

RES - 03932

Requested by Councilmember Uhrin, Mayor Jones, Vice Mayor Wood, and Councilmembers Abbott, Davenport, Dyer, Henley, and Wilson

1 A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING OFFSHORE WIND OFF
2 THE COAST OF VIRGINIA
3

4 WHEREAS, development of offshore wind off the coast of Virginia has been
5 pursued for a number of years; and

6 WHEREAS, Virginia Beach has been a leader in this pursuit through appropriating
7 funds to investigate the utilization of the Chesapeake Light Tower as a MET tower (a wind
8 measuring tower or meteorological evaluation tower) and working extensively with the
9 United States Navy and the Federal Aviation Administration on radar interference issues,
10 and having City staff deeply involved in the Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority
11 (VOWDA) to assist in development of offshore wind; and
12

13 WHEREAS, Dominion Power, which was awarded the lease for the area
14 approximately 25 miles off the coast of Virginia Beach, has now partnered with Ørsted
15 A/S, formally Danish Oil and Natural Gas; and
16

17 WHEREAS, Ørsted and Dominion are anticipated to have two demonstration
18 turbines generating 6 MW each producing electricity in 2020; and

19 WHEREAS, these two test turbines will be the key for large-scale development of
20 offshore wind off the coast of Virginia Beach; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the General Assembly enacted legislation in 2018 requiring 5000 MW
23 of renewable energy to be constructed in the near term, 5 acres is needed for 1 MW of
24 solar energy, and thousands of megawatts could be produced by wind turbines in the
25 area offshore Virginia Beach; and

26 WHEREAS, Virginia Beach has a robust electrical grid that can receive and
27 transmit this offshore wind electric energy; and
28

29 WHEREAS, Virginia Beach has become the landing point for multiple transoceanic
30 high-speed data cables, and these cables will likely lead to the construction of server
31 farms in the City which require large amounts of electricity, and most of the companies
32 operating server farms want to use renewable energy as a source of electricity; and

33 WHEREAS, the development of wind energy off the coast of Virginia could mean
34 that Hampton Roads specifically and Virginia generally could become a hub for the wind
35 energy industry in the mid-Atlantic, which could lead to thousands of high paying jobs and
36 terrifically diversify the economies of Virginia Beach, Hampton Roads, and Virginia.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
38 VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA:

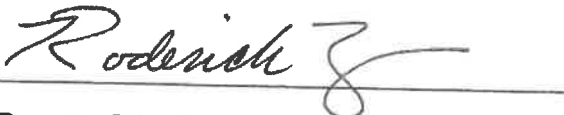
39 That the City Council is committed to the creation of an offshore wind energy
40 industry off the coast of Virginia.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VIRGINIA
42 BEACH, VIRGINIA:

43 That the City Council requests that all state agencies, especially the State
44 Corporation Commission, take whatever steps are necessary in the very near term to
45 accelerate the creation of this new industry so as to provide clean renewable energy and
46 diversify the economy of Virginia.

Adopted by the Council of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia this 7th day of
August, 2018.

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



Deputy City Attorney Roderick R. Ingram

CA14487/ALT-2/August 7, 2018