hardship for local small businesses; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portsmouth has received CARES Act funding and determined that not to exceed \$1,000,000 of said funding should be used to provide grants to assist local

small businesses through a new COVID-19 Business Recovery Grant Program (the “Program”); and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Department has prepared Guidelines and an Application for the Program in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A (collectively, the “Guidelines”); and

WHEREAS, time is of the essence for the implementation of this Program and it is the goal of the Economic Development Authority that the grant funding be awarded and disbursed to eligible businesses as quickly as possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby RESOLVED that:

1. The Program and the Guidelines are approved.
2. The Director of the Economic Development Department and his designees are hereby authorized to administer the Program in accordance with the Guidelines, including without limitation: posting the Guidelines and other information about the Program and otherwise making potentially eligible applicants aware of the Program; accepting and processing applications; making and disbursing awards in accordance with the Guidelines; and taking all such other actions as are necessary or desirable in furtherance of the success of the Program in accordance with the Guidelines.
3. The FY 2021 budget for the Economic Development Authority is hereby amended to reflect an additional \$1,000,000 in Revenues from City of Portsmouth CARES ACT Funding and an additional \$1,000,000 in Expenditures for the COVID-19 Business Recovery Grant Program.
4. That the Director of Economic Development shall provide regular updates to the Board of Commissioners on the status of the Program.
5. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Barber – refused to vote; Ms. Drewry – yes; Mr. Kovachik – yes; Mr. Mitchell – yes; Ms. Saunders-Smith – absent; Ms. Smith – absent; Mr. Smith – yes.

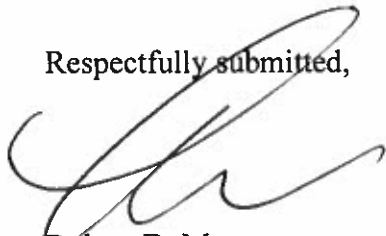
ACTION: At 9:17 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Ms. Drewry, the Authority entered a closed electronic meeting pursuant to Virginia Code subsection 2.2-3711 A.3 and 2.2-3708 A.3 and City Council Ordinance 2020 - 21 for the purpose of discussing the acquisition or disposition of real property where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, specifically regarding the Entertainment District, the 1000 Block of Fifth Street, and properties owned by GPDC. **Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Barber – yes; Ms. Drewry – yes; Mr. Kovachik – yes; Mr. Mitchell – yes; Ms. Saunders-Smith – absent; Ms. Smith – absent; Mr. Smith – yes.

City Councilwoman Psimas remained for the Closed Meeting.

ACTION: At 9:46 a.m., on a motion by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Mr. Barber, the Authority entered an open meeting whereby only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and 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; Ms. Drewry – yes; Mr. Kovachik – yes; Mr. Mitchell – yes; Ms. Saunders-Smith – absent; Ms. Smith – absent; Mr. Smith – yes.

With no other business before the Board the electronic meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Moore', written in a cursive style.

Robert D. Moore
Secretary