

**Town of Richlands  
Industrial/Economic Development Authority  
December 2, 2024**

The Richlands IEDA held its regular monthly meeting at 6 p.m. with the following present:

Dr. Brandon Buskill  
Cody Harman  
Dillon Smith

Jeff Casey  
Lynna Mitchell

Members Absent: Craig Earls, Joseph Vance  
Town Representatives: Jason May  
Guest:

Brandon Buskill called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

Lynna Mitchell made a motion to approve the agenda and Dillon Smith seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Lynna mentioned a minor correction in the minutes and moved to approve them as corrected. Dillon seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### **New Business**

Jason May distributed packets that detailed a comprehensive economic development strategy for 2025. It provides updated incentives for tourism and technology zones, with the BPOL fee abated over three years — 80 percent in the first year, 60 percent in the second year, and 40 percent in the third year. He also mentioned that the county is in the process of redesigning enterprise zones. He said the town would like more zones included in the downtown area such as Front Street, Second Street, the Gateway, the Tadano location and the Richlands Mall.

There was no update concerning the IEDA 501(c)(3) status.

The BAUD (Blighted, Abandoned, Underutilized, and Derelict) housing project in Marion was also discussed. Jason said that Marion Town Manager Bill Rush was ready to retire, so he was planning a joint meeting in February.

Jason said he planned to attend Municipal Day in Richmond in January to discuss the town's existing businesses with legislators.

He also shared the Business Economic Development Survey that Keshia Cole and Dedra Harris distributed to downtown businesses. They have also compiled a sponsorship package for events

that will feature national acts such as Mark Chestnut, The Cleverlys and a shag contest. Clinch Valley Health has contributed \$15,000 and two other businesses have contributed \$10,000 each.

Jason asked the IEDA members to bring feedback on all of this information to the January meeting. He also said that Keshia will also attend.

There was some discussion about the ATVs and UTVs in town. Jeff Casey mentioned that the shooting range in Lake Park could tie into the Jawbone trail with a tram trail that would go to Jewell Ridge. He said he has contacts that could help open up that area.

Jason exited the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

Brandon asked if there were any other topics to discuss. With there being none, Dillion made a motion to adjourn. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 6, at 6 p.m.