

Town of Richlands
Industrial Development Authority
September 6th, 2022

The Richlands IDA held a regular monthly meeting at 6:00 P.M. with the following present:

Jordan Bales	Jan White
Craig Earls	Phillip Horton
Brandon Buskill	Joseph Vance

Members Absent: Gary Jackson
Town Staff present: John O'Daniel
Guests Speakers:

Prior to the meeting starting Brandon Buskill was sworn into office from Tazewell County staff member Suzi Vance.

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

Craig Earls made a motion to approve agenda. Jan White seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Craig Earls presented the minutes from the August 2nd, 2022 meeting. Jan White made a motion to approve the minutes. Jordan Bales seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

New Business:

Pop-up Richlands Update:

John O'Daniel advised that we have a drawdown approval for the following recipients. Jordan Bales displayed a tracking spreadsheet for all the expenses so far.

Michelle Ball (Blue Moon Consignment) - \$1,920.92 was presented for approval for utilities and building expenses. One of the receipts does not have the LLC that she paid. John will get additional documentation for that and send to the IDA. She purchased the building in July.

Jordan Bales made a motion to conditionally approve drawdown of \$1,400.00 to Michelle Ball pending the additional documentation to John O'Daniel for the payment. Joseph Vance seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Jordan Bales made a motion to approve drawdown of \$520.92 to Michelle Ball for approved utilities. Jan White seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

John O'Daniel advised that Jaci Barret (Bleachy Mama) has not requested reimbursement yet,

but she is having issues with her expansion. We have no further Virginia Community Capital Fund drawdown requests this month.

Pop-up Richlands Round 2 Update:

John O'Daniel advised that we will have the second round starting soon. We have 5 classes scheduled for Thursday's starting with September 8th through October 6th from 6PM-8PM at the Richlands Town Hall. John would like for IDA members to attend some of the sessions.

Currently, John has 6 to 7 who will be participating. If existing business owners apply, we will make sure that the business is expanding only. Some additional funding sources are being considered for future rounds. Right now, we do not have an Economic Development Director. However, Margi Douglas from the county has been helping us. We are talking to council to see if we can have funding for that position.

Richlands Solar Update:

John O'Daniel discussed the solar ordinance update. The Town Council approved having GDS perform a rate study and sample ordinance for allowing solar. They provided the town with a draft ordinance. John is getting people to look at it with an electrical background. After we have the ordinance wording, we need to look at zoning for where it is allowed and any zoning rules. We want to get the ball rolling soon with the planning commission to look at these issues. We just want to make sure it is safe, and we price the rates appropriately. Town Council will set the rates annually. We also discussed possibly partnering on a solar farm if they built something locally. We have a large 2M power block that will expire in a few years we need to buy again, or fill it with these types of projects.

Old Business:

Miscellaneous Business:

Jordan Bales: I talked to our website administrator about having the business, "getting started guide" hosted online. John O'Daniel advised that Tazewell County may have a grant for us to help redoing the website. Jordan wants the guide to also include vacant properties that may be available for businesses to lease/rent/purchase. This could be an automated solution from data mining existing public resources to show which properties are available.

John O'Daniel: I know Ramp-Up Richlands is having 2 more Sunday fun-days. It will include music, food trucks and one for Halloween. Jordan Bales stated that he is getting requests to get a rendering of the final greenspace. John O'Daniel advised that we have one other phase, and it started small, then we got a lot more grant money. There is a train themed playground and the AstroTurf. We may try to put that play set in an other area.

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

Next Meeting October 4th at 6:00 P.M.