

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2017**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on January 3, 2017 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 Bradshaw led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, advised that after publication of the agenda the Chesapeake College update was removed. The Council approved the amended agenda with the following addition: Property Transfer-Jones Thicket Road-Board of Education.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- DECEMBER 20, 2016

The Council approved the minutes of December 20, 2016 as amended.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$8,664,897.56.

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)(7) to obtain consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter and pursuant to §3-305(b)(4) to consider a preliminary matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State on January 3, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613.

Action taken at the Closed Session: 1) discussed with legal counsel a request to assign a lease for a County owned property to another entity; 2) discussed with legal counsel a matter relating to a County owned property; 3) discussed a matter relating to the potential transfer of a property-agreed to discuss 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.

REGULAR SESSION

MANAGERS COMMENTS

GRANT AWARD REQUEST-REFLECTIONS ON PINE-50 YEARS AFTER THE FIRE-TOURISM-EASTERN SHORE NETWORK FOR CHANGE

Dion Banks, resident, advised that he and another resident formed Eastern Shore Network for Change (ESNC) in 2012 as a resource to connect and work collaboratively with other non-profit organizations to address issues and to inform and educate the public. He explained that after the 2012 “45 Years After the Fire” event ESNC began working with residents dealing with social and economic issues. He said they assist residents with filing for regular expungements every month at the City of Cambridge Police substation. He noted that they also provide entrepreneurs assistance and discuss with them social programs and changes in order for them to make a better impact on the local community.

Mr. Banks said a “Reflections on Pine: 50 Years After the Fire” event will be held this year from July 21 to July 24, 2017 to address misperceptions with a goal of moving forward. He referred to the pamphlet he distributed regarding ESNC. He advised that Governor Lawrence “Larry” Hogan is in support of this project and asked ESNC to host the black history program in Cambridge. He invited the Council to a February 11, 2017 event celebrating black history, noting that there will be walking tours of Pine Street, a service at a local church and a reception. He advised that the following will attend this event: Bill Jarmon and David Henry, authors of books on the Pine Street Fire event, Dr. Fitzgerald who is writing Gloria Richardson’s biography and several members of Congress. He said the Governor intends to declare that day Ms. Richardson Day and is working on providing her an honorary doctorate.

The Council approved the request submitted by Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, on behalf of the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area (HCCHA), to accept a Maryland Humanities grant award of \$3,000 for a project titled “Reflections on Pine-50 years after the Fire: A Commemoration of Our History.” The Council acknowledged that the grant will support three specific events: 1) collection of oral histories; 2) development of a documentary film; and, 3) the creation of a printed walking tour brochure highlighting significant areas that were impacted by the civil rights activities.

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT FACILITIES & SEDIMENT CONTROL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS & DECLARATION OF EASEMENTS-PW

The Council approved the request of Greg LeBlanc, Engineer, to execute two Storm Water Management Agreements for the following developments: ESDA Properties, LLC on Airey's Road Spur; and poultry house construction for Reginald Sellers on Lewis Wharf Road.

LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST-PRE-FILED LEGISLATION-PROGRAM OPEN SPACE- AUTHORIZED TRANSFER TO MARYLAND HERITAGE AREAS AUTHORITY FINANCING AREA-2017 MD GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Council agreed to send a letter of support for a bill titled "Program Open Space-Authorized Transfer to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Financing Fund-Increase" drafted by Delegate Wilson, which will be pre-filed, to change the statutory language to increase the maximum amount that may be transferred, in the State budget or through a certain budget amendment to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) fund from certain funds that are distributed to Program Open Space. As a result MHAA could, in the future, receive up to \$6 million, which is an increase from the current \$3 million yearly allocated amount. In response to a question from Councilman Price, Ms. Fenstermaker clarified that this is a statutory change and will not affect funding this year.

PROPERTY TRANSFER-JONES THICKET ROAD-BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Council agreed to accept a .23 acre property on Jones Thicket Road (Map 34, Parcel 87) from the Board of Education and asked Mr. Merryweather to prepare paperwork to facilitate the transfer to the County.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Council reappointed the following individuals: 1) Ralph Lewis as the District 1 representative on the Planning Commission; 2) Laura Layton as the District 5 representative on the Planning Commission; and, 3) Jeremy Reid to the Agricultural Land Preservation Board. The Council appointed Councilman Satterfield as the County's representative on the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area Management Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Satterfield referenced recent traumatic events, including the loss of a child. He recognized and commended emergency responders, law enforcement and citizens who assisted during these events. He noted that 66 police officers lost their lives in the line of duty during 2016 and expressed hope that there are no such deaths in 2017.

Councilman Price noted that several residents have expressed concern that despite County staff assurances, the cardboard containers at the Secretary transfer station were not emptied over the holiday. Mr. Moore said he will follow up on this matter. Councilman Price also noted that he received calls from citizens regarding the condition of Green Point Road.

Councilmen Price and Bradshaw echoed Councilman Satterfield's sentiments regarding emergency responders, law enforcement and citizens relating to the recent events.

Councilman Bradshaw stated that industrial archeologists recently visited the Town of Vienna and toured the heritage museum. He explained that they are preparing a report on the mother of pearl button manufacturing industry on the peninsula. He said this industry was widespread in Milton and Ellendale, Delaware. He noted that there was a factory on Elliott's Island that was operated by the Martinek family from 1948 to 1999. He said the family sold to the garment industry in New York for several years and the last commercial use was for Barbie dolls before the invention of Velcro. He offered to show the Council members the equipment and the process.

Councilman Travers thanked the community and County staff for their assistance during the recent incidents. He expressed appreciation for the quick action of County staff to provide assistance to those who responded. He announced that: 1) the next Council meeting is on January 17, 2017; and, 2) the Council reserves the right to meet in closed session prior to regular session.

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:




Jeremy Goldman
County Manager

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL.



Ricky C. Travers, President




Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President



William V. Nichols



Rick M. Price



Don B. Satterfield

Approved the 17th day of January, 2017.