

Town of Richlands  
Industrial/Economic Development Authority  
March 3, 2025

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

Lynna Mitchell

Craig Earls

Jeff Casey

Joseph Vance

Cody Harman

Members Absent: Dr. Brandon Buskill, Dillon Smith

Town Representatives: Kiesha Cole, Mike Thomas

Guests:

**Call to Order:**

Joseph Vance, Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Craig Earls made a motion to approve the agenda with the proposed addition. Jeff Casey seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the agenda was unanimously approved.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from the January 27th and February 3rd meetings were presented for approval. Lynna Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes with the corrections below. Jeff Casey seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the minutes were unanimously approved with corrections.

**Meeting Minute Corrections:**

- January 27: Add Jordan Bales as Treasurer.
- February 3: Correct the spelling of "Mitchell."

**IEDA Discussion Items:**

**Potential IEDA By-Law Updates**

Joseph Vance: Are there any items for discussion regarding the by-laws?

Craig Earls: One interesting point from Tazewell's example is that individuals can serve on the IEDA even if they reside outside the town, as long as they own a business within town limits.

Joseph Vance: How do we make changes to the by-laws?

Mike Thomas: Since we control the by-laws, we have the authority to make amendments. There was a recommendation to clarify the process for special meetings, including notifying directors. The by-laws also allow for waiving the notice requirement, which may be something we want to review.

Cody Harman: A bill was passed regarding abandoned and blighted properties. Do the properties need to have delinquent taxes to qualify?

Mike Thomas: We have not yet reviewed all the details.

Kiesha Cole: The town has considered whether utility services can be leveraged to address

blighted properties when they are demolished. It may be beneficial to invite someone from Marion to discuss their approach.

*(The group discussed and no changes to the by-laws were requested at this time.)*

### **Real Estate Acquisition – Teen Venture**

Joseph Vance: Has the town taken any action on this?

Mike Thomas: They are exploring a different route but will still be addressing the matter.

*(The group discussed, and no further changes or actions were requested at this time.)*

### **FOIA Training:**

Mike Thomas: FOIA training is scheduled for March 13 at 2:00 PM.

### **Economic Development Updates:**

Kiesha Cole: We are working on the Community Development Block Grant, which will help fund façade improvements, including work from Kidd's Garage to Henry's Garage. We plan to request \$1 million in funding. Additionally, we are finalizing event details and seeking council approval.

### **Additional Discussion:**

Updates were provided on the Helene bill and potential funding for flood recovery. There was also a request to compile a list of delinquent properties, which Kiesha Cole will provide to Craig Earls when available.

Mike Thomas: I will be out of town for the next meeting.

Joseph Vance made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cody Harman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: April 7th, at 6 p.m.