



**Surry County Economic Development Authority
of Surry County, Virginia**

MINUTES OF MEETING

November 21, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.

Meeting Location: General District Courtroom, 45 School Street, Surry, Virginia 23883

Physical Address of Authority Office: 203 Church Street, Surry, Virginia 23883

MEETING CONVENED

Chairman Myron Wooden called this Surry County Economic Development Authority (EDA) meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

The meeting was opened with the following members present:

Mr. Myron Wooden	Present
Mrs. Joyce Henderson	Present
Mr. Trenton Howell	Present
Mr. Howell Godfrey	Present
Mr. Terry Lewis	Absent
Mr. John Price	Present
Mrs. Janet Monahan	Present (arrived 6:07 pm)

Chairman Myron Wooden officially opened the meeting, and everyone was invited to share a Moment of Silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA REVIEW

A motion was made by Mrs. Henderson and seconded by Mr. Godfrey to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call

Mr. Myron Wooden	yes
Mrs. Joyce Henderson	yes
Mr. Trenton Howell	yes
Mr. Howell Godfrey	yes
Mr. John Price	yes
Mrs. Janet Monahan	yes

The motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Howell and seconded by Mrs. Henderson to accept the minutes from the September 19, 2024, meeting as presented.

Roll Call

Mr. Myron Wooden	yes
Mrs. Joyce Henderson	yes
Mr. Trenton Howell	yes
Mr. Howell Godfrey	yes
Mr. John Price	yes
Mrs. Janet Monahan	yes

The motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was given by Mrs. Henderson as follows:

Banking Summary

A. The bank balance as of October 31, 2024, is \$202,488.64; this includes unrestricted funds in the amount of \$176,880.85.

A motion was made by Mr. Godfrey and seconded by Mrs. Monahan to accept the Treasurer's report as given.

Roll Call

Mr. Myron Wooden	yes
Mrs. Joyce Henderson	yes
Mr. Trenton Howell	yes
Mr. Howell Godfrey	yes
Mr. John Price	yes
Mrs. Janet Monahan	yes

The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Update from Claremont re: Loan

Mrs. Renee Chapline, Director of Economic Development, shared with the Board that as of November 18th, the certified letter was delivered to the owner, and a lien has been filed on the loan. When the letter was delivered, the post office staff neglected to have the receiver sign the certification card; therefore, there was no documentation to show that it was received by the owner or relative. There has been no response from the homeowner, and a lien on the property was filed on October 2nd for \$41,569.51. Mrs. Lola Perkins, County Attorney, shared that the Town has done everything they can legally do to collect. However, if the property were up for sale, the existing lien would prevent a sale from going forward until the lien is resolved. The property remains current on their property taxes and therefore, forcing the sale of the property because of delinquent taxes is not an option at this time.

B. Improvement Grant

E & E Unlimited was successfully completed, and a check for \$7000.00 was issued. The English Connection Nursery has submitted the paperwork with a \$5000.00 request for reimbursement, and a meeting has been scheduled to review the project and get the agreement signed.

Just4Kicks did not complete their project and did not want to move forward because it is a reimbursement grant. Bacon's Castle Store wasn't sure they wanted to participate but will contact Ms. Chapline by the end of the month.

C. Surry Marketplace

Surry Marketplace seems to be doing well and appears busy. We are all happy to have the local grocery store.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Small Business Grant Investment Program Draft

Mrs. Chapline discussed the difference this grant may have versus the Improvement Grant Program and how there is more flexibility in using the grant funds for economic development projects and business opportunities to support the business growth in the county. Mrs. Chapline shared that she would like to see parameters for a small business investment grant that will require a return on investment and a minimum investment in the business, possibly requiring additional jobs to become eligible for the grant.

Mrs. Chapline asked the Board to establish a committee to work on the project with her to create guidelines and parameters for these grants, consider how the grant money will be spent, and any other details they would like to have in place for the grant. She shared that she foresees future opportunities for some large-scale projects in collaboration with the County that could potentially produce a revenue stream for the EDA.

Mrs. Chapline suggested that the committee be organized and meet in December or January to discuss details of grant guidelines and get feedback from all directors before finalizing the guidelines. The committee was organized on a volunteer basis and will consist of Mr. Howell Godfrey and Mrs. Janet Monahan. Mrs. Henderson also suggested that everyone provide comments electronically to the committee.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Mrs. Chapline suggested to the Board the need to look for opportunities to expand

the Industrial Park, Surry West, as interest in that area has increased, and we have limited parcels. The county is working on increasing the water capacity for the park, and HRSD has the sewer capacity needed for future growth. She stated that scheduling a retreat and EDA training is in the works and advised the Board of a national forum that is available for those who want to participate. She also suggested scheduling a work session in January or February 2025 to begin discussing and planning for new ideas.

DIRECTORS COMMENT

- Mr. Price- No comments.
- Mrs. Monahan shared that she is pleased with the report from Mrs. Chapline and expressed her excitement about the county's current development.
- Mr. Howell expressed his excitement with the interest of others establishing their businesses and developments. He stated that he believes it will make it easier for residents to live here and will attract more citizens to move here.
- Mrs. Henderson- No comments.
- Mr. Godfrey thanked everyone for the Economic Development activities that we currently have. He shared that he was happy about the finalization of the Marketplace.
- Mr. Wooden thanked his fellow board members and staff for all their efforts and work. He shared that he was ecstatic about the grocery store opening and that their revenue stream was positive. He also stated that it was great to see growth and development in the county and encouraged everyone to continue to work together.
- Mrs. Chapline shared that the new Mexican restaurant, Morelia's would open this Monday.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Howell and seconded by Mr. Price to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm. The next meeting is on January 23, 2025, at 6 pm in the General District Courtroom.

Roll Call

Mr. Myron Wooden

yes

Mrs. Joyce Henderson	yes
Mr. Trenton Howell	yes
Mr. Howell Godfrey	yes
Mr. John Price	yes
Mrs. Janet Monahan	yes

The motion carried unanimously.