

**County Council of Dorchester County  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
December 6, 2016**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on December 6, 2016 with the following members present: Ricky C. Travers, President; Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President; William V. Nichols; Rick M. Price and Don B. Satterfield. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney; Jeremy Goldman, County Manager; and Donna Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Price led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

**CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

The Council confirmed that the following items were added after publication of the agenda: Airport Security Gates and Adjacent Property Acquisition Maryland Aviation Administration Special Grant Agreement; Board Appointment-Sanitary Commission; and Request to Sole Source and Purchase Multi Media Presentation System. The Council approved the following additions to the agenda: a farm lease and a tax sale property transfer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES- NOVEMBER 15, 2016**

The Council approved the minutes of November 15, 2016.

**APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS**

The Council approved the vouchers with additions as presented.

**FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$10,965,224.23.

**CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY**

The Council adjourned from a Regular Session and convened in a Closed Session pursuant to Title 3 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, pursuant to §3-305(b)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction and pursuant to §3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto on December 6, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613. Action taken at the Closed Session: 1) deferred the request of the Planning and Zoning Director to hire an individual to fill an Inspector Technician position; 2) approved the request of the

Assistant Director of Corrections to hire two individuals to fill Correctional Officer positions by a 5 to 0 vote; 3) approved the request of the County Manager to hire an individual to fill an Executive Assistant position by a 3 to 2 vote; 4) discussed issues relating to recruitment and retention relating to the 911 Center with the Emergency Services Director; 5) confirmed the hiring by the Sheriff of an individual to fill a Dog Control Officer position by a 5 to 0 vote; 6) discussed and deferred a matter regarding employee vehicle use; 7) discussed and agreed to consider a farm lease request in open session; and, 8) discussed and agreed to consider the transfer of tax sale property in open session.

The purpose of the Closed Session is also set forth in the Written Statement of Closing a Meeting Under the Open Meetings Act, which will be provided upon request. Voting in favor of the closed Closed Session were all of the present Council members.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Via motion, the Council agreed that Councilman Travers shall remain as President and Councilman Bradshaw shall remain as Vice President of the Council for one more year. Councilman Price opposed based on his belief that the same historic process for the Election of Officers should be followed annually.

### **REGULAR SESSION**

#### **MANAGERS COMMENTS**

#### **2017 MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS-MEMBER AND ALTERNATE**

The Council agreed to nominate Councilman Price as the 2017 Dorchester County representative and Councilman Nichols as the alternate representative.

#### **REQUEST TO SOLE SOURCE-EXPEND CAPITAL FUNDING-SECURITY CAGING- TRANSPORT VAN-DETENTION CENTER**

The Council approved the request of Major Steve Mills, Assistant Director of Corrections, to sole source with M.A. Fabrication, which submitted the lowest quote, and to expend \$7,898 in Capital Budget funds for the fabrication and installation of security caging in the new transportation van.

#### **TRAVEL REQUEST-EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The Council approved the request of Anna Sierra, Emergency Services Director, to travel to Washington, DC for the National Health Care Coalition Preparedness Conference on December 13 and December 14, 2016. The Council acknowledge that there will be no cost to the County for registration or lodging; however, Ms. Sierra will be using an Emergency Management vehicle for transportation.

**GRANT AWARD-DELMARVA REGIONAL HEALTHCARE MUTUAL AID GROUP-  
EMERGENCY SERVICES-GRANT MONITOR**

The Council approved the request of Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, on behalf of Anna Sierra, Emergency Services Director, to accept a Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Office of Preparedness and Response grant award in the amount of \$79,293 as a pass through to the Regional Healthcare Coalition on behalf of Delmarva Regional Healthcare Mutual Aid Group. The Council acknowledged that the County will receive \$8,675 in administrative cost reimbursement.

**PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT APPEALS BOARD APPOINTMENT**

The Council agreed to nominate Donna Bradshaw, currently the alternate member, to fill the vacancy on the Dorchester County Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board due to the passing of Gerald Testerman with Councilman Bradshaw abstaining and Councilman Price opposing.

**CONFIRMATION-TRUANCY REDUCTION GRANT TRANSFER-CIRCUIT COURT**

The Council recognized the recent appointment of Brett Wilson, Circuit Court Judge, as the First Judicial Circuit Administrative Judge, effective January 1, 2017. Based on this appointment the Council confirmed the transfer of the Truancy Reduction Grant, a sub grant of the Family Support Services Grant, that supports programs implemented in all four circuit courts of the Lower Shore, which must be administered through the County where the Circuit Administrative Judge is assigned. The Council acknowledged that Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, will provide assistance in the management of grant funds.

