

**TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

July 25, 2023

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, July 25, 2023 at 5:30 p.m., with Chairman Adam Lynch, presiding.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS PRESENT

Board Members Present: Chairman Adam Lynch, Vice Chair Justin Muse, Economic Development Authority Board Members Ruth Cook, Doug Guilliams, Mark Redden and Anna Robertson (in at 5:32pm)

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 Doug Guilliams

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:

June 27, 2023 - Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve minutes as presented

Motion By: Vice Chair Justin Muse

Second: Member Ruth Cook

Action: Approved by a unanimous vote of members present

SECRETARY REPORT

Economic Development Clerk Cherie Compton advised members that the statement ending June 30, 2023 had a balance of \$5,000.00.

STAFF UPDATES

Economic Development Director Daniel Pinard provided the following business updates:

- Southern Sparkle is moving into town in the old Halls Music
- Thrift Store behind Buddys in the shopping center
- 150 Fest story telling event August 12th at Harvester
- Big 150 Fest event on September 30th shutting the streets down with several stages throughout the downtown
- DORA license is still moving forward waiting to hear back from ABC about adjusting the zones and boundaries
- Land purchase is moving forward began signing closing documents last week
- New hotel coming behind KFC

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None at this time

OLD BUSINESS

None at this time

HARVESTER UPDATES

Mr. Pinard provided the following Harvester updates:

- Free Harvester community shows scheduled for this year. The free shows will be standing room general admission shows that will bring in touring artists and help reach a more diverse crowd such as Ferrum College students.
- The Harvester is ordering a new movie grade projector and screen to use for events and movies at the Harvester since the local movie theater has closed.
- Franklin County High School hosted their prom there last year and are considering the Harvester again this year for prom and other school events.

- The Homegrown Music series has had excellent turnouts.
- Virginia Chapter American Planning Association held preconference tours in Rocky Mount and Franklin County prior to their annual conference in Roanoke. The Economic Development tour consisted of a tour of Summit View and the Harvester and how they are impacting the Town.
- In October Virginia Local Government Managers Association is holding an event at the Harvester.
- WSET highlighted Twin Creeks Distillery and Rocky Mount Burger Company both located adjacent to the Harvester.
- The Harvester is working on upkeep of the venue signage, roof, pressure washing, painting.
- Average tickets sales prior to covid were 180 per show since numbers have increased to 280 per show.

Chair Adam Lynch suggested placing Town tourist information back in the Harvester Member Doug Guilliams asked about getting an updated summary of Harvester finances.

AUTHORITY BOARD COMMENTS

Member Redden asked for an update on the connection from Downtown to Uptown. Mr. Pinard stated that the cost came in way higher than expected and Town Council has not made a decision on moving forward at this time. Member Redden also asked about the dog park, Mr. Pinard stated that it is moving forward, and waterlines were being installed soon. Mr. Lynch suggested some projects to look at going forward such as crosswalks, events, and murals.

UPCOMING NETWORKING EVENTS & EDA MEETINGS

Franklin County Connects – August 9, 2023 9:00 am (Franklin Center)

Community Partnership – August 14, 2023 9:00 am (1035 Franklin St)

EDA Meeting – August 22, 2023 - 5:30 pm (Town Municipal Bldg)

Venture Loft Ribbon Cutting – August 28, 2023 @ 5:00 pm

Living Proof Trivia Night with Adam Lynch – August 30, 2023

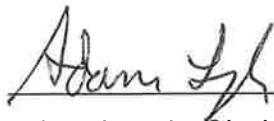
ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn By: Member Mark Redden

Second: Member Anna Robertson

Action: Adjourned by a unanimous vote of members present

Time of Adjournment: 6:07 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Adam Lynch", is written over a horizontal line.

Adam Lynch, Chairman

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cherie Compton", is written over a horizontal line.

Cherie Compton, Clerk