

PENINSULA AIRPORT COMMISSION

MINUTES

March 2, 2017

PRESIDED: George Wallace

The special meeting of the Peninsula Airport Commission was held on Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the Airport Banquet Room at the Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport.

Commissioners present were:

James Bourey, Rob Coleman, Aubrey Fitzgerald, Steve Mallon, Sharon Scott and George Wallace.

Executive Director

Mr. Ken Spirito

Assistant Executive Director

Ms. Melissa Cheaney

Director, Air Service, Marketing & PR

Ms. Jessica Wharton

Director, Finance and Administration

Ms. Renee Ford

Legal Counsel

Mr. Herbert V. Kelly, Jr.

Executive Assistant

Ms. Rhonda Wissinger

Public in Attendance

Dave Ress-The Daily Press

Joe Fudge-The Daily Press

Nate Fiery-ABC

Joe Fisher- WAVY

Mike Marrero-WAVY

Kevin Cosgrove-Hunton & Williams LLP

Patricia McDermott-Public

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Commissioner James Bourey submitted his resignation to the Commission effective immediately. He stated it has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve on the Commission. While it's been a challenging time for the Airport and for him personally he is disappointed with the level of disinformation that exists and the confusion that has been created for the public. He fully stands by the actions of the Commission and its integrity. He is also disappointed that PEOPLExpress and the PEOPLExpress loan guarantee was not successful in helping them grow into a major asset for the Airport. He feels the Commission's actions that he supported were justified. Mr. Bourey resigns his position effective immediately in the hope to allow for a fresh start to the Commission and airport and for City Council to appoint someone new to further advance the airport. He has been honored to serve in this capacity. Chairman George Wallace thanked Mr. Bourey for the services he has rendered to the citizens of Newport News and this body and for the critical information he has been able to provide to the Commission.

(Mr. Bourey left at 4:08 p.m.)

CLOSED MEETING

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission enter into a Closed Meeting pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; Section 2.2-3711.A. pertaining to:

Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body.

Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Specifically, to consult with counsel regarding the ongoing Department of Aviation Audit and to discuss New Dominion's removal of furniture, fixtures and equipment.

Commissioner Aubrey Fitzgerald made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Sharon Scott to hold a closed meeting.

Voting yes were:

Rob Coleman, Aubrey Fitzgerald, Steve Mallon, Sharon Scott and George Wallace.

The Commission entered into a Closed Meeting at 4:10 p.m. and reconvened in Open meeting at 5:21 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was

RESOLVED, that to the best of the Commission's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements, and only such public

business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened, were heard, discussed or considered in Closed Meeting.

Voting yes were:

Rob Coleman, Aubrey Fitzgerald, Steve Mallon, Sharon Scott and George Wallace.

CLOSED MEETING

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission enter into a Closed Meeting pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; Section 2.2-3711.A. pertaining to:

Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body. Specifically, to discuss performance of employees of the public body.

Commissioner Rob Coleman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Steve Mallon to hold a closed meeting.

Voting yes were:

Rob Coleman, Aubrey Fitzgerald, Steve Mallon, Sharon Scott and George Wallace.

The Commission entered into a Closed Meeting at 5:23 p.m. and reconvened in Open meeting at 6:21 p.m. Upon reconvening, it was

RESOLVED, that to the best of the Commission's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened, were heard, discussed or considered in Closed Meeting.

Voting yes were:

Rob Coleman, Aubrey Fitzgerald, Steve Mallon, Sharon Scott and George Wallace.

Commissioner Rob Coleman motioned that our Executive Director, Ken Spirito, be placed on Administrative leave until the completion of the State audit at which time we will re-evaluate his position.

RESOLVED, that the Peninsula Airport Commission approve that Executive Director, Ken Spirito be placed on Administrative leave until the completion of the State Audit at which time we will re-evaluate his position

Commissioner Rob Coleman made the motion and Commissioner Steve Mallon seconded the motion.

Voting yes were:

Rob Coleman, Steve Mallon, Sharon Scott and George Wallace.

Voting no was:

Aubrey Fitzgerald

Commissioner Sharon Scott made the motion to seek new legal counsel effective immediately. She would like to thank Jones, Blechman, Woltz and Kelly for their commitment to the airport and for sixty years of service.

RESOLVED, that the Peninsula Airport Commission seek new legal counsel effective immediately.

Commissioner Sharon Scott made the motion and Commissioner Steve Mallon seconded the motion.

Voting yes were:

Rob Coleman, Steve Mallon, Sharon Scott and George Wallace.

Voting no was:

Aubrey Fitzgerald

Chairman Wallace stated that the Commission is extremely dedicated to the mission that has been given to us to operate the airport as effectively and efficiently as we can and to give the best opportunity for greater and expanded service.

Commissioner Sharon Scott reported that the Commission had discussed a new Interim Director that would be with us through the completion of the State audit. We will be holding a special meeting in the next week or so to discuss this further.

Commissioner Rob Coleman stated that during this period, Ms. Melissa Cheaney, Assistant Executive Director, will assume the duties of Interim Executive Director until someone else is appointed.

ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Peninsula Airport Commission will be held on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. in the Banquet Room.