

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2016**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on November 15, 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 Travers led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

The Council agreed to add the consideration of a tax sale property offer to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- NOVEMBER 1, 2016

The Council approved the minutes of November 1, 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 \$12,536,309.83.

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 November 15, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613.

Action taken at the Closed Session: 1) confirmed the hiring by the Sheriff of an individual to fill a Court Security position by a 5 to 0 vote; 2) approved the request of the Tourism Director to hire an individual to fill a Program Administrator vacancy by a 5 to 0 vote; 3) approved the request of the Tourism Director to hire an individual through the Heritage Area grant by a 5 to 0 vote; 4) approved the requests of the Emergency Services Director to hire individuals to fill a full

time Emergency Medical Technician position and a full time Paramedic position by a 5 to 0 vote; and, 5) discussed a tax sale offer-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

COMMENDATION-2016 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR SAFETY AND CLAIMS MANAGEMENT-VOLUNTEER FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION

The Council presented a commendation to the Dorchester County Volunteer Firemen's Association for receiving the 2016 Award of Excellence for Safety and Claims Management from Chesapeake Employers Insurance Company for its efforts in making safety a priority in the workplace which was accepted by Lenny Pfeffer, President, VFA.

MEETING WITH LEGISLATORS - 2017 MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Senator Adelaide Eckardt and Delegates Christopher Adams, Johnny Mautz, and Sheree-Sample Hughes joined the meeting. Councilman Travers referenced the Legislative Packet the County sent them. He noted that the Council is seeking the pursuit of legislation to address blighted housing in the County.

Senator Eckardt questioned whether this proposed legislative initiative was discussed with the Department of Housing and Community Development or the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo). Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, advised that this initiative has been addressed with MACo but that he does not believe it will be one of this organization's priorities for the upcoming session. Based on an inquiry from Senator Eckardt, Mr. Goldman explained that conversations relating to maintaining properties between County staff and mortgage holders have not been very successful. He said the City of Cambridge is affected more than the other municipalities in the County. He noted that the City Council asked the County Council to submit this legislative proposal. He expressed dismay that many mortgage companies are foreclosing on properties but are not maintaining them which reduces the values of surrounding properties.

Councilman Travers stressed the need for mortgage companies to take ownership and maintain foreclosed upon property. He noted that the County has a Property Maintenance Ordinance, also known as "Clean and Lien," and that the cost to mow grass and overgrowth is borne by the County until ownership has been established. He explained that a lien can then be placed on the property. Councilman Travers expressed his understanding that some mortgage holders are waiting two to three years to obtain ownership and due to lack of maintenance many places then became inhabitable.

Mr. Goldman said the City of Cambridge also has a program to address blighted properties. He noted that there personnel and administrative costs associated with by the County's and the

City's enforcement programs. Mr. Goldman stressed the need for a registry of mortgage holders who own property so liens can be filed to recoup costs. He expressed his belief other counties may be experiencing the same issues.

In response to questions posed by Delegate Sample-Hughes, Councilman Travers said: 1) staff will provide the legislators the exact number of affected properties; and, 2) this request is not being modeled after legislation pursued by another area.

Senator Eckardt said she would also be interested in learning if there is a model that was used by another area. Mr. Goldman and E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, expressed their belief that such legislation was sought in California.

Based on a query from Delegate Adams, Mr. Merryweather explained that the companies who sell mortgages, and not local banks, are usually the entities that do not obtain title in a timely manner after foreclosure.

Councilman Bradshaw referenced an incident involving a mortgage holder who foreclosed on a property on Ryans Run Road, denied ownership and mowed the grass for only one year.

Pursuant to an inquiry from Senator Eckardt, Mr. Goldman explained that unless a mortgage holder obtains title there is no responsible party of record. In response to a question from Delegate Adams, Mr. Goldman confirmed some mortgage holders/banks have been non responsive to attempts that have been made through the Planning and Zoning Department to communicate with them.

Councilman Satterfield referenced a property on Ross Neck Road that was not properly maintained and as a result the grounds and the house on the property have substantially deteriorated. He said identifying the bank that owned this property was a laborious process. He noted that reducing the time from foreclosure to acquisition would enhance the marketability of properties.

In response to a question from Delegate Mautz, Mr. Merryweather explained that the foreclose process takes approximately nine months to complete if there are no legal arguments. He stated that in some cases when a property does not sell the bank/mortgage holder will purchase the property but will not proceed with recordation of the deed in a timely fashion. Based on another question from Delegate Mautz, Mr. Merryweather said although these entities purchase the properties they are not considered owners until they acquire the title.