**DONATION-AIRPLANE-AVIATION LANDMARK-CAMBRIDGE DORCHESTER  
REGIONAL AIRPORT**

Based on the recommendation of Meighan "Chis" Chisholm, Airport Manager, the Council accepted the donation of a Hawker DH 125-400 business jet aircraft, less the engines, to the County for permanent display purposes and agreed to execute a Memo of Record.

**SUPPORT REQUEST-LEGISLATION-NONPROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL  
APPOINTMENT-ADVICE & CONSENT-BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Council approved the request of Glenn L. Bramble, President, on behalf of the Dorchester County Board of Education, for a letter of conceptual support for its pursuit of a State law amendment to provide the Board the authority to hire non-certified and certified employees during the 2017 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL LAND ACCESS PROGRAM  
APPLICATION REQUEST-GRANT MONITOR**

The Council approved the request of Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Land Access Program for estimated funds of \$994,476 to develop and implement a transportation system to and from Cambridge to Dorchester County Federal Lands. Ms. Smith advised that the proposed project will consist of

the following four phases: 1) transportation study; 2) a pilot program to include a bus, driver, docent, temporary bus stop; 3) acquisition of property to create bus stop and expand parking; and, 4) full implementation of the program to include two additional buses. She said Delmarva Community Services (DCS) will provide the bus service. In response to a question from Councilman Travers, she confirmed that this transportation system will be separate from DCS' regular bus service. Ms. Smith said no specific time frames have been established for this project based on an inquiry from Councilman Satterfield.

#### **SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARATION REQUEST-COUNCIL'S OFFICE**

Pursuant to the request submitted by Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, the Council declared a three shelf tan bookcase and a four shelf tan bookcase as well as the following filing cabinets: five 4 drawer tan cabinets; four 5 drawer black cabinets; two 4 drawer gray cabinets; two 5 drawer light tan cabinets; one 4 drawer black cabinet; and one 5 drawer gray cabinet.

#### **REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT-DELMARVA HARVEST DIRECTORY EXPANSION PROJECT-UPPER SHORE REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Based on the request of the Upper Shore Regional Council, the Council agreed to send a letter in support of its request for Rural Development Grant funds to continue and expand the Eastern Shore Harvest Directory Project. The Council acknowledged that the requested funds are for Phase IV of this project which will evolve the Eastern Shore Harvest Directory into the "Delmarva" Harvest Directory and include Sussex and Kent County, Delaware in this agri-business/agri-tourism collaboration.

#### **TELEPHONE POLL CONFIRMATION**

The Council confirmed its decision in the interim between meetings, by means of a poll, agreed to send a letter of support for the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy's application to the United States Department of Agriculture for \$375,000 over three years to support the reuse of the Phillips Packing Company, Factory F and in particular for a Kitchen Business Incubator program including outreach, and educational programming for the community by a 4 to 1 (no answer) vote.

#### **AIRPORT SECURITY GATES AND ADJACENT PROPERTY ACQUISITION MARYLAND AVIATION ADMINISTRATION SPECIAL GRANT AGREEMENT**

The Council approved the recommendation of Meighan "Chis" Chisholm to accept a Maryland Aviation Administration Special Grant Award for funds in the amount of \$84,189, 75% of the total cost for security gates and property acquisition both totaling \$112,252 and to execute the grant agreement. The Council acknowledged that the County will remain responsible for 25% (\$28,063) which is in the Airport budget.

#### **BOARD APPOINTMENT-SANITARY COMMISSION**

The Council reappointed Samuel Monaghan to the Sanitary Commission.

## **REQUEST TO SOLE SOURCE AND PURCHASE MULTI MEDIA PRESENTATION SYSTEM**

The Council approved Mr. Goldman's request to sole source with Sound Advice Audio Specialties for the purchase, installation, calibration and programming of a multimedia presentation system for Room 110, the County Council's meeting room, at the cost of \$15,452 and to expend an additional \$1,104 for speakers utilizing funds from Exelon Corporation. In response to a question from Councilman Price, Mr. Goldman explained that prices were sought from four companies, two of which viewed the room and discussed the proposed requirements with staff. He noted that Sound Advice Audio Specialties was the only company that submitted a quote.

## **FARM LEASE**

The Council, based on the recommendation of Tom Moore, Public Works, Director, approved the request of Jeffrey King and Terri Wolf-King to continue to till four acres of County owned property on Bobtown Road in Hurlock for a one year period for \$360.

