

**City of Petersburg  
Economic Development Authority  
January 25, 2018 Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mr. Orlando James and a roll call of members was completed by Mrs. Tamara Brown, Economic Development Administrative Manager.

**Members Present:** Chairman Orlando James, Mr. Richard Taylor, Mr. Michael Packer and Mr. Orlando James and Mr. Samuel Rhue

**Members Absent:**

Mr. Winston Sanders, Mrs. Gloria Brown, Dr. Dorothy Freeman

Mr. James announced a quorum was present.

**Others Present:** Mr. Ron Wesley, EDA Attorney, Mr. Reginald Tabor, Projects Manager, Ms. Darnetta Tyus, Deputy City Manager, and Mrs. Tamara Brown, Executive Assistant

Chairman James requested that Mr. Rhue give a brief overview of his background.

Mr. Rhue stated that he attended Virginia State University in 1967 and graduated in 1971 and he has a MBA. He met his wife Florence Rhue and he has been a resident of Petersburg since. He worked for Blue Cross Blue Shield and Cigna Healthcare Companies as Vice President of Contract Negotiations. He is semi-retired and a licensed funeral director. He teaches in the evening at John Tyler Community College.

Mr. James and the other Board members present welcomed Mr. Rhue.

**Old Business:**

**Minutes:**

Mr. James requested a motion to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2017 meeting.

Mr. Packer moved approval of the minutes from the October 26, 2017 EDA meeting and Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:**

Mr. Richard Taylor gave the financial report. He indicated that he had a few challenges with changing the EDA mailing address from the City Treasurer's office to the Office of Economic Development for the bank statements. The matter was corrected. Mr. Taylor reported that as of December 31, 2017, the EDA balance was \$109,700.57.

Mr. James requested a motion to approve the financial report. Mr. Packer moved approval of the financial report and Mr. Samuel Rhue seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Economic Development Authority report from the Chair:**

Chairman James reported on the City Council's Economic Development, Tourism and Land Use Committee, of which he and Vice Chair Brown are members. He stated that the Committee received briefings on several projects. Mr. Taylor asked if that was the committee of the City Council and Chairman James replied yes.

**Economic Development Report:**

Mr. Tabor provided an Economic Development Project Update. The reports indicates completed development projects and projects the city is tracking. The report included the following:

- AMPAC, (formerly BI Chemical and UNITAO) is in the process of ramping up its business. At one time BI Chemical was the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest employer in the city with 500+ employees and they contributed significantly to the city's tax base especially with machinery and tools taxes.
- Recently the city sold the Historic Petersburg Hotel and it is expected to be developed as a boutique hotel.
- The City is expecting the completion of the second phase of Cavalier Farms.
- The Parole Office has constructed a temporary building on Wagner Road near the new Sheets, and they will be constructing a permanent site adjacent to the temporary site.
- The City is expecting a Certificate of Occupancy for the Battiston development at the corner of Sycamore and Washington Streets.
- City Staff is working with the National Parks Services on the Southside Depot to get that construction restarted. Southside Depot will be a Contact Station for visitors to get information about Petersburg as well as the Battlefield.
- The vacant building that was to be the fourth phase of the High Street Lofts development burned and the site was cleared. Some of the townhouse units suffered water damage and the residents had to move so the units can be rehabbed.
- The 173 acres Halifax Road site is owned by the City of Petersburg, and it was submitted for the site of the regional high speed rail station, however the site was not recommended by the consultants working on the project. In lieu of high speed rail, the City wants to develop the site and is in the process of submitting an application for the State's Business Ready Sites program. Mr. Taylor asked if sewer and water was on the site. Mr. Tabor indicated that there is sewer and water along the roadway.
- The developer of the hotel project at 380 East Washington is still planning to move forward. The City of Petersburg assisted the developer with financing through the Virginia Brownfields Grant program and Industrial Revitalization Fund program. On behalf of the developer, the City requested and received extensions on both funding sources. The Brownfield Grant requires developer to close on the property by the end of March 2018.

- The property owner of the Broadway Inn applied for a demolition permit and the demolition will begin soon.

Mr. Packer inquired about the Economic Development, Tourism and Land Use Committee and asked what the charges of the committee are. Mr. James indicated that the committee is more of an oversight committee and it gives prospective developers of City-owned property an opportunity to present plans before going forward with the project. Mr. Packer indicated that he does not want the EDA to be competing with the new committee. Ms. Tyus stated that the committee focuses on development projects especially those projects that are stalled, and the committee is an attempt to fast track the projects. Mr. Packer asked whether there is redundancy in the work of the Committee and the EDA. Ms. Tyus will be getting some clarity and asked the EDA to look into what the EDA wants to do.

Mr. Welsey mentioned that financial disclosure statements need to be filed by the EDA members and that January 15<sup>th</sup> was the deadline.

Ms. Tyus told the EDA members that Mr. March Altman accepted the position of City Manager in Hopewell and Economic Development is now under her leadership until his replacement.

There being no more old Business and no further business, the meeting was adjourned.