

**MINUTES
ESSEX COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
September 7, 2023**

A meeting of the Economic Development Authority of Essex County was held on the 7th day of September 2023, with the following present:

Present:

William A. Croxton, Vice-Chairman
Tim Smith – Treasurer
Ronnie Sidney
David Holt
Jamie Segar - Remote

Also present:

Skip Weis
Bryan Barnes – Essex County Zoning Administrator
Kay Carlton – Town of Tappahannock Council
Chris Rhodes – Rappahannock Times
Tommy Blackwell – Commissioner of Revenue
Ronnie Gill – Essex Co. Board of Supervisors
Andy Lankford
Greg Huff – Essex Inn and 1710 Tavern

Absent:

Lisa Andrews
Ronnie Sidney

RE: CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Bill Croxton called the meeting to order. A quorum was met.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Croxton asked for the approval of the minutes from the July 6, 2023 meeting as modified. David Holt made the motion to approve. Motion was seconded. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

RE: TREASURER'S REPORT

Tim Smith stated that the checking account balance was \$15,857.63. There were no checks written for the month. The 12-month CD was \$15,349.38. Interest to date this fiscal year is \$349.38. The total fund balance is \$31,207.01. Motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded
Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

Old Business

Bryan Barnes, the new county Zoning Administrator, was introduced to the EDA. Mr. Barnes gave a brief review of his background and experience.

Main Street – Ms. Sharpe was unable to attend, but she did pass along that the state awarded a grant to the program of \$61,000. The funding will be used for the “Tap in and Connect” project.

Internship program with RCC – no update at this time

EDA Website Development – Mr. Smith and Mr. Holt provided an update and presented information regarding similar websites from Page and Fauquier counties. In discussions with Mr. Huntley, IT Director for Essex county, it was determined that hosting the website within the county website was likely the most cost effective and secure path forward.

Chamber of Commerce – Mr. Croxton noted that the Chamber has been much more active. The next evening event is on September 26, 2023 at 5:00 pm at 1710 tavern.

Board of Supervisors/Town Council – Mr. Gill noted that the town and county have formed an Economic Development subcommittee with representation from the BOS – Mr. Gill and the town council – Mr. Troy Balderson. April and Eric will represent the county and town staff, respectively.

New Business

A Façade Grant request was received from Mr. Andy Lankford. Mr. Lankford also gave a brief presentation regarding the makeover of the Newspaper building.

Mr. Greg Huff provided an updated on the progress of the 1710 Tavern and its opening.

RE: NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 9:00AM.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn and seconded. All Ayes

Secretary, David Holt