

**CITY OF BUENA VISTA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AUGUST 4, 2022, 6:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Fitzgerald Vice-Mayor Hickman
Councilman Henson Councilman Staton
Councilman Cooper Councilman Webb
Councilman Coffey**

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ADG #1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER:

Councilman Webb delivered the opening prayer.

ADG #2: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Vice-Mayor Hickman made motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilman Coffey, carried by Council.

**ADG #3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 21, 2022,
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING:**

Councilman Coffey made motion to approve the above-mentioned minutes, seconded by Councilman Staton, carried by Council.

**ADG #4: RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATION FROM VISITORS: Citizens
who desire to speak to Council will be recognized at this time. Please
limit your statement to three(3) minutes.**

Mr. Brent Styler was the only person to approach Council. Mr. Styler said that last month on a Thursday morning he was going west on east 29th Street. He encountered an emergency vehicle with flashing lights parked in the east bound lane. The vehicle was a Rockbridge Fire Department utility truck. He said he truly hopes the call was not a heart attack or a serious accident. He opined we should really look after our citizens when things like this happen. We have the means of looking after people who do have accidents. The

second item he wanted to discuss was the open DSS meeting held last Monday at the Horse Center. He attended and he heard no recognizable discussion about the present effort or previous efforts concerning DSS. He did not hear any details. The meeting then went into executive session. The only thing he noticed that came out of that meeting was the announcement of \$10,000.00 for further study. He wanted to know where one could find out what aspirations have been accomplished. What are the criteria for the current facilities? He wanted to know if there has been a radical change in the needs of the DSS. He would hope that the governing responsible entities, our City Council, the Lexington City Council, the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors and the DSS could find competent individuals who could bring this issue to a reasonably successful conclusion in the next three years.

He wanted to know if anyone had called their political entities about global warming or would like for their electric bill to increase. No one replied that they have talked to anyone about electric bills increasing.

ADG #5: REPORTS:

1.) Mayor:

None.

2.) City Manager:

Mr. Tyree started his report by saying we did an MOU with W&L about a year or so ago. The name of it was the Blue Ridge MOU Program which is where they help Buena Vista citizens, or anyone that comes through the Buena Vista Court, get their driver's license back. They want to expand that program for Buena Vista. They want to do other potential collaborations such as one with engineering students, business students, and communication students. They want to extend the program from three years to five years. It will be a lot of potential free services for Buena Vista. From an economic development standpoint, he and Brian just recently talked about the MOU agreement. He just wanted to make Council aware of this agreement. This is not something that needs to come back to Council. He just wanted to make Council aware that this program is going to expand. It is definitely beneficial for Buena Vista because it does not cost us a dime.

3.) City Attorney:

Mr. Kearney advised that he talked with Mr. Knight's staff and attorney today. They are scheduled to close next Thursday. We have set up a meeting of the Public Recreational Facilities Authority for next Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. in Council Chambers. They do want the parking lot at the pro shop along with the transaction. The course will go directly into the hands of a private developer, not ACA. They do want to look at getting many other parcels owned by the Authority. We will be talking to them in the future about the other parcels. The well is the only source of water for the pond. We have public water and sewer up there but

only the well to water the course. They also want the parking lot and any deeds subject to closing. It will go into a private developers hand, not ACA. They will deal with the property and develop it and not leave it sitting there for two or three years without doing anything with the property. The developer does not know exactly what he will do with the property as of yet. The greens are gone. There will be a meeting next Tuesday morning with the Public Recreational Facilities Authority beginning at 8:00 a.m. We will also be transferring the parking lot. They will not get the pavilion.

Councilman Webb stated that he thought the deal had already been made and now they are coming back to the table and want the parking lot.

Mr. Kearney said the survey took place today and it showed that the parking lot was not included in the deal. They want the City to convey the parking lot to them.

Mayor Fitzgerald advised that we have to transfer the parking lot over to them and that will sweeten the deal.

Mr. Kearney stated it is better to close with the developer rather than ACA. He said it is public water and sewer already there. They will extract water from the well to water the course. They have no intention of sitting on the land.

Mayor Fitzgerald asked Council if they were ok with the transaction of the golf course.

