

**TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 22, 2022
5:30 P.M.**

The Economic Development Authority (EDA) of the Town of Rocky Mount, Virginia met at the Rocky Mount Municipal Building on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 5:30 p.m., with Chairman Adam Lynch, presiding.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS PRESENT

Board Members Present: Chairman Adam Lynch, Vice Chair Doug Guilliams; Economic Development Authority Board Members Tara Holley, Chas Mitchell, Mark Redden, and Amy Worley

Board Members Absent: None

Others Present: Economic Development Director Daniel Pinard, EDA Clerk Cherie Compton

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions or Corrections: None

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented

Motion By: Member Tara Holley

Second: Vice Chair Doug Guilliams

Action: Approved by a unanimous vote of members present.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Let the record show that prior to the meeting, Economic Development Authority received the following draft minutes for review and consideration of approval:

January 25, 2022 - Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve minutes as presented

Motion By: Member Tara Holley

Second: Member Mark Redden

Action: Approved by a unanimous vote of members present

SECRETARY REPORT

Economic Development Clerk Cherie Compton advised members that the statement ending February 28, 2022 had a balance of \$82,045.00

STAFF UPDATES

Economic Development Director Daniel Pinard introduced Jeff Robertson from the Roanoke Regional Small Business Development Center. Jeff discussed his role with Roanoke Small Business Center and asked the members to help spread the word on what the center has to offer.

Economic Development Director Daniel Pinard provided the following updates:

- Daniel submitted an application to the Tobacco Commission for the Southern Virginia Program for sites and infrastructure improvement for the Rocky Mount industrial park. Previously the Cox Property was purchased by the Town and has partly been parceled out to Davis Heating and Air, Absolute Collision, and the Police Department impound lot. There is still 38 acres that is undeveloped and is attractive to industrial prospects since it borders the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The application for \$44,939.50 is to cover engineering and surveys
- Applied for a grant through the Virginia Tourism Corporation the Marketing Leverage Program. Monies spent during the branding campaign counts towards the match.
- He is working on the Community Development Block Grant
- Farmers Market starts this weekend
- New business opened called Anastasias
- Living Proof is moving fast and looks to open soon
- Ivy Smoke Ribbon cutting March 23 @ 11:30pm, Twin Creeks expanded ribbon cutting on March 30 @ 11:30pm
- Harvester lifted mask mandates
- Town is working on making businesses more aware of the Arts & Cultural District incentives. Members suggested sending out informational letters to businesses when there is things to be offered such as this program
- Old Blooming Deals location has movement inside

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None at this time

OLD BUSINESS

None at this time

NEW BUSINESS

Daniel went over the invoice from Robinson, Farmer, Cox & Associates PLLC for \$8,000.00 this was for the FY21 Audit.

An open discussion ensued in regards to attending other meetings, and having the auditors and towns staff attend Economic Development meetings to review future audits and answer questions.

Motion: To approve check for \$8,000.00 to Robinson, Farmer, Cox & Associates PLLC

Motion By: Member Amy Worley

Second: Vice Chair Doug Guilliams

Action: Approved by a unanimous vote of members present

AUTHORITY BOARD COMMENTS

Member Mark Redden expressed concern that sometimes they feel as if they are just check pushers, noting he would like to see projects identified and followed through to help develop the economy. Member Tara Holley suggested looking into dog parks and food trucks for the future. Chair Adam Lynch asked to see the "We're something else" being used more from branding. Members mentioned there needs to be more advertising for music and more events for music scheduled. An open discussion ensued.

UPCOMING NETWORKING EVENTS & EDA MEETINGS

Community Partnership for Revitalization- Monday, April 11, 2022

SML Chamber of Commerce Franklin County Connects- Wednesday, April 13, 2022

EDA- Tuesday, May 24, 2022

CLOSED MEETING AND ACTIONS

Enter Closed Meeting

Motion: To go into closed session under the Virginia Code Section cited below.

Time: 6:33 p.m.

Virginia Code Section:

Section 2.2-3711(A).3 Discussions or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of 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.

Motion By: Vice Chairman Doug Guilliams

Second: Member Mark Redden

Action: To go into a closed meeting

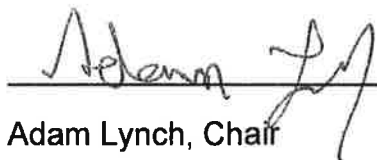
Certificate of Closed Meeting Discussion:

The Board certified unanimously that nothing was discussed in the closed meeting other than what was stated in the motion to enter the closed meeting. No action was taken during the closed meeting.

Whereas, the Economic Development Authority has convened a closed meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

Whereas, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, requires certification by this Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

Now, therefore, Be It Resolved that the Economic Development Authority hereby certifies that, to the best of each members' knowledge: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter; and (2) 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 meeting by the public body.



Adam Lynch, Chair

Post Closed Session Action

Motion: To ask Town Council to move forward with Economic Development Authority's proposal for the expansion of Citizens Square

Motion By: Member Mark Redden

Second: Member Tara Holley

Action: Approved by a unanimous vote of members present

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn By: Vice Chair Doug Guilliams

Second: Member Tara Holley

Action: Adjourned by a unanimous vote of members present

Time of Adjournment: 7:05 p.m.


Adam Lynch, Chairman

ATTEST:


Cherie Compton, Clerk

