

ALBEMARLE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES
June 18, 2024
4:00 P.M.

Directors present: Don Long, Chair; Andrea Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer; Jeff Morrill; John Mottola; David Storm

Directors present (virtually): Stephen McNaughton (Medical)

Staff present: Trevor Henry, Deputy County Executive; Emily Kilroy, Interim Director of Economic Development; J.T. Newberry, Deputy Director of Economic Development; Ashley Hernandorena, Business Development Manager; Liz Hatcher, Management Analyst; Richard DeLoria, Senior Assistant County Attorney; Alinor Smith, Legal Intern

1. Call to Order and Establish Quorum

Chair Long called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and established a quorum.

Motion to allow remote participation of Steve McNaughton due to a medical reason was made by Mr. Morrill and seconded by Mr. Mottola.

MOTION: The motion passed unanimously

2. Matters from the Public

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from April 16, 2024, made by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Morrill.

MOTION: The motion passed unanimously.

4. Financial Report

There was no update. The End of FY24 report was under development.

5. New Business

a. Election of Vice-Chair, Economic Development Authority

Motion to elect Mr. Morrill as Vice-Chair was made by Chair Long and seconded by Mr. Mottola.

MOTION: The motion passed unanimously.

b. Amendment and Readoption of Remote Participation and All Virtual Meeting Policies

Mr. Deloria provided an update regarding the remote participation and all-virtual meeting policies and changes made at the state-level by the General Assembly. He explained that the General Assembly now required that the EDA adopt the policies on an annual basis rather than automatically updating the policy based on the changes made by the state. He noted that the all-virtual policy now permits up to 50% of all meetings to be held entirely virtually; previously, it was only 25%.

Mr. Deloria explained a section was added regarding voluntary and involuntary audio and visual communication disconnections or failures. He said that if a director's audio communication

involuntarily failed, then that director was not considered part of the quorum. He noted it was unclear how to decide between voluntary and involuntary disconnections.

Motion to amend and readopt Remote Participation and All Virtual Meeting Policies made by Mr. Storm and seconded by Mr. Mottola.

MOTION: The motion passed unanimously.

c. Continued Preparation for August 14, 2024, Joint Board of Supervisors -EDA Meeting

Mr. Long introduced Emily Kilroy, Interim Director of Economic Development.

Mr. DeLoria introduced Alinor Smith, Legal Intern, who was a rising 4th Year at the University of Virginia.

Ms. Kilroy reviewed the MOU between the EDA and the County and the Economic Development Strategic Plan. She said that the goal of the joint meeting was to build consensus as to what topics they wanted to address in the MOU to develop an updated document.

Mr. Long said that he thought it was important to address how they could support the entrepreneurial system. He said that they should find ways to streamline the use of Board-authorized funds.

Mr. Morrill said they should try to reach a consensus as to what smart growth looked like in the County. He said currently, Project Enable was broad and could fit almost any type of initiative, so they should find a way to focus the mission.

Ms. Johnson said that they should find ways to bring businesses into the County that would support current industries and infrastructure.

Ms. Kilroy said that another goal of the joint meeting was to begin the process of updating Project Enable. She noted that it was only intended to be a three-year plan from 2019 – 2022.

d. Staff Report

Ms. Kilroy provided the staff report. She reviewed her background working with the County in the County Executive's Office and on the Rivanna Futures Project. She said Ms. Hernandorena and Mr. Newberry presented on registering businesses and navigating the zoning process at the Community Investment Collaborative for Entrepreneurs.

Ms. Hernandorena said that about 25 to 30 entrepreneurs from across the region attended. She noted that Mr. Newberry and Ms. Kilroy, along with Mr. Long, attended the Charlottesville Business Innovation Council gala.

Ms. Kilroy said that she and Mr. Newberry attended the Virginia Economic Development Association summer meeting in Danville. She said that they were presented several case-studies themed around place-based economic development. She noted that Danville's downtown had experienced a radical transformation over a short period of time.

Mr. Newberry said that the EDA may be interested in Danville's workforce development initiatives, which focused on education and low-cost career ladder opportunities to keep people in the community.

Ms. Kilroy provided an update on Rivanna Futures. She said that at the last Board meeting, they approved a rezoning for a portion of the property the County purchased, which now totaled 172 acres of light-industrial and commercial land.

Mr. Newberry said that the Regional Entrepreneurship Initiative study had been completed, and the final results were being drafted and reviewed. He said that they should expect a presentation in the future covering the gaps in their economic ecosystem and available opportunities.

e. Closed Session in Room 235: Project Olympian

Motion to enter closed session made by Chair Long and seconded by Mr. Morrill.

MOTION: The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Deloria stated that Mr. Long and Mr. Storm recused themselves from the closed session and exited the room during the closed session.

Closed Meeting Certification motion made by Mr. Morrill.

MOTION: The motion passed unanimously.

6. Unfinished Business

There was none.

7. Other Matters

There were none.

8. Adjourn

Chair Long adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m. The next meeting is July 16, 2024, in Room 241.

Teste: _____
Donald Long, Chairman

Approved: _____
Emily Kilroy, Assistant Secretary