## **TAX SALE PROPERTY TRANSFER**

The Council agreed to transfer two lots on Academy Street, more specifically 614 and 616 in Cambridge, adjacent to the City owned lot on the corner of Academy and Cedar Streets to the owner of the cemetery. The Council acknowledged that these properties were acquired via tax sale.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Charles Foxwell, Jr. referenced the County's Adopt A Road program and expressed an interest in Foxwell Auctions adopting the County boat ramp between Vienna and Salem in memory of his daughter, Tara Foxwell. He said he is willing to maintain the surroundings by removing trash and trimming grass. He cited concerns about the lack of lighting in the parking area of this boat ramp as well as the one across from it on the north side of the bridge in the area.

The Council requested that the Adopt-A-Road Program be modified to allow for the adoption of a boat ramp, which modification should then be provided for its review and consideration. The Council also agreed to seek clarification on whether there are available Department of Natural Resources Waterway Improvement funds for the installation of lighting at the boat ramp between Vienna and Salem as well as for a ramp on the other side of the bridge in this area. Any decision to expend these or any other funds for this purpose must be approved by Council.

Franklin Wheatley thanked the Council for its service to the County and its residents.

## **COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT**

In response to an inquiry from Councilman Price, Councilman Travers and Mr. Goldman confirmed that there are no minutes or documentation that reflect the Council's decision to fund

a portion of the replacement of the North Dorchester High School project through solar projects within the County.

Councilman Price commended the organizers of the City of Cambridge Christmas Parade and the Festival of Wreaths at Pleasant Day. He noted that the annual Hurlock Christmas parade is this weekend.

Councilman Bradshaw advised that he was recently appointed to the Maryland Heritage Area Authority Board so he must remove himself from the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area Management Board. He said his last meeting on that Board is December 15, 2016. He noted that the County representative does not have to be a Council member. Based on a motion made by Councilman Bradshaw, the Council agreed to send a letter congratulating Richard Hughes, Administrator, Office Heritage, Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland Historic Trust, on his retirement and thanking him for his years of service and assistance to the Council on many projects within the County.

Councilman Bradshaw noted that several individuals discussed with him their concerns about a proposed solar project in the County last week. He cited his and several farmers' concerns about the potential loss of farm land due to these types of projects. He also expressed concern about the potential resurgence of the Mid Atlantic Power Pathway project. He said it is his understanding that some stations cannot be screened by trees or shrubbery. Councilman Bradshaw advised that Homeland Security also sometimes deems such screening to be an obstruction, noting that trees and shrubbery were cut at a substation located on Route 14 and Osbourne Road at its direction. He expressed his belief residents will also approach other Council members.

Councilman Travers said at their last month's meeting the Board of License Commissioners requested the drafting of legislation to allow certain grocery stores to sell alcoholic beverages. Mr. Goldman recognized the receipt of correspondence from the Commissioners recommending that the Council send the legislative request to the local delegation for submission during the 2017 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session. Mr. Goldman advised that: 1) the proposed language is the same as Talbot County's, which is enabling legislation; 2) 80% of register receipts must be from food product; 3) it is not defined by square footage; 4) this will allow stores such as Harris Teeter to sell beer and wine; 5) the reason the County may not be competitive in attracting grocery store to the area is because other counties, such as Talbot, allow this type of sale. He advised that the Board of License Commissioners vote was four to one in favor of recommending that Council pursue this legislative initiative.

Councilman Bradshaw made a motion to send it to the local delegation which Councilman Satterfield seconded. Councilman Travers expressed his understanding that this legislation has been discussed before by Council. Councilman Nichols confirmed it was discussed twice and noted that one reason Council did not proceed with submission is the fear of losing small stores. He said this was after the dispensary system was stopped. He stressed that his concern is the potential impact on small businesses.

Mr. Goldman said job creation and lessening the impact on small businesses was part of the discussion regarding this legislative initiative. He expressed his understanding that a larger grocer can employ up to 40 employees at a living wage. He noted that there will be checks and balances and that the Board of License Commissioners can decide to limit the number of licenses issued. Councilman Travers said Talbot, Worcester and Wicomico are the only three counties on the Eastern Shore that have this legislation. Councilman Bradshaw withdrew his motion. Mr. Goldman stated that the legislation will be provided to the Council for its review and consideration at the December 20, 2016 meeting.

Councilman Travers announced that: 1) Members of the County Council will attend the Annual Maryland Association of Counties Winter Conference on December 7 to December 9, 2016 at the Hyatt Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort Spa and Marina; and, 2) the next Council meeting is December 20, 2016.

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

  
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Jeremy Goldman  
County Manager


DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:

  
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Ricky C. Travers, President

  
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Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President

  
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William V. Nichols

  
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Rick M. Price

  
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Don B. Satterfield

Approved the 20 day of December, 2016.