

**The Portsmouth Port and Industrial Commission**

**April 23, 2024**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** 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  
Flora Berisha – Finance  
Kyera Pope – Finance  
Chris Gullickson – Port of Virginia  
Mark Hugel – City Council Liaison

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

**ABSENT:** Angelia Allen – Chair  
Steven Carter – City Manager  
De’Andre Barnes – City Council Liaison

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**Welcome & Call to Order**

- The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

**Roll Call**

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

**Minutes**

- The minutes from the March 26, 2024, Regular Minutes were reviewed.

**Action:** On a motion by Ms. McSwain and seconded by Mr. Barham, the Commissioners approved the minutes from the March 26, 2024, Regular Meeting.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Peterman - yes; Ms. McSwain - yes; Mr. Hansen - yes; Ms. Allen-absent; Mr. Foster – yes; Mr. Rice – yes; Mr. Barham - yes. Approved 6-0 vote.

**Financials**

- Flora Berisha, Assistant Chief Financial Officer, presented the PPIC’s Quarterly Financial Report for the period ending March 31, 2024.

- The PPIC's FY2025 Operating Budget was presented and adopted.

**ACTION:** On a motion by Mr. Barham and seconded by Mr. Hansen, the Commissioners approved the FY2025 Operating Budget as presented.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mr. Peterman - yes; Ms. McSwain - yes; Mr. Hansen - yes; Ms. Allen-absent; Mr. Foster – yes; Mr. Rice – yes; Mr. Barham - yes. Approved 6-0 vote.

### Old Business

- **Port of Virginia Update:** Mr. Chris Gullickson of the Port of Virginia provided an update on the Port's activities. After the tragic event of the Baltimore Key Bridge collapse and subsequent freight repositioning efforts, daily volumes at the Port of Virginia have increased from 3,200 moves to 4,250 moves. The Port of Baltimore, much like the Port of Virginia, boasts a highly diversified facility. The Port of Baltimore is poised to recommence operations imminently.

The Portsmouth Marine Terminal (PMT) continues to support the deployment of the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) project and other future offshore wind projects. Terminal improvements at PMT have reached Milestone 2 and are progressing on Milestone 3. Dominion Energy will begin installing the project's first monopiles in May.

Mr. Gullickson expressed that the Port of Virginia and the City of Portsmouth are currently positioned uniquely, possessing attributes unparalleled by any other harbors. With their existing workforce, they stand poised to seize long-term opportunities in a way that sets them apart.

- **3920-3930 Burtons Point Road:** Mr. Donahue provided an update on the sale of 3920-3930 Burton's Point Road to Stonemont Financial Group. Stonemont, the developer, has tendered an offer to acquire the property. Following negotiations, a purchase agreement will be finalized.
- **0 Sixth Street:** Mr. Donahue stated that 0 Sixth St. and 1603 Seventh St. are properties that are being transferred to the PPIC by the Portsmouth Redevelopment Housing Authority. The parcels require consolidation and incorporating of right-of-way thereby combining them into a single property. This consolidation is essential for the marketing and sale of the property. Mr. Donahue has secured a proposal from Woolpert, which has an annual services agreement with the City of Portsmouth, for conducting the necessary boundary survey and platting work. The cost for this work is \$17,490. The Board reached a consensus and authorized the allocation of funds to proceed with the work.
- **NNSY South Gate Annex:** Mr. Donahue informed the PPIC that the Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY) is considering issuing a Request for Interest for the utilization of the South Gate Annex for private industry. Mr. Donahue stated that there is a desire to continue discussions with Captain Bennett of NNSY.

### New Business

- There was no New Business.

### Closed Meeting

- There was no Closed Meeting.

**Items Submitted by Commissioners**

- Mr. Peterman stated that Mike Anderson from the Army Corp of Engineers is available to come to a future meeting to give an update on the vision of Craney Island. Mr. Peterman also expressed interest in the Port of Virginia discussing its future plans for Craney Island.

**Report Backs**

- Mr. Donahue advised that he is working to secure a representative with Avangrid Renewable Energies to attend a future meeting to provide a presentation on the Kity Hawk Wind Project.
- Mr. Donahue mentioned the recent development of a trilateral agreement known as AUKUS, involving Australia, United Kingdom and the United States. This agreement pertains to the provision of a nuclear submarine fleet to Australia, sparking considerable activity surrounding the construction and delivery of the fleet. Furthermore, it encompasses initiatives to assist Australia in acquiring the expertise to service and maintain these vessels, while also serving as a catalyst for broader engagement within the military defense sector.
- Mr. Donahue informed the PPIC that the Portsmouth State of the City event will be held on May 3, 2024 at Rivers Casino Portsmouth. The PPIC will have a table and Commissioners are invited to attend.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Donahue  
Secretary

Ron Peterman  
Vice-Chair