



City of Petersburg

Economic Development Authority Meeting

Meeting Minutes

AGENDA

July 15, 2021

5:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

1. Call to order – Mr. Samuel Rhue, Chairman

2. Roll call of Board Members

Samuel Rhue, Chairman

Mike Packer, Vice Chair

Richard Taylor, Treasurer

Dr. Ahkinyala Abdullah

Dr. Lafayette Jefferson

Winston Sanders

Joel Erb

City of Petersburg Staff Present

Stuart Turille, City Manager

Jeremy Tennant, Assistant to the City Manager- Planning and Economic

Development

Cynthia Boone, Program Coordinator- Economic Development

3. Determination of the Presence of a Quorum
4. Moment of Silence
5. Reports/responses to previous public information period

None

6. Approval of the Minutes- June 17, 2021

Mr. Rhue moved that the meeting minutes be approved with the necessary corrections

7. Financial Report- Mr. Richard Taylor, Secretary /Treasurer

Ms. Boone provided the financial report on behalf of Mr. Taylor.

The ending balance for the checking account was \$6123.52. A check was written for the EDA Attorney on June 17, 2021, in the amount of \$1,200. Leaving the balance in the regular checking of \$4,923.25. The balance in the Money Market to include \$0.85 in interest is \$100,003.34. The total balance for both the accounts is \$104,926.86

Mr. Rhue moved to accept the financial report.

8. Report from the Chairman- Mr. Samuel Rhue

Mr. Rhue and Mr. Packer met with the new City Manager to discuss the urgent matters facing the EDA. He asked Mr. Turille if he had remarks.

Mr. Turille, City Manager stated he had been on the job for 9 days and was getting a feel for the urgent needs of the City. He stated how he came from a small-town background as an economic developer. He plans to show leadership and bring in a full-time economic development director. Mr. Rhue allowed for the board to ask the City Manager questions. Mr. Sanders, Mr. Erb and Dr. Jefferson asked questions related to the plans and vision of the City. Mr. Turille summarized response included his plan to bring in more capacity, get organized, bring in economic players, and

operate as one team. He is in the process of doing a needs assessment to address workforce, blight, historic properties, infrastructure, assist police with violence in the City, parks and recreation, and clean up debris in the City.

Mr. Rhue elaborated on the agenda items that him and Mr. Packer discussed when they met with the City Manager on; Economic Development Director, Revolving Loan Fund, Site Development in the community thru the Site Development Grant received by VGR, budget requests for the EDA, Poor Creek Sewar System, and the Tobacco Fund. Mr. Packer stated that they hope they can get the items that were on the agenda addressed concurrently so they want to have to wait for one to be completed before they receive the other.

New Business –

- a. Brownfield Grant – Joe Morici, Practice Group Leader, Senior Principal-Brownfield and Development for Cardino.

Mr. Morici provided an overview of the United State Environmental Protection Program (EPA) Brownfield Grant. The program can assist localities with identifying potential hazardous substance, pollutants or contaminants that can impede on the development or reuse of the property. The award amount of the grant is \$300,000. The application is due in October.

- b. City Owned Property Presentation- Cynthia Boone, Economic Development Program Coordinator.

Ms. Boone provided an overview of the City of Petersburg Disposition process. Included in her presentation the status of the number of properties sold since March 2019 to present. She discussed the claw back provision, purchase agreement, development agreement and other aspects of the process.

Old Business –

c. Returning to in person meetings of the EDA Board

The EDA agreed to return in person for the August 2021. There will be a virtual option as well for the public. The meeting will be held at the Petersburg Transit Center.

d. Economic Development Report - Jeremy Tennant, Assistant to the City Manager

i. Civica Site Visit – they plan to open spring 2023

ii. American Rescue Plan Act- The City will determine a process of receiving requests and distributing the funds

iii. Metropolitan Business League ribbon cutting occurred on June 30

iv. Business Licenses- 27 new business. The Commissioner and Staff did visits to businesses on Monday July 12 and July 13 to check the status of their business license due to nonrenewal.

v. Staff updates- New City Manager, Stuart Turille started on July 1, 2021, Clay Mansell no longer work with the City, Cynthia Boone was promoted to Program Manager, and Jeremy Tennant was promoted to Director of Neighborhood Services.

9. Business or reports from the Vice Chairman or other members of the EDA Board

none

10. Public Comments Period

none

11. Announcements -

a. Next meeting date – August 19, 2021

12. Adjournment