

Town of Richlands  
Industrial Development Authority  
June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The Richlands IDA held a regular monthly meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. with the following members present:

Jordan Bales	Jan White
Craig Earls	Gary Jackson
Phillip Horton	Adrienne Cordle

Members Absent: Cody Elswick  
Town Staff present: John O’Daniel  
Other Guests: Tal McBride

**Oath of Office and Swearing In:**

All members of the Richlands Industrial Development Authority were sworn into office by Susie O Vance.

Phillip Horton called the meeting to order and Jan White gave the invocation. Philip Horton led the pledge of allegiance.

Phillip Horton requested an addition to the agenda to discuss a solar power ordinance for residents and businesses. Craig Earls made a motion to add agenda item for solar ordinance discussion and to approve the agenda as presented with the addition. Adrienne Cordle seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

Craig Earls presented the minutes from the May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting. The group identified that the last sentence on paragraph three should be updated from “We” to “The”. Adrienne Cordle made a motion to approve the minutes, with correction. Jan White seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

Pop-up Richlands Update: John O’Daniel advised that he needs approval for allocation of \$5,000 award funds for the Pop-Up Richlands recipients. These business owners completed the training, presented to the panel of judges and were selected for the grant award: Carly Dula – CD Salon, Jaci Barret – Bleachy Mama, Michelle Ball – Blue Moon Consignment.

Gary Jackson made a motion to approve the allocation and award of \$5,000 each to: Carl Dula, Jaci Barret and Michelle Ball as the Pop-up Richlands grant recipients. Phillip Horton seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

John O’Daniel advised that we also have grant money from the Virginia Community Capital funds for minority or women owned businesses. John O’Daniel advised that he needs approval for allocation of \$1,000 award funds for the Pop-Up Richlands recipients.

Adrienne Cordle made a motion to approve the allocation and award of \$1,000 from the Virginia Community Capital fund award to: Carl Dula, Jaci Barret and Michelle Ball as the Pop-up Richlands recipients. Jordan Bales seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

John O'Daniel informed that we have received some expenses from the recipients. I want to present a signed document for some expenses so that we can capture the expense with receipts. Carla Dula did request reimbursement for business expenses (rent and power) for \$1,698. The process will make sure they are spending it on approved expenses.

Adrienne Cordle made a motion to approve the reimbursement of \$1,698 to Carly Dula. Gary Jackson seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

New Members: Adrienne Cordle and Cody Elswick's terms are ending and they advised that they will be leaving at the end of the month. We will need to offer replacements for both. Phillip Horton let the group know that Joseph Vance is interested in serving. He has a masters in accounting, and is a civil engineer. Craig Earls made motion to approve for John O'Daniel to take Joseph Vance as a replacement IDA member to the Richlands Town Council for approval. Jan White seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried. The group will continue to look for one other member.

#### Solar Ordinance Discussion:

Phillip Horton introduced Tal McBride from McBride electric to discuss a solar ordinance for Richlands. He has developed a lot of solar and wind projects in Virginia and North Carolina. The town is in position to sell power, and it is in a good position to take advantage of a large solar project if they can find a location. For residents and businesses, the town needs an ordinance for solar power so that you can sell back the power you generate. John O'Daniel discussed that GDS is working on a plan, and draft ordinance, for us by the end of the year for this. We also need safety provisions for equipment and they are helping us with that. For buy backs, the net metering rules are retail rates depending on the area. For large solar projects, you can get about 1 megawatt of power for every 4-5 acres. The tariffs to China for these panels are now removed, so the panels will be more affordable. Tal advised that USDA grants are available to help with costs as well if we are interested in investing in a large solar farm for the town to generate power. The group discussed the importance of getting an ordinance in place with the town to bring us in alignment with other power providers. No action taken.

#### **Other Business:**

None

Craig Earls made a motion to adjourn. Jordan Bales seconded the motion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Next Meeting July 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M.