

August 22, 2023

Meeting Minutes
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
August 22, 2023

At a regular meeting of the Economic Development Authority of York County, Virginia, held on August 22, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room of York Hall, 301 Main Street, Yorktown, Virginia, those present were:

J. Mark Carter, Chairman
Jeffrey Clemons, Vice Chairman
Harmon J. Coxton
Steven Meade
David Murray

Leslie Murphy and Vernard Lockwood were absent.

Others present:

Neil Morgan, County Administrator
Mark Bellamy, Deputy County Administrator
Richard Hill, County Attorney
Matt Johnson, Deputy Director, Economic & Tourism Development
Jeanna Henderson, Administrative Technician, Economic & Tourism Development
Darren Williams, Chief of Waterfront Operations & Events

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mr. Carter.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was established with five members present.

CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

None.

PRESENTATION

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mr. Carter asked the Board if they had any questions about the Financial Reports for June 2023. There being no questions, he recorded receipt of the Financial Reports.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 27, 2023 meeting of the Economic Development Authority of York County were approved by vote as follows:

Mr. Meade motioned to approve the June 27, 2023 meeting minutes.

Mr. Clemons seconded the motion.

On roll call the vote was:

Yea: (5) Clemons, Coxton, Meade, Murray, Carter
Nay: (0)

CLOSED MEETING

Mr. Carter introduced the next item of business before the Authority to advise all members of the Authority present that it was in his judgment appropriate for the Authority to enter into a closed meeting as authorized by Sections 2.2-3711(a)(3) and 2.2-3711(a)(5) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act for the purposes of:

Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, specifically real property located along the Route 17 Corridor in the southern part of the County; and

Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of the existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community, specifically an unannounced project in the northern part of the County.

Mr. Carter moved that the Authority enter into a closed meeting to discuss matters for the aforesaid purposes, and that the Authority deems it necessary, as specified by the Virginia Freedom of information Act, that non-members Richard Hill, Neil Morgan, Mark Bellamy, Jeanna Henderson, Matt Johnson and Darren Williams be present during the closed meeting.

Mr. Meade motioned to enter into closed meeting for the aforesaid purpose.

Mr. Clemons seconded the motion.

On roll call the vote was:

Yea: (5) Clemons, Coxton, Meade, Murray, Carter
Nay: (0)

The Authority entered into closed meeting at 5:05 p.m.

RETURN FROM CLOSED MEETING

The Authority re-entered into open meeting at 5:53 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE CERTIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 2.2-3711 (B) OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA

After returning from closed meeting, Mr. Carter moved that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements specified under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were discussed in the closed meeting.

Mr. Meade motioned to confirm the same.

Mr. Murray seconded the motion.

Mr. Carter stated that if a member of the Authority believed that there was a departure from the requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, they are required by law to state their objection prior to the vote indicating the substance of the departure that, in their judgment, had taken place. No objections being raised roll call followed.

On roll call the vote was:

Yea: (5) Clemons, Coxton, Meade, Murray, Carter
Nay: (0)

ACTIONS COMING OUT OF CLOSED MEETING

None.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Morgan announced his retirement and departure effective January 1, 2024. He voiced his great experience and enjoyment for 8 1/2 years, especially with the EDA. He stated that he feels good about important progress made the last few years through the Board of Supervisors, especially improvements to the County's Capital Improvements Program by keeping up with aging public buildings on the County and school division side. There have been significant operational investments in the County's public safety and public works departments. His hope is that the County's interest and commitment to the safety of the community will continue. Last week, the Board of Supervisors authorized the largest single VDOT revenue-sharing grant application ever undertaken in the County. He said that projects are beginning to take shape and there are more coming throughout the County. Mr. Morgan stated that he believes these improvements will continue to make York County a desirable place to live. He stated the County has maintained and strengthened its position as a reliable team player in the region. Part of that is associated with rejoining the Hampton Roads Alliance, so there is now a single entity for economic development in Hampton Roads. In the context of York County, putting tourism and economic development together occurred and has been beneficial. He expressed that the County's strong financial position was maintained during various ups and downs. Mr. Morgan remarked that York County is a cautious and conservative community with financial reserves because County leaders are very judicious in maintaining such reserves. He shared that there have been important strides in communication and transparency; social media is current and modern, and ninety-five percent of communication his office has with the Board of Supervisors is sent in a manner that is available to any interested citizens to read. Lastly, he stated that he holds a good opinion about everything that has been worked on and advanced. He again thanked the Board for its effort and support.

DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Bellamy shared an update on transportation and infrastructure projects, specifically sidewalk improvements throughout the County and bike trail portions of the Birthplace of America Trail (BoAT) that will run through York County. He referenced that the Board of Supervisors revisited and approved the Special Use Permit application for a new, modern carwash in front of the Harley Davidson dealership on Route 17.

Mr. Carter asked if there is also going to be a carwash on the site of the old drive-through carwash that was recently torn down.

Mr. Bellamy replied with a yes.

Mr. Carter asked if the BoAT trail includes a segment behind a property that received an EDA grant to improve property on Route 17.

Mr. Johnson replied that is does and the property owner, Mark West of Maramy Investments, still has an interest in connecting the two as things develop with his project and the BoAT project.

Mr. Carter asked if Mr. West was still moving forward with his project.

Mr. Johnson responded with a yes.

Mr. Morgan shared that the other Peninsula localities are working on their parts of the BoAT project. In 10 years, as the project comes together, there is an opportunity to make it the backbone for bicycle traffic and for York County to be tied into it. In comparison to other communities of like size, this is an area where he expressed the County is really behind. As a matter of competitiveness, people are demanding those kinds of amenities these days.

Mr. Carter thanked Mr. Bellamy.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS

None.

DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT'S COMMENTS

None.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Johnson passed along greetings from Ms. Olsen-Hayes, who was on vacation. Tying into Mr. Morgan's and Mr. Bellamy's remarks, he shared that every week he sees people utilizing the new stretch of sidewalk along Hampton Highway. He thanked those Board members who attended the August Business After Hours event sponsored by the EDA, and stated that members of the business community comment when they see Board members engaged in various activities. He reminded the Board that seats are available at the EDA-sponsored table for the Greater Williamsburg Chamber's "Commonwealth Conversations" on Wednesday, September 6. He thanked Mr. Clemons, Casey Roberts, and the rest of the leadership team at the New Horizons Woodside Lane campus for a recent tour. He commended New Horizons for what they offer students and adult learners and the work they do. Staff will get them on the schedule for a partner presentation at a future EDA meeting. He drew the Board's attention to two articles provided to them about Mobjack Bay Coffee Roaster's new Stanley Steamer tours and Chilled Ponds' aim to build a bigger ice-sports community. Once the Chilled Ponds project is complete, the

August 22, 2023

Board will have an opportunity to visit the facility. He provided an update on the Riverwalk Restaurant renovation and working with Marconn Enterprises to identify the best path forward and potential phasing of the project. He shared that a candidate for the Economic Development Specialist position had been selected. They will be primarily responsible for proactive engagement with existing businesses, as well as taking a lead role for York County on Start Peninsula and Peninsula Home-Based Business Network activities. Lastly, Mr. Johnson shared that 19 ribbon-cuttings have occurred to date, and since reinstating the practice in January, 176 new business packets have been mailed. These packets include a welcome letter and EDA pamphlets describing services and business assistance programs available through the department.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS

None.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Carter thanked the Board for their attendance and engagement.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.



J. Mark Carter, Chairman

A Copy Teste:



Kristi Olsen-Hayes, Secretary/Treasurer