

Attendance

Members:

• Josh Gaita, Chair	Chancellor District (McLaughlin)	Present	
• Thomas Welsh	Berkeley District (Marshall)		Absent
• Hart Rutherford	Lee Hill District (Skinner)	Present	
• David Goosman	Livingston District (Jett)	Present	
• Mark Miles	Battlefield District (Yakabouski)	Present	
• Al King	Courtland District (Ross)	Present	
• Vacant	Salem District (Frazier)		

Staff and Guests:

- Brendan Hefty, Hefty & Wiley, P.C.
- Ed Petrovitch, County Administrator
- Debbie Sanders, Economic Development Interim Director
- Kevin Marshall, Economic Development Staff
- Meggie Roche, Economic Development Staff

Call to Order

Mr. Gaita called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM and confirmed a quorum.

Mr. Gaita welcomed new member, Mr. Goosman, Livingston District, to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. King moved to approve the minutes of the November 22nd, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rutherford and passed by the following recorded votes:

Ayes: 5 Mr. Gaita, Mr. Goosman, Mr. King, Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Miles
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 Mr. Welsh
Abstain: 0

Election of Officers

Mr. King nominated Mr. Gaita for the position of Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Miles and approved unanimously.

Mr. Rutherford nominated Mr. Miles for the position of Vice Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Mr. King and approved unanimously.

Mr. Rutherford nominated Mr. King for the position of Treasurer. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Miles and approved unanimously.

Mr. King nominated Mrs. Sanders for the position of Secretary. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Rutherford and approved unanimously.

Establishment of Meeting Times and Dates

Mr. Rutherford motioned to continue the current meeting schedule. The motion was seconded by Mr. King and approved unanimously.

Closed Session

Mr. Gaita moved that the EDA convene in closed session pursuant to section 2.2.-3711(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, concerning the Back 40 property where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Economic Development Authority and under section 2.2-3711(A)(5) for discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the county The motion was seconded by Mr. King and passed by the following recorded votes:

*Ayes: 5 Mr. Gaita, Mr. Goosman, Mr. King, Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Miles
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 Mr. Welsh
Abstain: 0*

Mr. King moved that the EDA certify by roll call vote that only the matter identified in the motion to convene in closed session and lawfully exempted under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act was heard, discussed, or considered. Mr. Rutherford seconded the motion, which passed by the following recorded votes:

*Ayes: 5 Mr. Gaita, Mr. Goosman, Mr. King, Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Miles
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 Mr. Welsh
Abstain: 0*

New Business

Mr. King stated that the EDA should develop a routine and standardized process of for providing incentives to new and existing companies. Mr. Petrovitch informed the EDA that Bonnie Jewel, Finance Director, has already begun drafting a set of incentive guidelines. Ms. Jewel will provide the EDA with a draft upon completion.

Mr. Petrovitch suggested adding a public comment period to all agendas as a standing item. No formal action was taken.

Mr. Miles stated that he would be willing to start meeting with businesses on behalf of the EDA as part of a business outreach initiative. Mr. Goosman stated that he too would be willing to do that. Mr. Miles will follow up on this idea at the next regular meeting.

Mr. King suggested publicizing and marketing EDA opportunities such as bond financing to businesses.

Adjournment

The next EDA meeting will take place on March 26th 2020 at 8:00 AM. On a motion by Mr. Rutherford, seconded by Mr. King and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned.