

CITY OF HARRISONBURG  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
MINUTES

Meeting June 10, 2025

1.

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

2.

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

3.a

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. Pipkin to adopt the All Virtual Policy as presented. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

3b.

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. Pipkin as Chair. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Chair Pipkins asked for nominations for Vice-Chair.

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.

3c.

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.

4a

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

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:

6.

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

G. Chris Brown, Secretary