

King George County Economic Development Authority
Monthly Meeting Minutes July 8, 2021

1. Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Beckey Gallamore, Vice-chair. Attending: Richard Parker, Sandra Wimberley, Guy Booth, Delaine Richards. Absent: Rick Pabst, Ian Fox. Also, present Nick Minor, Director of Economic Development & Tourism, and Roan Grapes.

2. Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Guy Booth to accept minutes. Seconded by Sandra Wimberley. All members and chair vote aye. Motion carried.

4. Member Reports:

Sandra Wimberley - no report.

Richard Parker – no report.

Guy Booth - no report.

Delaine Richards – no report.

Beckey Gallamore – did the EDA 101 meeting today, was there for half of second meeting, recommend the course.

5. Discussion:

Sweeties – Nick Minor reports: they need type 1 hood, have not located an installer yet, needs additional plumbing and electric to expand, permits are estimated at \$300.00 each. They have requested assistance finding installer for hood and a potential joint meeting with landlord. Guy Booth has service that can give estimate for hood will pass along information.

Weld Tech – Has had meeting with RCC and High School, project moving along. RCC very interested in working with them, but high school needs another year to align curriculum with RCC program and instructors. Reached out to GOVA re grant, would have to go through Fredericksburg as RCC program receiving funds through Northern Neck. Weld Tech needs assist with for ventilation system, cost around \$60,000.00 and machines are about \$3000, they need 5Grant information for AWS has been given to Weld Tech. Guy Booth has some resources he can pass along.

Back Porch – More complicated. State requirement they need 30-foot paved entrance, has not been enforced in past but they are now enforcing rule and may be persuaded to allow for chip and seal instead of asphalt. How does EDA want to assist? If VDOT will give them some wiggle room & Community Development signs off, that may be enough. Guy Booth made point that EDA should promote business but not help to open, sets a bad precedent.

6. Directors Report:

Nick Minor: EDA website received 20 bids; range \$3000 to \$600,000 for website development. For next part of this, need to do RFP (Requisition for Proposals), limit to companies in the Fredericksburg area and companies who have done Economic Development websites. Will rewrite proposals, looking for a price point of \$10,000-\$15,000. Hopefully will get RFP out next week.

Quarterly Meetings: waiting on caterer bids, one from King George, the other from Westmorland, may work with both, but waiting on bids. Once that price fixed then will get price for first glass of wine. Will have information ready by next meeting.

Business Licenses Program: Commissioner of Revenue is on board with helping us get this program up. We will need to provide form to be used, should include basic contact and willingness to participate in business development or business assistance program and then we will get invoice from Commissioner of Revenue's office at each meeting and that is how we will administer program.

RIoT has lunch and learn on July 15 in Stafford County, on Business Retention Credits and the R&D credits.

Guy Booth requested update and information on Broadband project.

Nick Minor informed group that work will start this week, install is scheduled to begin late in 4th quarter 2021. Right of way is still an issue for a few people. Does not change property because they are using existing lines, but they still need new right of way. If they don't get easement than have to go back to highway and use VDOT easement and put it underground.

There was a general discussion about this. Does not stop project just causes delay. Money for project came from Federal, state, and local. King George put in \$500,000 up front and will put in \$150,000 on the back end. \$8.3 million Federal, \$10.5 million from state.

Richard Parker reports that Amazon is going to Westmoreland.

Nick Minor- pointed out that Westmorland had business ready site available. Trying to work with board to get money for engineering studies, surveys, environmental tests to identify sites. Comes down to landowners willing to work with us and if we have infrastructure and utilities to support it. Until we get infrastructure along 301, we will be at disadvantage. Site development is number one priority. State has identified a site in King George to potentially

putting money into infrastructure. They asked for estimate to bring gas line from Fredericksburg to industrial park, will cost 27 million. Working with Service Authority on water lines. What EDA can do is look at landowners to work with and what sites work best. All of King George is pulling ground water, Dahlgren has most capacity. That also has most density and traffic. Takes preparation to attract large companies. In competing for manufacturing jobs, Virginia is a right to work state and that is to our advantage. Currently being discussed in General Assembly removing this. Keep an eye on this.

Delaine Richards pointed out that other localities are more receptive to business, where King George has many obstacles.

Beckey Gallamore questions do we need to educate people why we need manufacturing to come here.

7. Adjourn:

Delaine Richards made motion to adjourn.

Guy Booth seconded.

All members and chair vote aye. Meeting adjourned to next regular meeting on August 12, 2021, at 5 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Roan Grapes, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved: _____