

FREDERICKSBURG
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MINUTES (EDA)

August 10, 2020

8:30 a.m. • EDA Regular E-Meeting
City Hall, City Council Chambers
715 Princess Anne St.
Fredericksburg, VA

The Economic Development Authority of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia met in regular session on Monday, August 10, 2020 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Chair Black read the following statement, this meeting is being held electronically by telephone, pursuant to City Council Ordinance 20-05, an Ordinance to Address Continuity of City Government during the pendency of a Pandemic Disaster.

EDA MEMBERS PRESENT. Beth Black Chair, presiding. Will Mackintosh, Suzy Stone, Mitzi Brown, Chris Waller, Lee Murray and Susan Richey.

ABSENT. None.

ALSO PRESENT. EDA Counsel: Blanton Massey; Department of Economic Development and Tourism: Bill Freehling, Director; Angela Freeman, Business Development Manager; Amy Peregoy, Economic Development Specialist.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM. Mitzi Brown.

AGENDA.

MOTION by Mitzi Brown, seconded by Will Mackintosh, the agenda was approved: Ayes (7); Nays (0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS. Chair Black asked Ms. Peregoy if there were any public comments submitted prior to today's meeting via the instructions on the published agenda. Ms. Peregoy stated, no public comments were received.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

MOTION by Mitzi Brown, seconded by Will Mackintosh the minutes from the July 13, 2020 regular e-meeting were approved: Ayes (7); Nays (0).

TREASURER'S REPORT. Mr. Murray presented account activity. The budget and financial statement are filed with the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS. *Germanna Community College FredCAT Report* - Chair Black presented an update on the EDA's significant contribution to the Fredericksburg Center for Advanced Technology, or FredCat, as part of the commitment to workforce development and it appears, at least from the Annual Report for FY20 that the EDA's

commitment is warranted. FredCat offered 139 courses and served more than 21-hundred students, including 145 from the City of Fredericksburg. Of those 145, dozens now have jobs in the City with companies such as Robert B. Payne, Superior Paving, Atlantic Builders and H & H Electric.

FredCAT was able to reopen in July, and through the information provided in the annual report, it looks like administrators will focus on efforts at James Monroe High School for FY21. That includes setting up core classes, and a meeting scheduled for this month to discuss the city school's interest in increasing James Monroe student's utilization of FredCAT's services.

NEW BUSINESS. None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Parking Improvement Committee** – No update.
- b. **Strategic Investments Committee** – No update.
- c. **InvestFXBG Loan Committee** – Mr. Waller stated a term sheet/approval letter will be sent to Kickshaw's Gluten-Free Bakery this week. M-D Eats and Kickshaw's Gluten-Free Bakery loans should close on September 1.
- d. **Workforce Development Committee** – Ms. Brown noted there will be a meeting with Germanna Community College (GCC) staff and City school staff to discuss a potential partnership for a Fredericksburg Apprenticeship Program on Friday. Ms. Brown and Ms. Richey will report back to the board during the September meeting. Ms. Brown also informed the board the Tech Talent Pipeline is still evolving with partnerships with a workforce development program in schools. GCC is currently seeking funding to assist. There will be more information in the next few months.
- e. **Chatham Bridge Rehabilitation Marketing Committee** – No update.
- f. **Business Assistance Committee** – No update.

STAFF REPORT. Mr. Freehling updated the board on the City's \$500,000 CARES Act funding. Small business grants totaling \$250,000 were awarded to assist 45 small businesses in the City. A small business marketing plan is currently being worked on with Meridian and City staff. Fredericksburg Virginia Main Street, Inc. (FVMS) received \$42,000 for a Downtown Grant Program.

Mr. Freehling noted the StreetSense report for Area 1 - Central Park and Celebrate Virginia is being released today and he will forward to the board.

Mr. Freehling closed by thanking Mr. Murray, Mr. Waller, Ms. Stone, Ms. Peregoy, Mr. George Snead and all who made InvestFXBG possible. No report from Ms. Freeman or Ms. Peregoy.

CHAIR'S REPORT. Chair Black thanked the EDA board members for all the hard work and the time they have been putting in to help the city's small businesses during the coronavirus outbreak. She stated, now they need to plan for the winter months - what solid, creative ideas can they come up with to help businesses and our community survive COVID-19 during - what the nation's leaders fear - could be a second wave of the virus during the colder months? She requested the board members to think about it, discuss ideas with EDT over the next few weeks, and talk during the next meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS. Mr. Murray asked how the Chatham Bridge construction was progressing. Mr. Freehling answered the construction schedule is on track for October 2021 with incentives to be completed earlier before the holidays. Mr. Murray requested quarterly reports so the EDA is made aware of any assistance that may be needed.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before the Economic Development Authority at this time, Chair Black declared the meeting officially adjourned at 8:43 a.m.



Mitzi Brown, Secretary