4.)Council Committee/Representative:

Councilman Henson started his report by advising the numbers were down at the Beach Music Festival. He attributed that to the high gas prices and opined it was a good event. He reminded everyone of the Guns/Hoses event that will take place at GMP on Friday beginning at 7:00 p.m. and all the proceeds will go for new playground equipment. He said the road at the double decker has been paved along with 10th Street, and Savernake. Councilman Henson said that on August 8th the Parks/Rec Committee will be meeting with Ed Small, the State Director of the U.S.S.S.A ball along with Jimmy Emore and Chad Coffey. They want to talk about getting ballgames back in Buena Vista and travel ball. Councilman Henson stated that we have six facilities and some of them need a little bit of TLC. All six of the fields have been used in the past and could be used again. Councilman Henson reminded Council of the ceremony to be held at Rockbridge County High School on August 26th where the football field will be named the Chase Prasnecki and Drew Ross Field. Both of these young men are Rockbridge County High School graduates and lost their lives defending our country.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if the engineer from Dominion Power has been to GMP.

Mr. Tyree said he was supposed to be here this week meeting with the electrician at the park.

Councilman Coffey opined we need to push that along because if we get too far into the wintertime, we are not going to be able to do what needs to be done. He said we at least need to get the material on order.

ADG #6: CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES:

THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:

WE HAVE AN OPENING ON THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS. THIS TERM WILL EXPIRE ON 12/31/23. THIS IS THE 9TH TIME THIS HAS APPEARED ON THE AGENDA. THE TERM WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY:

ADVERTISED THE NEWS GAZETTE MARCH 2, 2022: POSTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA: NO APPLICANTS

This item will be carried over to the next scheduled Council meeting.

ROCKBRIDGE AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD:

MS. CHERYL HICKMAN HAS RESIGNED. HER TERM WILL EXPIRE ON JANUARY 31, 2023. THIS IS THE 3RD TIME THIS HAS APPEARED ON THE AGENDA:

ADVERTISED THE NEWS GAZETTE JUNE 29, 2022: POSTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA JUNE 27, 2022: NO APPLICANTS

This item will be carried over to the next scheduled Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

OB #1: DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF APRA FUND ALLOCATIONS:

Mr. Tyree requested that his item be tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

NB #1: MS. KRISTINA RAMSEY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, TO UPDATE COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Ms. Kristina Ramsey gave the following report:

Economic Development Update — July 2022

The Economic and Community Development offices remain very busy. We are consistently working on projects to further the growth of Buena Vista. With the increase in activity over the last couple of years, we have not consistently provided updates to you on projects and activities. I asked to be put on the agenda to provide a summary update on a handful of ongoing projects. While this update will be a bit long, it is not entirely comprehensive.

I plan to join you monthly or bimonthly in the future to provide a short update. I welcome you to email me questions and/or requests for projects/activities in advance to include in these updates.

Project Highlights

- **Main Steet Buena Vista (MSBV)**

Jamie has done an incredible job bringing together an active and engaged board. Most groups meet and chat,

MSBV meets and members volunteer to take action.

- Jamie has committed over 270 working hours. MSBV has also engaged volunteers for over one hundred combined hours, not including volunteer time spent creating and publishing social media content.
- MSBV has formed five subcommittees, which engage in more specific project areas. Committees include placemaking, promotions, business solutions, organization, and events.
- The promotions committee alone has garnered attention from across the state through social media activity, getting more people talking about BV.
- The business solutions committee is also getting one on one time and holding gatherings with the businesses (time that is not always available with City staff), which business owners shared has boosted their morale.
- Each member of the placemaking committee has selected a specific task to research and plan for, then bring to City staff for approval to move forward with next steps. Task areas include benches, sculpture style bike racks, public art, and more.
- The events committee has been working hard to execute the Battle of the Bands and partnering with BV Arts Council for Mountain Day. Planning has also begun for Halloween in downtown and Christmas.

More information on individual committees and MSBV activity is in your folder.

- **Community Development Block Grant**

The CBDG project is ongoing and making great progress despite state level delays. Not much change since May update.

- **Facade Program** is finalizing details to allow the City to enter contracts with property owners. This is delayed from the May update as additional changes were requested by property owners. We expect to put the project out to bid for contractors in August and begin construction as soon as possible.

- **Streetscape Improvements on 21st street** Planning and design is ongoing for this element of the project. The City recently received a small VDOT grant to support work on the 21st street area (likely not paving). This element is expected to begin in late 2022 to early 2023.

