

**Town of Richlands  
Industrial/Economic Development Authority  
November 3, 2025**

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

Joseph Vance  
Cody Harman  
Mike Bales

Jeff Casey  
Lynna Mitchell

Members Absent: Craig Earls  
Town Representatives: Billy Shelton  
Guest:

**Call to Order:**

Joseph Vance called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m., and followed with prayer.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Lynna Mitchell made a motion to approve the agenda and Jeff Casey seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Lynna mentioned a minor clarification in the minutes under the Richlands Mall Property Discussion, stating that she was attending the meeting on behalf of the Richlands IEDA and AASC. She then moved to approve the minutes. Jeff seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**New Business**

Billy Shelton said that Richlands Town Council member Rick Wood asked to be placed on the December agenda, as well as on the Richlands Planning Commission's December agenda. Billy also informed the group about Ron Holt's resignation as town manager. He said Holt's last day is Jan. 11. The group discussed the town manager's departure and how it will affect the town.

Billy suggested emailing Susan Whitt concerning the members who still need to take the oath of office.

The group continued the discussion about the funds remaining in the Pop-Up Richlands account and Joseph suggested adding this topic to next month's agenda. Lynna shared the town of Marion's incentives and how the idea for Pop-Up came from Marion. Mike Bales added that VCEDA and the Tobacco Commission could fund larger projects. Joseph mentioned Buchanan County's Board of Supervisors and IDA and the plans they are developing for the Popular Gap

area. Cody Harman suggested that the IEDA should also develop a long-term plan. Jeff echoed this idea and said it needs to be on the agenda for December. It was decided that a work session may be helpful to plan for the Pop-Up funds and for long-range ideas.

Cody said the town needs to focus on restaurants. The group had a robust discussion about food trucks and utilizing the existing farmers' market area. They determined that a food-truck-friendly area would be beneficial to attract these vendors and support this idea.

With no further topics to discuss, Cody made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with Jeff providing the second. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**

December 1, at 6 p.m.