

Military Economic Development Advisory Committee (MEDAC) Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 28, 2025 | 1500 - 1630

**Department of Economic Development
4525 Main Street, Suite 700**

Members Present:

Chair RADM Phil Olson, Vice-Chair RADM Robert Katz, CAPT Andy Baan, CAPT Bill Curtis, CAPT Loren Heckelman, RADM Mark Gemmill, RADM Gregory Nosal, RADM Charles Kubic, RADM Fenton Priest, CDR Kathleen Owens, CAPT Louis Schager, CAPT Christopher (Kit) Chope

Members Present Virtually:

VBDA Rep Eric Keplinger, CAPT Robert Holmes on business travel overseas, CAPT Charles Stuppard from Joint Forces Staff College

Members Absent:

MCPO Lawrence Barbrey, CAPT J.J. Cummings,

Guests/Advisors/Staff Present:

Steve Cage, Mike Cobb, Edmund Libby, Caleb Smith, Sultan Camp, John Lauderback, Todd Nichols, Matt Capodanno, Eli Buckler, John Uhrin III, Jennifer Hines, Denis Ozowara, Nahla Saleh, Vicki Kelley, Ihsane Mouak, Fairwater Associates

Minutes/Notes

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Olson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1500.

- a. Chair Olson requested a motion to approve the annual adoption of the Remote Participation Policy and members unanimously approved.
- b. Vicki Kelley, Clerk, asked that all virtually present members introduce themselves and state their location, members virtually present were noted.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

27 January 2025 Minutes were unanimously approved.



III. City Council Items

- a) Chair Olson presented the Ordinance and Revised By-Laws to members and explained that the new By-Laws indicate that the rank for appointed Chair was broadened to retired O6 and above from the previously required rank of Flag Officer.

Discussion: The question of what the rules for the Vice-Chair are was posed to the group/Chair, given that in the absence of the appointed Chair, the Vice-Chair will fill in. Mr. Olson answered that the newly revised By-Laws would apply to that position as well. A discussion was had to discuss the opposing vote and the merits behind that decision.

- i) *Majority approved the vote with one opposing vote made by Member Andy Baan.*

- b) Approval of the MEDAC Annual Report introduced by Chair Olson.

Discussion: Member Fenton Priest noted that MEDAC participation in the Virginia Governor's Housing Conference in November 2024 should be added to the Annual Report. A motion was made to approve the Annual Report pending an amendment adding the conference details. Conversation held regarding attendance policy and expectations.

- i) *The members approved unanimously.*

IV. City Update

Council member Dr. Ross-Hammond arrived following agenda item V and provided an update.

Dr. Ross Hammond mentioned that there is a need for more military housing in the area and there is a new program being presented for builders to develop attainable housing and there is hope that it can also aid in this effort.

V. Special Presentations and Discussions

Chief of Staff for RecruitMilitary, Jen Hines, provided a presentation on the company to include background, mission, and the benefits that they bring to the area, specifically the local military community, as they transition into civilian life.

VI. Command Updates for JEB Little Creek – Fort Story/NAS Oceana

- a) No representative for JEB Little Creek – Fort Story Present



- b) John Lauterbach was present to provide an update on behalf of NAS Oceana and shared some installation improvement projects that are underway or expected to start soon. Mr. Lauterbach also mentioned the upcoming Air Show in September.

VII. HRMFFA Update

Todd Nichols gave an update on federal spending and grants that will be used at the various installations in the region and the service members in the area. Updates include 3.8 % pay raises for Military members, \$800M in Military Construction projects - \$380M of which is for the expansion and renovation of the privatized barracks at several installations in the area. There were several updates and improvements to the Coast Guard presence in Hampton Roads and looking to increase the support they are given in the area.

VIII. Economic Development Update – Ihsane Mouak, ED Liaison

Ihsane Mouak, ED Liaison, provided some highlights from Economic Development, to include the upcoming Hampton Roads Alliance Playbook, hosting the Mayor’s Manufacturing Roundtable and the 757 Career Summit. VBED attended the RecruitMilitary hiring event held at Norfolk Naval Station on July 17th and had the opportunity to become more familiar with those events and meet local businesses.

IX. Command Visit Program Updates

No update from the program. There was a discussion asking if there were any updates on the restriction surrounding member visits to the various local commands – only two members can visit at one time. Clerk reiterated that the only way to get a waiver to public meeting law is to submit it as a legislative item through the City.

X. Meeting Schedule 2026

Review and vote on the 2026 calendar will be deferred until the next meeting.

XI. Announcements – Next Meeting – 24 November 2025

XII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1639.