- **Wayfinding signage** element will occur in 2023, allowing time for staple projects to progress as they will likely be included on the signage.
 - Staple projects include the Wilson Workforce Center and Virginia Innovation Collective (VIC).

Additionally, conversations are ongoing with the Tourism office for the possible relocation of the Visitor Center to downtown or the VIC as it is important for Visitor Centers to be where the activity is.

- **Virginia Innovation Collective**

This project was formerly called the AgTech center and innovation center. The Advancement Foundation (TAF) has selected Virginia Innovation Collective as the official name.

The business incubator and classroom space has been renovated and active. Businesses have also began setting up and operating in the center. See business overview section for details

TAF and the City continue to partner to pursue funding for remaining buildout.

- In late 2021, TAF received \$550K from GoVirginia to hire new staff to operate the center
- The Governor recently recommended the VIC project for a \$700K grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to buildout the commercial kitchen. This is pending final approval at the federal level, but the Governor's recommendation is a very positive sign.
- This week, TAF was notified of another award of \$100k from a federal agency that is awaiting formal announcement. This will be used to purchase the equipment for the commercial kitchen.
- We are finalizing an application to be submitted on August 19th for the Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF) through DHCD. We applied for this last year but did not receive an award. However, there is additional funding available this year because of ARPA funding so we are trying

again. We will be coming to you at the August 4th meeting to pass a resolution, similar to that of last year, that allows us to move forward with the application.

The recent grant awards and the IRF (if awarded) will collectively fund the buildout of public restrooms accessible from outside, the commercial kitchen, a cafe/retail space, and some of the facade work. Additionally, the grants will fund the creation of a space for the Visitor Center, should the Tourism Board decide to move forward with its relocation. Jean and I have spoken in length about this and had a very preliminary conversation with the tourism board. The VIC is a central location with downtown, the river walk, and Glen Maury Park nearby. The center will also be a hub for tourism centric activity. Both of which create the ideal location for a Visitor Center.

- **Virginia Main Street Remote Work Program**

In May, the City was selected by Virginia Main Street as one of five communities to participate in their new Work From Home Pilot program. We were excited to be selected to participate as this opens the doors to new opportunities for the City. Site availability, combined with resource availability, has shown that the City is not primed for large scale, advanced manufacturing, and only smaller scale (1-50 employees). Therefore, it's important to find other ways to grow our community. Remote workers bring big City salaries and often businesses that can help us grow!

We were excited to be selected to participate as this opens the doors to new opportunities for the City. Site availability, combined with resource availability, has shown that the City is not primed for large scale, advanced manufacturing, and only smaller scale (1-50 employees). Therefore, it is important to find other ways to grow our community. Remote workers bring big City salaries and often businesses that can help us grow!

Through this program, Main Street professionals conducted data analysis, research, site visits, and focus groups to comprise a "remotability" report. This report analyzed the City's spaces available to those who work from home (co-working, coffee shops, etc.), technology infrastructure, housing, and much more to determine a ranking for how well Buena Vista attracts remote workers. Additionally, the program provides a list of recommendations to improve this score. One recommendation will be selected for further planning and/or study.

We have received draft recommendations, which were what we expected. However, there was a great focus on better marketing and branding for the City. This will likely be the area the group pursues for further planning/study. This is actually perfect as the City has grown

substantially and coming into its new image, which reflects its history combined with its welcomeness for being different, quirkiness, outdoor recreation, and more.

- **Town Square**

A couple of months ago, we were awarded a grant from the state to conduct an environmental assessment and complete a formal design. We completed the environmental assessment, published an RFP, and officially selected a firm to complete the design.

Next Steps:

- Project Kick off meeting with design firm first week of August to finalize timeline
- Sign contract with consultant
- Solicit public input
- Complete two design options by fall with cost opinions
- Council selects final design
- Seek funding and partnerships for buildout

- **Regional Housing Study**

As you know, last year Council allocated \$15,000 from ARPA funds to partner with Rockbridge and Lexington to conduct a regional housing study. Soon after, our regional planning district commission obtained a grant to conduct a housing study for the entire Central Shenandoah region. Because of this, we decided to join their study for a more comprehensive analysis and less financial commitment. Each locality is now funding a little over \$3,000 for the study, leaving the remaining amount for reallocation.

The study kicked off in June with a staff meeting that included the three localities, CSPDC staff, the consultant, and Virginia Housing staff.