In response to a query from Delegate Mautz, Mr. Merryweather said a legislative amendment can be sought to remedy this issue. Mr. Merryweather expressed his understanding that other areas in the State are faced with the same problem which may garner other legislators' support.

Delegate Mautz advised Council that Kenneth Holt, Secretary of Housing and Community Development, held a meeting in Chestertown regarding housing which no one attended. Senator Eckardt said she was present. In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Delegate Mautz said he wanted to announce the availability of funding to homeowners to assist them if

their home is condemned or if they are having trouble paying their mortgages. He noted that Secretary Holt also met with the Chestertown County Council. He suggested that the Council ask the Maryland Municipal League (MML) to join them in seeking legislation to reduce blighted housing. Mr. Goldman said efforts to seek MML involvement are being currently underway.

Delegate Sample-Hughes suggested the Council contact MACo which may be able to reach out to rest of the counties. Mr. Goldman expressed his belief that MACo and other counties would support this legislative initiative. He expressed dismay that due to absentee lending institutions/mortgage holders properties are deteriorating which decrease property values. He said the tax sale and foreclosure process takes approximately four years. Mr. Merryweather concurred.

Senator Eckardt said legislation can be prepared and cautioned that there may be delay since today was the last day to pre-file bills.

Councilman Travers noted that the City Council, which is also in support of this legislative initiative, has submitted a request to MML.

He referenced the Council's pursuit of the restoration of highway user revenues. Senator Eckardt said Governor Lawrence "Larry" Hogan made a commitment to restore the distribution of these revenues over a certain period of years. Councilman Travers expressed dismay that there has been an unequal restoration of highway user revenues, noting that municipalities are receiving a larger percentage than counties who are responsible for more roads. Mr. Goldman stated that as a result Dorchester County is receiving less highway revenue now than two years ago. He said the County used to receive approximately \$4.3 million in highway user revenues.

Senator Eckardt noted that Dorchester County assumed control of some State roads when Chapter 40 was in effect. She questioned whether adequate compensation has been received due to this increased responsibility. She opined that there may have been an agreement entered into then that impacts the County's highway user revenue distribution differently than other counties. Mr. Merryweather said this occurred in 1947. Senator Eckardt said she will ask the Department of Legislative Reference to seek this information.

Councilman Price advised that, as a result of the reduced distribution, certain portions of roads are being paved or repaired instead of the entire roadway.

Delegate Sample-Hughes expressed her understanding that Governor Hogan's goal is to phase in the restoration of highway use revenues over a seven year period. She advised that the restoration of these revenues is one of MACo's priorities. She explained that State infrastructure needs are also being reviewed. She said she will continue to pursue restoration of these revenues.

Councilman Satterfield noted that there are approximately 633 miles of County road.

In response to a question from Senator Eckardt, Mr. Goldman said the County has a higher density of roads in other local jurisdictions. Councilman Travers stated that the County has issues with road erosion in the southern part of the County and that there are still dirt roads in the south and north. He stressed the need for the restoration of highway user revenues, which funds previously funded the County's Highway Division. Councilman Nichols noted that the County's distribution was reduced from \$4.3 million to about \$300,000 to \$400,000. Pursuant to an inquiry from Delegate Mautz, Mr. Goldman and Councilman Nichols said the Council's assumption for the next budget cycle is that there will be no increase in these revenues for Dorchester County. Councilman Bradshaw concurred with the need to restore these revenues.

Councilman Travers noted that the remaining two topics Council wishes to discuss are the shifting by the State of a portion of pensions for teachers to counties and changes in Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funding requirements for the public school system. Senator Eckardt expressed her understanding that leadership is discussing the shifting of the pension costs. She said the Corwin Commission is discussing the MOE statewide moving average requirement which impacts a number of counties in different ways. She noted that the Commission will release a report at the end of December which will include recommendations, which have not yet been finalized.

In response to a query from Delegate Mautz, Mr. Goldman said school enrollment in Dorchester County has not changed significantly nor is a large increase expected. Councilman Travers advised that the Council does not receive enrollment figures until May. Senator Eckardt noted that even though enrollment in several counties is decreasing pursuant to the new moving average requirement they are required to pay the same amount.

Pursuant to an inquiry from Delegate Mautz, Mr. Goldman said the Council's request is to remove the 2.5% yearly increase and future obligation requirements and allow counties to pay MOE based on enrollment. Councilman Travers noted that MOE figures do not reflect the County's entire financial contribution to the Board of Education. He said the County is also contributing funds for a new replacement high school. Delegate Sample-Hughes advised that the Corwin Commission was formed to address these issues. Councilman Satterfield said approximately 42% of the County's overall budget is for education.

