

Town of Richlands  
Industrial Development Authority  
February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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

Joseph Vance	Dr. Brandon Buskill
Craig Earls	Phillip Horton

Members Absent:

Town Representatives: Jordan Bales, Laura Mollo

Guests: Jaci Barrett, Jeff Casey

Phillip Horton called the meeting to order.

Jordan Bales would like to be added to the agenda as item 3. Craig Earls made a motion to approve agenda, with addition. Dr. Buskill seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

The minutes from the January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meetings were presented. Joseph Vance made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Buskill seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

Pop-up Richlands Update:

Jaci Barrett (Bleachy Mama): Jordan Bales discussed her request, and the Virginia Community Capital (VCC) Fund is good with the us administering the funds for these types of reimbursements. Jaci submitted a draw-down request for \$1,339.99 with receipts, with a cap of \$1,000 from the VCC.

Phillip Horton presented a drawdown request for Jaci Barrett for the Virginia Community Capital Fund award for \$1000. Craig Earls made a motion to approve the drawdown request for \$1000 to Jaci Barrett from the Virginia Community Capital Fund on behalf of Pop-up Richlands. Dr. Buskill seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

Sharron Horton (Magic Moments Photography) submitted a drawdown request. In reviewing the receipts, we do not have the receipt for one month of internet utility reimbursement. As such, we removed that from the total until this receipt is presented.

Joseph Vance made a motion to approve the Pop-up Richlands drawdown request of \$939.72 (Dec/Jan rent/utilities) to Sharon Horton (Magic Moments Photography), for payment. Craig Earls seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

Laura Mollo: One of the others Pop-up recipients, Gretta Reedy (Pampered Pets), requested to have council approve a check of \$5000 for Pop-up award. This is instead of submitting receipts under the existing process. The group discussed her situation, and we request that she bring in

the receipts and seek reimbursement under the original terms of the Pop-up Richlands guidelines. The group does not feel that any recipient should be given the \$5000 award without the proper documentation. The group also discussed revitalization and importance of code enforcement for existing buildings. We discussed possibly doing a survey of the local building owners to see if they want to rent, or within the block grant for the revitalization. They will be at the next Town Council meeting to discuss the block grant.

#### IDA Appointments:

During our previous meetings the IDA voted to recommend the following names to the Richlands Town Council for approval: Keenan Bowman, Brandon Keene, and Dillon Smith. Jordan, and Laura, explained that they are going to post up a request for applications for these appointments to make sure we have all the names of people who would like to serve. These should be going out to the Town Facebook page within the month.

#### Other Discussion:

The group discussed moving our regularly scheduled meeting from the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month to the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month. Craig Earls made a motion to move the Richlands IDA regularly scheduled meeting to the first Monday of the month at 6PM. Joseph Vance seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Jordan Bales: Billy Roberts from the VCC would like to give us business support for Pop-up Richlands. Sandy Ratliff is still working behind the scenes, but Billy will help us if we need anything. The VCC is a bank, and would like to have a space at the Town Hall to setup once per month to help businesses. They will provide local assistance to any business that needs help getting setup on eVA, business plans etc. We would like to have them at our next meeting and they can schedule space with the town to setup here at the Town Hall.

Phillip Horton: The IDA needs to make a motion to support the gas generator and solar backup. We need to become energy independent. The group discussed, and we did provide formal support to Town Council for these projects in a prior meeting.

Jeff Casey discussed a map of the old airport property. He advised that we have roughly 80+ acres for industrial development at that property. It will need a flood study, but can be worked through. Group discussed the property and a road can possibly be put back behind the old McDonalds to make the property more accessible. Jeff discussed that it may also fit the requirements for the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program.

Phillip Horton made a motion that the Richlands IDA support Jeff Casey in reviewing the old Airport Property for funding from the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program, through Governor Youngkin's office. Joseph Vance seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

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

Next Meeting March 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 P.M