Next steps:

- Survey focus groups of housing stakeholders, employers, developer/contractors, and others in late August and September
- Consultant will conduct research analysis
- Data will be supplied to localities in June 2023
- Full study will be complete in June 2024

- **Mountain Gateway and Wilson Workforce Center**

Dabney officially changed their name to Mountain Gateway Community College on July 1st for those that did not know. All Dabney signs have been changed to reflect the new name and they have repurposed the former Vista Links sign at the entrance on route 60.

They have completed architectural drawings and selecting their general contractor for the Wilson Workforce Center project in the former Ford building. Efforts to secure funding for the construction are ongoing. They have

seen many delays with applications to state and federal programs for reasons beyond their control, but they are working diligently.

City Staff have been meeting with John Rainone regularly to discuss the project. Next week Tom will be meeting

with John and DHCD to discuss a funding program that the City may be able to partner with them on. We will keep you all posted, as necessary.

- **Rockbridge Outdoors**

Rockbridge Outdoors (RO), our **regional** outdoor partnership consisting of dozens of outdoor stakeholders,

meets regularly and recently update their strategic plan, which you all were able to see/hear about at the last regional meeting held at the horse center.

I am part of the Executive and marketing committees, Tom is on the sign committee, and Ed recently joined the full partnership and the trails committee. The committees are working on furthering trails in GMP and elsewhere, launching a new website landing page, putting out brochures, and further promoting our region for outdoors.

The executive committee recently applied for a grant from the Rockbridge Community Health Foundation to fund a "Track Trail" in each of the three localities. RO was awarded \$25,000 for all three trails. Ours will be on the Foxtrot trail that begins at the double decker. Track Trails are a Blue Ridge Parkway Program that encourage educational, outdoor recreation for families. This will include installation of a trailhead sign, printed brochures, and listings on the BRP and tourism websites. Find more information on the track trails program attached.

RO also just received a grant to fund signage/signage options to be used for trails and outdoor assets throughout the region. This could be just a sticker or magnet with the RO logo and/or a QR code to the website that allows visitors to easily find other activities, restaurants nearby, etc.

- **Playground Project**

The playground committee met twice to discuss the type of play system that was desired and settled on a solid list of elements to include.

The committee discussed location of the playground and narrowed it down to two locations: beside the Oyler Pavilion and in the island with the GMP entry sign. A final location has not been determined though I favor the location beside the Oyler Pavilion.

Mel and Stan have spearheaded fundraising efforts so far to collect donations at park events and plan the Guns & Hoses Fundraiser for August 5th. Mel also secured a \$250 sponsorship from the tourism office.

We now need to confirm the total funding we will spend on the playground and submit a Request for Proposals (RFP) that follows state/federal procurement guidelines. Due to timelines required in these guidelines, we need to be ready to spend the funds when we select the proposal/play system.

Next Steps:

- Committee meet in late August (after I return from vacation)
- Put together an action plan to request private donations.
- Council members on the committee mentioned the use of ARPA funds for the playground; need to confirm
- Finalize spend amount and submit RFP

- **Brownfields Conference/Bontex**

I attended the state brownfields conference several weeks ago and got the opportunity to talk to state/federal agencies and learn more about programs to assess and target blighted, deteriorated former industrial buildings.

While I went into the conference with great knowledge on the programs, I really wanted to connect and build relationships with the heads of these programs and administering agencies. I am happy to report that I did, and some have already given me a heads up on upcoming grant rounds and additional funding options. It was fun to learn that a couple were very familiar with the Bontex site, which was a primary reason I attended this conference.

As many of you know, the Bontex site has been a big priority for me since I started working for the City and I am very passionate about this site being redeveloped. Over the last few years, the only contact I had for the property was a lawyer based in DC that is no longer on retainer with the owner, Stanco. I reached out to this lawyer consistently until he finally shared the owner's contact earlier this year. Fortunately, we were able to have a conversation with the owner several months ago via Zoom as they are based in Taiwan. They seemed excited about possible redevelopment but did not seem to be in any type of hurry.

We learned that they are not planning to sell the building because of its history and sentimental significance to the company. Therefore, any development will be a partnership with the owner versus the traditional development most are used to. It is also very important for the building to retain its historic character and recognize the history of Bontex and textiles. They want

someone experienced with real estate partnerships and large-scale adaptive reuse projects. Additionally, they emphasized the desire for a local developer who knows the communities needs and can be here on site.

