

Town of Richlands
Industrial Development Authority
July 5th, 2022

The Richlands IDA held a regular monthly meeting on July 5th, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. with the following members present:

Jordan Bales	Jan White
Craig Earls	Gary Jackson

Members Absent: Phillip Horton, Joseph Vance
Town Staff present: John O’Daniel
Other Guests:

Gary Jackson called the meeting to order and Jan White gave the invocation. Gary Jackson led the pledge of allegiance.

Gary Jackson asked the group a question regarding if the chair can vote. John O’Daniel, Yes since they are appointed by the group, but I will check.

Craig Earls presented the minutes from the June 7th, 2022 meeting. Jan White made a motion to approve the minutes. Jordan Bales seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

New Business:

Pop-up Richlands Update: John O’Daniel advised that we have a drawdown approval for one of the recipients. The award drawdown for \$600 for rent for Carly Dula was presented for approval. Jordan Bales made a motion to approve the funding request of \$600 to Carly Dula for the expenses requested. Jan White seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

John O’Daniel also presented a drawdown request for from the Virginia Community Capital fund award to Carl Dula (\$1000), Michelle Ball (\$1000) as the Pop-up Richlands recipients. Craig Earls made a motion to approve the drawdown request for both expenses requested from the VCC fund. Jan White seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

John O’Daniel advised that Jaci Barret – Bleachy Mama expansion requested reimbursement for rent that was prior to the award. This request was denied. The group agreed with his response. We are looking for dates for the next round in the fall and we are discussing holding the classes with SWCC again. Jordan Bales mentioned that with the VECEDA seed capital matching fund you need to put upfront money which helps force expansion. That will be something we can look at. We can also talk to Ken Heath in Marion to see if they have any lessons learned.

Appointment of Treasurer: Gary Jackson discussed that we are looking for a Treasurer due to Adrienne leaving the IDA. Jordan Bales stated that he would like to volunteer for the treasurer's position. Craig Earls made a motion to approve Jordan Bales as the next Richlands IDA Treasurer. Jan White seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Appointment of New IDA Member: Jordan Bales advised the group that he talked to Brandon Buskill about the IDA position, and he is very interested. He is a local Dentist, and is very interested in helping our town. Craig Earls made a motion to approve for John O'Daniel to take Brandon Buskill to the Richlands Town Council for appointment to the Richlands IDA. Jordan Bales seconded the motion. No further discussion. All voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Old Business:

John says that he needs conflict of interest forms filled and will be getting them out to those who need to fill them out.

Richlands Solar Update: Jordan Bales discussed that solar is great, but it is not very assessible for most members of the town. We shouldn't spend a lot on this due to these impacts. The panels are expensive. John O'Daniel discussed that the council advised us to go to GDS to get help with the technical information, and ordinance, with a study. That study will take a few months. We also discussed if it possible to get land and put up a power plant for solar. John advised that we are in discussions to possibly sell the system to AEP. He feels that we need to decide how we want to handle that through council. We are at a crossroads for this and that decision will play heavily on if we need solar power generation. Gary Jackson mentioned that the inspectors will be involved with any solar installation to ensure that it meets code. Jordan Bales discussed that we need to look at the zoning for solar, and what is allowed, as well as what is allowed for campgrounds. If we have a co-op to build a solar farm, or shares of the farm, it would help get the community involved. No action taken.

Other Business:

None

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

Next Meeting August 2nd at 6:00 P.M.