

**ALBEMARLE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES
Special Virtual Meeting
December 5, 2023
1:00 P.M.**

Directors present: Don Long, Chair; George Ray, Vice-Chair; Andrea Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer; John Mottola; David Storm.

Directors absent: Stephen McNaughton; Jeff Morrill.

Staff present: Trevor Henry, Deputy County Executive; Barry Albrecht, Director of Economic Development; J.T. Newberry, Assistant Director of Economic Development; Ashley Perry Hernandorena, Business Development Manager; Liz Hatcher, Administrative Assistant; Richard DeLoria, Senior Assistant County Attorney; Diantha McKeel, Board of Supervisors Liaison to the EDA, Jack Jouett District.

Guest presenters:

1. Call to Order and Establish Quorum

Chair Long called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Chair Long asked if it was correct that a vote was not required.

Mr. DeLoria said that was correct.

Chair Long established a quorum.

a. Welcome to David Storm, EDA Director, Scottsville District

Mr. Newberry welcomed and introduced EDA Director David Storm, representing the Scottsville District.

Mr. Storm introduced himself to the EDA. He said that he had previously served for seven years on the 5th and Avon Citizen Advisory Committee, hosting public meetings that had recently been focused on some of the larger development projects occurring in Albemarle County.

b. Welcome to Barry Albrecht, Director of Economic Development Office

Mr. Newberry welcomed and introduced EDO Director Barry Albrecht.

Mr. Albrecht introduced himself to the EDA. He said that he had 30 years of experience in economic development, primarily in cities and towns that had a military presence, as well as developing public-private partnerships with universities and the defense industry.

2. Matters from the Public

Ms. Hernandorena confirmed no speakers had signed up or raised their hands to speak.

3. New Business

a. Preparation for 2024 Joint Meeting with Board of Supervisors

Mr. Newberry presented information on the 2024 joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors. He provided the history and context of joint meetings as well as their relationship to their strategic plan, Project ENABLE. He explained the Virginia Industrial Development Authorities Institute training would take place on December 11 and 12, 2023 and would provide best practices for the EDA to consider, and a resolution included in today's packet would provide funding for staff to register all EDA members and County Executive Office staff. He stated that this would greatly prepare everyone for the joint meeting which would take place in Quarter 2 of 2024.

Chair Long encouraged everyone to participate in the VIDA seminar so that they could more easily discuss the things they wanted to do.

Ms. Johnson asked what the cost of tuition was for the VIDA seminar.

Mr. Newberry said that it was \$75.

Chair Long asked Ms. McKeel if she had any insight into what would be most effective in the joint meetings.

Ms. McKeel said that it was important to think of economic development initiatives in the context of the comprehensive plan update.

Mr. Newberry said that soon to be provided to the EDA members were the draft goals and objectives for the economic development chapter in the update to the comprehensive plan. He said that Community Development staff would be attending the EDA meeting on December 19, 2023 to solicit feedback and gain input from the EDA regarding the economic development chapter in the comprehensive plan.

b. VIDA Training Tuition

Motion to was made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Mottola.

MOTION: The motion carried unanimously.

4. Unfinished Business

a. VJIP Performance Agreement for AgroSpheres

Mr. Newberry provided a brief overview of the item. He explained that the action requested today was regarding the Virginia Jobs Investment Program (VJIP) grant awarded to AgroSpheres. He said that approval of the resolution in today's packet would authorize staff to match the \$36,000 VJIP grant from the state for the 53 new jobs that the company had already created.

Chair Long asked if the funds requested would originate from the funds appropriated by the Board of Supervisors for the EDA to use for state and federal matching grants.

Mr. Newberry said that was correct.

Ms. Johnson asked what the fund balance would be after this utilization of funds.

Ms. Hernandorena replied that the funding for this particular incentive had already been earmarked and its impact was negligible, but she would provide a more comprehensive financial report on this information at a later EDA meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Ray and seconded by Mr. Storm.

MOTION: The motion carried unanimously.

5. Other Matters

Mr. Newberry stated that Community Development staff would be coming to the EDA meeting on December 19, 2023. He said that he would distribute the drafted goals and objectives for the economic development chapter of the comprehensive plan, and he asked the EDA to keep apprised of that information and to send any questions and feedback to staff.

6. Adjourn

The Board adjourned the meeting at 1:31 p.m. The next meeting is December 19, 2023 in Room 241.

Teste: _____
Donald Long, Chairman

Approved: _____
Barry Albrecht, Assistant Secretary