



City of Harrisonburg

City Hall
409 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Meeting Minutes - Final Economic Development Authority

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

12:00 PM

City Council Chambers

1. Call To Order and Roll Call

The City of Harrisonburg Economic Development Authority met in the City Council Chambers on June 10, 2025, at 12:00 pm. Members in attendance: Dr. Alsindi, Mr. Burden, Mr. Holland Jr., Mr. Pipkins. Also in attendance was G. Chris Brown, Counsel for the EDA and Pamela Ulmer, City Clerk. Members absent: Jennifer Maclin and Mr. Martin

Ms. Maclin joined the meeting virtually at 12:14pm

Present 5 - Jennifer Maclin, Heja Alsindi, Chairperson Chris Pipkins, William S. Holland Jr, and Jared Burden

Absent 1 - Mike Martin

Also Present 2 - Chris Brown, and Pam Ulmer

2. Introduction of New Members

Mr. Brown introduced the two new members present, Mr. Burden and Mr. Holland Jr.

3. New Business

3.a. Consider adoption of the EDA Electronic Participation Policy

Mr. Brown reviewed the electronic participation policies to be adopted. One policy provides that if a quorum is present in person, other members can attend via electronic participation with certain restrictions. The second policy, All Virtual Policy, provides certain bodies to have full electronic meetings, no more than twice a year.

A motion was made by Mr. Burden, seconded by Mr. Holland, to adopt the Electronic Participation Policy as presented. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

A motion was made by Dr. Alsindi, seconded by Mr. Holland, to allow Ms. Maclin to attend the meeting electronically. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Holland, seconded by Mr. Pipkins to adopt the All Virtual Policy as presented. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

3.b. Election of Officers

Mr. Brown asked for nominations for the Chair. Dr. Alsindi nominated Mr. Pipkins as Chair

A motion was made by Dr. Alsindi, seconded by Mr. Holland to appoint Mr. Pipkins as Chair. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Holland, seconded by Mr. Burden, to appoint Dr. Alsindi as

Vice-Chair. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

A motion was made by Chair Pipkins, seconded by Mr. Holland to appoint Mr. Brown as secretary. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Holland, seconded by Mr. Burden, to appoint Ms. Ulmer as assistant secretary. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

3.c. Consider approval of dispersal of Harrisonburg Entrepreneurship Development Initiatives (HEDI) Grant funds

Peirce Macgill, deputy director, Harrisonburg Economic Development Department, presented on the Harrisonburg Entrepreneurship Development Initiative (HEDI). He reviewed the program, how it works, collaboration with a professional coaching company, and noted there are 29 businesses that received grant funding for this program.

Discussion took place regarding the diversity of the grantees, how to learn more about the businesses to help promote, and possible collaboration with National League of Cities for implantation grants.

Mr. Brown explained that even though the grant funds are city funds City Council cannot make grants or gifts to businesses or individuals. Therefore, these funds are allocated to the EDA and then granted accordingly to the individual businesses involved in this program.

A motion was made by Mr. Holland, seconded by Dr. Alsindi, to approve the disbursement of the grants as presented. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

4. Public Hearing - 12:30 pm

4.a. Consideration of issuance of Revenue Bond Financing for Eastern Mennonite University

Mr. Brown provided an overview of the Revenue Bond Financing, how bond financing works, and noted funds are not coming from the EDA nor City Council and EDA and the City will have no financial liability. He presented the Bond resolution and the Inducement resolution.

Mr. Shawn Ramer, COO of Eastern Mennonite University (EMU), Lisa Williams and Caroline Perrin, McGuire Woods, Bond Council for EMU were present.

Ms. Williams reviewed the bond process.

Public comment opened at 12:39 pm:

Mr. Ramer reviewed the purpose and use of this bond financing.

Discussion took place regarding enrollment numbers at EMU.

There being no other comments from the public, the public hearing closed at 12:43 pm

Further discussion took place regarding growth of EMU and expansion of certain academic programs.

A motion was made by Mr. Burden, seconded by Mr. Holland, to adopt the Inducement Resolution as presented. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote as follows:

Yes: 5 - Maclin, Alsindi, Chairperson Pipkins, Holland Jr and Burden

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Martin

A motion was made by Mr. Holland, seconded by Dr. Alsindi to adopt the Bond Resolution as presented. The motion carried with a recorded roll call vote as follows:

Yes: 5 - Maclin, Alsindi, Chairperson Pipkins, Holland Jr and Burden

No: 0

Absent: 1 - Martin

5. Other Business

6. Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:52 pm.

G. Chris Brown, Secretary