Councilman Price noted that the area from the Frederick C. Malkus Bridge north that was harvested in the past is now restricted. He noted that this is either due to previous high bacteria counts or because all or a portion of this waterway has been designated as a sanctuary. He advised that local waterman asked him to speak to the legislators to garner suggestions and/or provide assistance to ensure that additional areas are opened for oyster harvesting to ensure the viability of this industry.

Delegate Mautz said the Oyster Advisory Commission met last night and reviewed proposals by county shell committees for the rotational harvest of sanctuary areas. Councilman Bradshaw noted that one of those areas consists of 83 acres at Sandy Hill. Delegate Mautz advised that Bolingbroke is another area they are considering. He questioned whether any action will be taken this season due to the timing of a decision from the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review process. He advised that Governor Hogan is considering

ways to improve oyster and bay management including rotational harvest of sanctuaries. Delegate Mautz stated that Virginia's rotational harvest program has been successful. He referenced the correspondence Council sent in support of dredging and utilizing shell from the Man-O-War Shoal. He expressed his support of this process.

Senator Eckardt stated that the Knotts Commission is meeting to discuss school construction funding and associated items and will provide a report in the near future. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Senator Eckardt confirmed that this years' committed school construction funding is secure.

Senator Eckardt said Dorchester's Health Enterprise Zone was recently recognized by the State for being an innovative program and being able to extend health care to a number of assistance who were uninsured. She explained that the State received recognition at the Federal level and Dorchester County and the Town of Federalsburg was recognized at a meeting last week. She congratulated those involved with this program.

Delegate Mautz said there are two other potential legislative pursuits that may be beneficial for Dorchester County, one of which is a payment in lieu of taxes for State land which is currently exempt from real property tax. Senator Eckardt advised that she and Senator George Edwards will pre-file legislation to seek this compensation. Delegate Mautz noted that the other item is how to address inequities relating to low income housing availability throughout the State.

Councilman Satterfield said as a result of conversations with veterans, specifically military retirees, and the current and future growth of Fort Meade, he believes the deductible for retirees in Maryland should be raised. He asked the legislators to pursue an increase in this deductible.

Senator Eckardt and Delegate Sample-Hughes recalled that legislation was adopted last year to increase this deductible. Senator Eckardt expressed her understanding that it was raised from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Councilman Satterfield noted that the deductible is lower than Delaware (\$15,000 or \$20,000), West Virginia (\$35,000) and Pennsylvania. He opined that this will be an incentive for those who retire to stay in Maryland. Senator Eckardt explained that issues relating to veterans are discussed after reviewing the Governor's budget, new revenue sources and costs.

Delegate Sample-Hughes advised that she serves on the Health and Government Operations Committee, which is working diligently to address the lack of mental health in the health care system and to identify resources. She explained that legislators met with Departments of Social Services throughout the Shore last week to encourage them to provide any information on items that need to be addressed. She said on a larger scale legislation was passed last session regarding hospitals and to ensure that health care services are not reduced or eliminated until ways to fill in the gaps and address barriers, such as transportation, can be addressed. She credited Delegate Peter Hammen and Senator Thomas Millington for being instrumental in ensuring Eastern Shore health care needs are in the forefront. In response to a question from Mr. Goldman, Delegate Sample-Hughes confirmed that she is referring to the passage of Senate Bill 707 entitled "Freestanding Medical Facilities-Certificate of Need, Rates and Definition." Mr. Goldman expressed his understanding COMAR regulations relating to that legislation are currently being finalized.

Councilman Satterfield noted that the impact of mental health on jails and Detention Centers should also be addressed. Delegate Sample-Hughes concurred. He referenced a discussion he had with Sheriff James Phillips regarding a ruling from the Attorney General. He explained that the ruling is based on concerns and issues relating to persons in the prison system not receiving treatment immediately which may impact a warden who can be personally sued. Senator Eckardt noted that there is a federal mandate to treat mental illness but none for substance abuse, consequently it may not be treated in a timely fashion which further complicates the issue.

In response to a question from Councilman Bradshaw, Delegate Mautz stated that he has heard rumblings about the potential pursuit of an oyster harvest moratorium. He advised that Jim Wesson, who established an oyster restoration plan for Virginia opined that a moratorium would end the oyster harvest for both States. He expressed hope that this will not be a mainstream proposal. Delegate Mautz said he expects that there will be multiple discussions on oysters during the upcoming legislative session.

