

**MINUTES
ESSEX COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
JANUARY 3, 2025**

A meeting of the Economic Development Authority of Essex County was held on the 3rd day of January, 2025, with the following present:

Present:

Lisa S. Andrews, Chair
William A. Croxton, Vice-Chairman
David Holt - Secretary
Skip Weiss
Victor Burrell
Woodie Walker –Director of Economic Development

Absent:

Ronnie Sidney
Jamie Segar

Also present:

Tommy Blackwell – Public
Cupper Dickenson - HDT

RE: CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lisa Andrews called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. A quorum was met.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made for approval of December 5, 2024 meeting minutes as amended. Motion was seconded. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

RE: TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Sidney reported that the checking account balance is \$54,142.12. The 12-month CD value is \$16,305.77. CD interest received was \$199.33 for all CDs since origination. The total fund balance is \$66,305.89. One deposit was received in the amount of \$120.00 and nine checks were written. Motion to approve the report was made and seconded. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

RE: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Officers for the coming year were nominated and elected:
Chair – Lisa Andrews
Vice-Chair – Bill Croxton
Treasurer – Victor Burrell

Secretary – David Holt

RE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR REPORT – Woodie Walker

Mr. Walker reviewed his activity report, which is attached.

Mr Walker also mentioned that there is a meeting of GO Virginia at 10:00 am on January 27, 2025 at the RCC Warsaw campus. Those interested in attending should RSVP via the email Mr. Walker forwarded to members regarding the meeting.

RE: OLD BUSINESS

Historic Downtown Tappahannock (HDT):

Ms. Dickenson reported that WinterFest went very well despite the fact the Essex County Trojan were competing for the state football championship that day. Planning is already underway for next year, which will be the 50th year of the Christmas parade.

Farmers Market will be starting on Easter weekend (4/19) and also the date of the Earth Day festival.

A request for funds was also submitted for a Virginia Tourism Micro Leveraging grant for the April 19 – April 27 Restaurant week. The EDA will consider that request.

Piscatawy Creek Potential Project:

Mr. Weiss reported that he has reached out to adjacent property owners regarding the ramp and those discussion continue. He also suggested that the EDA consider having a high level design drawing completed to assist in seeking additional funding for the project.

FOIA Training:

Every member of the EDA is required to have FOIA training every two years. The online program has been halted and we will have FOIA training on February 19, 2025 from 10:00 to noon via a webinar.

EDA Website:

No report this month

Board of Supervisors:

No Report

Chamber of Commerce/Town Council:

No Report

Strategic Plan and Budgets:

Ms. Andrews presented the Economic Development Strategic Plan draft and proposed edits were considered. The Plan will be revised and circulated.

The current year budget and the proposed '25-'26 budget were reviewed and edited. They will be presented to the Board.

Tourism:

DMO Resolution – Motion was made and seconded for the EDA to approve the Economic Development Authority resolution to designate the EDA as a Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) and that the EDA request the BOS to approve a resolution to affirm the EDA as a DMO. Ayes: 6, Nays: 0

VA250 – Next meeting January 30, 2025 at the museum at 9:30 am.

Public Relations:

No report

RE: NEW BUSINESS

Regarding the development of the 26 townhouses proposed for Hoskins Creek, Mr. Croxton was asked to draft a resolution of support for the EDA to consider. He will forward the resolution to the EDA Director.

RE: CLOSED SESSION

No closed session

RE: NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 4, 2025 at 9:00AM.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:57 due to loss of quorum as noted by the Chair. The remaining three members and the director continued budget discussions until approximately 2:00 pm.

Secretary, David Holt