

**TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 23, 2021
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, November 23, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., with Chairman Adam Lynch, presiding.

SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS

Economic Development Director Daniel Pinard opened the meeting with an introduction of new appointment Amy Worley. Ms. Worley was sworn in by Franklin County Clerk of Court Teresa Brown.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS PRESENT

Board Members Present: Chairman Adam Lynch, Vice Chair Doug Guilliams (in at 5:34pm); Economic Development Authority Board Members Tyler Lee, Tara Holley, Chase 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 Tyler Lee

Second: Member Mark Redden

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:

September 28, 2021 - Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve minutes as presented

Motion By: Member Tyler Lee

Second: Member Chas Mitchell

Action: Approved by a unanimous vote of members present

SECRETARY REPORT

Economic Development Clerk Cherie Compton advised members that the statement ending October 31, 2021 had a balance of \$115,845.00.

STAFF UPDATES

Economic Development Director Daniel Pinard provided the following updates:

- Harvester had been awarded the SVOG Grant (Shutter Venue Operators Grant) at the time of the last meeting in the amount of \$800,000.00 but noted that they have since also been awarded a supplemental amount of \$400,000.00 that is also to be used in the line items from the original SVOG. Venues are still struggling since the pandemic but ticket sales are starting to pick up.
- Rocky Mount and Franklin County were previously part of the Longwood Small Business Development Center out of Martinsville, however at the last County meeting they voted to switch to the Roanoke Regional Development Center.
- The Chilled Spot ice cream shop is opening December 4th
- Buddys BBQ is opening for breakfast Friday-Sunday
- SML Chamber is doing a ribbon cutting for ValleyStar Credit Union and will double as the business after hours on December 10, 2021 @ 4:00pm

An open discussion ensued about the mask mandates and vaccination requirements at the Harvester. Daniel stated most of the requirements are coming from the artist in order to meet their needs to play an indoor venue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None at this time

OLD BUSINESS

None at this time

NEW BUSINESS

Daniel updated members on the town code for mobile food units (Food Trucks) and that this code is being reviewed by staff. Members of the board also suggested looking at adding picnic tables to the Farmers Market area. Member Tara Holley asked about reviewing town code for businesses having living space above the business and was advised to speak with Town Planner Jessica Heckman for review. An open discussion ensued.

Members of the EDA were presented with the 2022 meeting dates for the EDA.

Daniel requested approval for the 2022 meeting dates for the EDA

Motion: To approve the 2022 EDA meeting dates

Motion By: Vice Chairman Doug Guilliams

Second: Member Tyler Lee

Action: Approved by a unanimous vote of members present

Members were presented with an invoice from Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates PLLC in the amount of \$7,350.00. An open discussion ensued in regards to what the invoice was for and if it should be paid by the EDA or Harvester for the audit. Members asked for more information on this invoice.

Motion: To table the discussion until further information is presented

Motion By: Member Tyler Lee

Second: Member Tara Holley

Action: To hold and revisit after more information is presented

Kathleen from the West Piedmont Planning District Commission gave background on applying for planning dollars through the Federal EDA ARPA allotment. Kathleen and the members of the EDA had a listening session in regards of marketing for the industrial site and surrounding areas, what properties need to be more marketable, what it can be used for, reverse site selection, tier upgrades, master plans, affordable housing, utility mapping, available properties lists, developing empty spaces. An open discussion ensued.

AUTHORITY BOARD COMMENTS

Member Mark Redden asked for an update on the 325 Franklin Street building. Daniel stated that the building is moving forward with progress. Member Tyler Lee asked about the new brewery, Daniel stated that they are moving forward with utilities and have broken ground and shooting for first quarter of 2022. Members asked if staff could look at ways to possibly acquire the County building that is located near the Farmers Market. An open discussion ensued about further branding. Daniel stated that everything is still moving forward with branding and the new website.

UPCOMING NETWORKING EVENTS & EDA MEETINGS

Franklin County Connects is the 2nd Wednesday of every month.
EDA meeting- Tuesday, January 25, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn By: Member Chas Mitchell

Second: Member Tara Holley

Action: Adjourned by a unanimous vote of members present

Time of Adjournment: 6:45 p.m.

Adam Lynch, Chairman

ATTEST:

Cherie Compton, Clerk