The owner asked us to talk to developers and share developer's contacts with them after we have talked and determined project fit. They asked that we not share their information directly because they do not want to be bombarded by interested parties. However, I have been diligent about sharing with the owner and lawyer any serious communications I have with interested parties. I have talked to two developers who are interested and have the means to move forward. Both of which I shared with the owner and lawyer to arrange a meeting. However, despite multiple efforts, communication has ceased. I spoke to the lawyer who is working to reconnect and schedule another meeting with me and the owner.

I learned through their lawyer that relationships and personal connections are important to the owner and has had an effect on projects for this this site before. This said, it is important we are careful and approach Stanco in an appropriate manner in all communications so we can maintain a quality relationship. I will continue to pursue this project while being extra careful to maintain a respectful relationship with them.

Other Updates

- The City's Revolving Loan Fund is now in use again after 7 years of being inactive. We have loaned to one new business so far and have one application in review.
- Workforce is still a primary concern in our area. I am meeting monthly and quarterly with our major employers to understand their needs and provide necessary resources. I am also meeting with other employers as needed/requested. Additionally, I attend regular meetings with partners to learn about and/or develop workforce programs.
- We had a site visit several weeks ago to tour industrial park and former northwest hardwoods site with representatives from the State for them to learn more for manufacturing recruitment.

Business Overview

Buena Vista has seen ongoing business activity over the last year and a half. This year's Gauntlet program had 4 BV participants (The Beeve, Kenkashi Microbers, EarthMagic Recycling, and Blue Ridge Mushroom). Each participant won a top prize, creating a combined prize total of \$15,600 in cash and \$24,200 in in-kind services.

Find details below on other business activity in the City. This list may be missing a few but includes many of the recent updates.

- **New Business**

- **Synergy Rehab and Wellness** (2275 Beech Ave.) is officially open in the former movie theater— part of larger fifty location expansion by Ivy Rehab
- **Straws BV** (2047 Magnolia Ave) BV opened on July 4th and has remained busy, so much so that they are figuring out demand so they can keep up with inventory
- **Bluebell Bakery** (1913 Magnolia Ave.) officially opened on July 16, will be open Fridays and Saturdays until Fall where she will expand open dates
- **Katana** (1913 Magnolia Ave.), a hibachi and Japanese food truck, opened in May. They shared that 400500 meals are being sold a day. Based on City revenues, they are doing just as well as other long-term restaurants in the City.
- **IQ Gaming** (2002 Magnolia Ave.), a skill-based games business, has been open behind Glamor Hut for several months. They are working on increasing business, seeing it as a 6-month test run where they will close if business does not meet sustainable demand.
- **Rockbridge Rehab** (119 E 28th Street), is a nonprofit offering addiction services for our community. Offers group sessions, one on one support, resource connection, and household donations for those in need. Located behind the First Brethren Church.
- **The Beeve** (2175 Magnolia Ave), will be opening following the completion of renovations to the building. They will sell flavored sodas, ice cream, and Buena Vista Souvenirs.
- **Pink Peonies** (2175 Magnolia Ave), will be opening following the completion of renovations, selling refurbished furniture.

- **Innovation Center**

- **GermZapp**, which manufactures patented hand hygiene systems to help teach children proper hygiene, officially got their business license, and will begin business operations at the center soon. Would like to partner with school system to supply discounted systems to help test systems and gain PR.
- **QuestKnight Unmanned Systems** officially moved from Clifton Forge and are actively working with investors to ramp up business in Buena Vista.
- **EarthMagic Recycling** opened a couple of months ago and is continuing to impress us as they build business. They recently partnered with Natural Bridge State Park to supply sand for their new disc golf course. Keep up with recycling days on their social media and donate your glass to help them succeed.
- **Blue Ridge Mushroom** has begun growing in the center and will be selling at farmers market soon. You can keep up with their progress on Instagram.
- **Others TBA**

- **Other business and Property Updates**

- **Everbrite** celebrating 35 years on the week of August 1s^t.

