

Town of Richlands
Industrial Development Authority
January 4th, 2022

The Richlands IDA held a regular monthly meeting on January 4th, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. with the following members present:

Blake Ray	Cody Elswick
Craig Earls	Gary Jackson

Members Absent: Reese Strong Larry Johnson

Jan White

Town Staff present: John O'Daniel, Ashley Harris

Nathan Keen

Other Guests:

Blake Ray called the meeting to order.

Cody Elswick gave the invocation.

Blake Ray let the pledge of allegiance.

Craig Earls made a motion to approve the agenda approved. Gary Jackson seconded the motion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Craig Earls presented the minutes from the December 7th, 2021 regular meeting. The members discussed a few updates required and they will be presented at the next meeting for approval.

New Business:

Member Resignation:

Blake Ray advised the IDA that Reese Strong submitted his resignation and we need to find a replacement. He discussed that he would like to possibly have someone with experience with engineering, local government or grant writing. The group discussed potential candidates for Blake to take to the Town Council for approval.

Pop-Up Richlands Update:

Blake Ray discussed with the IDA that he had an opportunity to speak with the Town Council and requested that \$25,000 of ARPA funds be used for the Pop-Up Richlands project. Shanna Plaster (Tazewell County BOS Member) pledged to provide some additional funding for the project. Ashley Harris explained that the business training will be conducted through the SWCC SBDC program, as they have the existing funds. The training is proposed to be delivered from March 21st – April 29th at the town hall. The goal is to increase funds, and Ashley is also working with the Thompson Foundation for additional funding.

Pop-Up Richlands Update:

Blake Ray discussed with the IDA the potential issue of housing for the influx of workers on Project Jonah. RV's are commonly used and we do not have the locations to support these types of camp sites. The IDA discussed potential locations near the recreation park, daw road, and

others. One challenge will be the zoning requirements for such a site. With the current charter, changes to the zoning require a lengthy process that can hamper business growth.

Other Business:

John O'Daniel discussed that the downtown revitalization grant may not be able to be submitted this year. They are preparing to complete the plan and apply next year for these funds. Blake Ray discussed the need for clear branding for the IDA. The IDA discussed, and agreed, that we should look at this and we should get input from the public as well.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), Cody Elswick moved to enter closed session to discuss potential land acquisition. Craig Earls seconded the motion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried. Upon concluding the closed session, Cody Elswick made a motion that the IDA confirmed that nothing else was discussed during the closed session and to go back into regular session. Craig Earls seconded the motion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

No further business discussed.

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

Next Meeting February 1st at 6:00 P.M.

IDA Secretary – Craig Earls

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Earls". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.