

Final
**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
PORTSMOUTH ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**
October 4, 2024 7:30 AM- 9:00 AM

Members Present: Chair Tom Watson, Vice Chair Sarah Lachance, Anne Weidman, Anna Howard, Jacob Lahoux, Ben VanCamp, Bob Marchewka Andrew Ward, Everett Eaton, Jen Scumaci, Assistant Mayor Joanna Kelley

Absent: City Councilor Vince Lombardi, Phil Cohen, Assistant City Manager Sean Clancy

City Staff: City Manager Karen Conard

Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

Motion to accept the minutes of the September meeting with no changes made by *Vice Chair Lachance*, seconded by *Commissioner Howard*. Motion passed unanimously.

Business Support Working Group update: *Commissioner Ward*

- The proposed memo to the City Council was pre-distributed and reviewed by the full EDC.
- Edits were proposed by *Commissioner Marchewka* and *Vice Chair Lachance* for inclusion in the final document.
- Motion to forward edited memo to Mayor and City Council for October 21st City Council meeting made by *Commissioner Marchewka* and seconded by *Commissioner Weidman*.
- Motion passed unanimously.

EDC representative (Commissioner Eaton) and Citizen representative (Commissioner Weidman) reported on Market Square Master Plan working group meeting. Highlights of the consultant's findings and considerations were shared. The EDC was advised that a public meeting has been scheduled for Monday November 4th from 6pm to 8pm at the Portsmouth Public Library (Levenson Room).

Economic Resiliency Working Group update: *Commissioner Weidman*

Via, a micro transit company, made a presentation to the EDC based on their national (and international) model. The presentation was comprehensive and concluded with three examples of servicing Portsmouth either in certain segments or as a whole. Via stressed that they provide the software/communication platform as well as vehicles and drivers which can stand alone or connect with existing fixed route transit services. The full presentation as well as the robust Q & A session are included in the meeting recording.

Chamber Update – *Ben VanCamp*

- October 21st 12:00-1:00 pm District 1 Congressional candidate session scheduled (see Chamber website for details)

City Council Update – *City Manager Conard*

- Gateway Neighborhood Overlay District zoning proposal is moving forward to 2nd reading (October 21st).
- The revaluation process is on-going with a presentation from the City Assessor scheduled for the October 21st City Council Meeting.

Public Comment: N/A

Motion to adjourn made by *Commissioner Eaton*, seconded by *Commissioner Marchewka*.
Meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.

As always, a full recording of this meeting is available on the EDC web page.

Submitted by,
Sean Clancy
Assistant City Manager for Economic & Community Development