- **Luxe Hair & Co.** celebrated 2 years on August 1st.
- **Todd Jones** officially retired and has closed his office.
- **Mountain Edge Adult Daycare** closed after several months of setbacks with licensures, Medicaid, and other necessary items to obtain clientele.
- **Subway** closed its location on 29th street and is working on a new location on Beech Avenue (2522 Beech Ave.), hoping to reopen by October
- **Forest River Realty** renovated and relocated to the former Stonewall Insurance building (1480 Magnolia Ave.)
- **Hardware store** closed at the end of April BUT the building has already sold. Set to become a large convenience store, with a focus on tobacco/vape/CBD.
- **Munters** should be officially moved to their new location in Botetourt by the end of year. The building sold a couple of months ago to a logistics and real estate company who is in the exploration phase with multiple prospects and possibilities for the building. They will begin making upgrades to the building and hope to move someone in early 2023.
- **The Cooper's Building** (2175 Magnolia Ave) is making incredible progress. The Cooper's have already secured multiple tenants, including The Beeve, Pink Peonies, and artist Corey Egbert.
- **10th street** (347 W. 10th Street) recently sold and will be occupied by a gentleman that does restoration of antique vehicles
- **2037 Magnolia Ave.** sold and will be home to Asunder coffee roasting and shipping, as well as a warehouse/shipping hub for prepackaged, frozen meat. There will be no public retail component at this time. However, it is planned for the future.
- **Others TBA**

Upcoming Events

- Start Smart Workshop for new business July 26 from 4-6 pm at VIC
- Ribbon Cutting for Earth Magic Recycling at the Virginia Innovation Collective (VIC), former Mundet-Hermetite, on August 5th at 2 pm.
- Southern Virginia University Students arriving on August 22nd and 23rd, Kristina and Jamie will be attending the University Fairs to provide information to students on things to do, etc. Jamie is working with SVU on a scavenger hunt for students to learn about town
- Working on September/October event for Scenic River Designation with Rockbridge County and Tourism.
- July/August Upcoming Events:
 - Beach Music Festival — July 26-28
 - Guns and Hoses — Friday, August 5th
 - Battle of the Bands — Saturday, August 6th
 - JJ's Brisket and Bike Day — Saturday, August 6th
 - Fridays in the Park – Friday August 12th & 19th

NB #2: RESOLUTION VIRGINIA INNOVATION COLLECTIVE (VIC) INDUSTRIAL REVITALIZATION FUND (IRF) GRANT APPLICATION:

Mr. Tom Roberts read the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION – R22-12

Virginia Innovation Collective (VIC) Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF) Grant Application

7/27/2022

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development has established the Industrial Revitalization Fund grant program to leverage local and private resources to achieve market-driven redevelopment of industrial structures, creating a catalyst for long-term employment opportunities and ongoing physical and economic revitalization; and

WHEREAS, The Advancement Foundation, a 501(c)three nonprofit organization dedicated to small business development, purchased in 2021 the former Mundet Hermetite plant located at 245 W 21st Street in Buena Vista and now operates the Virginia Innovation Collective (VIC) at that location; and

WHEREAS, the former Mundet-Hermetite plant was vacant and was blighted when purchased by The Advancement Foundation in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the five-year economic impact of the VIC is projected to be significant, including as many as 105 new direct high-wage jobs, business acceleration services to as many as thirty-four entrepreneurs, and 10 new apartment housing units. Projected impact is provided in more detail in the 2021 document titled, “Innovation Mill Investment & Outcomes”: and

WHEREAS, The Advancement Foundation has begun renovations of the building and seeks additional construction funding to complete high-impact phases of building renovation.

WHEREAS, The Advancement Foundation has secured external funding to support this and other phases of development of the Collective:

Coeus research (equipment)	\$ 200,000.00
Go VA program and staffing grant	\$ 550,000.00
ARC grant for construction of project phase III	\$ 700,000.00
USDA grant for commercial kitchen equipment	\$ 105,000.00
TOTAL	\$1,555,000.00

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Buena Vista shall apply for \$2,500,000.00 of Industrial Revitalization Funds for The Advancement Foundation's Virginia Innovation Collective building renovations; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the City Manager or his designee is hereby authorized to sign and submit appropriate documents for the submittal of this Industrial Revitalization Fund application.

William Fitzgerald, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dawn Wheeler, Clerk of Council

Date

Councilman Cooper made motion to approve the above Resolution, seconded by Councilman Henson, carried by Council.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Dawn M. Wheeler
Clerk of Council

William H. Fitzgerald
Mayor