The Council thanked the legislators.

ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION MEETING-MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

James Ports, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), thanked the Council for the invitation to present information on the State's Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) Plan for 2017-2022. He acknowledged that the following individuals were present: Ian Beam, Regional Planner; Harry Romano, Rail Program and Policy Manager, Office of Freight and Multimodalism; Ashish Solanki, Director, Office of Regional Aviation Assistance, Maryland Aviation Administration; Chris Correale, Director of Dredging Program, Port Administration; Richard Norman, Director, Motor Vehicle Administration; Beth Kreider, Maryland Transit Administration, Director of Locally Operated Transit Systems; Melissa Williams, Acting Project Planning and Program Development Director, Maryland Transportation Authority; and Donnie Drewer, District #1 Engineer, State Highway Administration. On behalf of Pete Rahn, Secretary, MDOT and himself, Secretary Ports thanked the Council for meeting with them during the Summer Maryland Association of Counties Conference.

Deputy Secretary Ports advised that this CTP does not reflect the scoring and ranking of major construction projects over \$5 million, however, they will be incorporated into the next plan. He provided an overview of the CTP.

Deputy Secretary Ports announced that this will be Mr. Drewer's last CTP meeting and that Mr. Meredith has been named as the new District Engineer. He said MDOT officials and staff wish him well in his retirement and congratulate Mr. Meredith.

Council and Mr. Drewer recognized the late Rufus Todd and his quest for improvements to roads in the southern part of the County.

In response to an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Mr. Drewer provided the following update on the paving project between Bucktown Road and Austin Road: 1) the main lanes in both directions were finished today; 2) on Wednesday and Thursday the west bound shoulders and turn lanes will be finished; 3) the east bound shoulders and turn lanes will be completed on Friday; and, 4) line striping will be done on November 28, 2016. He said paving will then commence on Handley Road and then in Hurlock

Councilman Travers said it took 40 minutes from WaWa and Bucktown Road during the major portion of the Bucktown Road/Austin Road project. He questioned why work was not performed in the evening hours. Mr. Drewer explained that the low night temperatures were not conducive to the laying of asphalt. Councilman Travers recognized the Council's November 2, 2016 correspondence to MDOT listing items they would like to address.

Councilman Travers advised Mr. Romano that the owners of Pep-Up, Inc. have asked Council to relay their request for rail siding at the company's East New Market facility so propane can be unloaded at that location. He said he is hopeful that State representatives can assist this company, noting that rail car will then increase. He advised that correspondence will sent to Mr. Romano regarding this request.

Councilman Nichols said it was a pleasure working with Mr. Drewer. He thanked him for his years of service and his commitment to ensuring that the State road infrastructure in the County and on the Eastern Shore is properly maintained. He referred to Mr. Todd's past requests, noting that Mr. Drewer was very cordial and listened to him. He wished him all the best in his retirement.

Councilman Price recognized that Joyce Spratt, Mayor of the Town of Hurlock, and John Avery, Town Administrator, are present. In response to a question posed by Councilman Price, Mr. Drewer said he met with Town representatives regarding the MD Rt. 392 and MD Rt. 331 intersection and discussed possible alternatives including a signal or a four-way stop at the location. He explained that he is waiting for the Hurlock representatives to contact him, noting that they were going to hold a hearing about potential ways to address concerns about this intersection prior to speaking with him. Mayor Spratt concurred. He advised that the sidewalks have been installed on Route 331, that they are working on those on Route 331 and will pave Route 331 as soon as the Handley Road project is completed. He said he is hopeful the work on Route 331 will be finished by the end of December.

Councilman Price referenced correspondence the Council recently sent regarding a possible study of the Route 14 and Route 392 intersection in the Town of East New Market based on visibility concerns. Mr. Drewer referenced a past request from the Council to address these concerns, noting he and Mr. Meredith have viewed that area and puppy tracks were subsequently painted in that area to improve visibility.

Councilman Price queried as to the statue of the Dover Bridge. Deputy Secretary Ports advised the proposed opening of the bridge was at the end of 2019. He explained that the project is currently five months ahead of schedule. He noted that the one year timeframe for marshland settlement may be accelerated based on preliminary engineering reports which may move up the

bridge opening to the beginning of 2019. In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Secretary Ports confirmed that there may be a period of time between final construction and the opening of the bridge to ensure that sufficient settling has occurred.

Councilman Price thanked and congratulated Mr. Drewer for his years of service to residents and wished him well in his retirement. On behalf of the Council, Councilman Travers thanked Mr. Drewer for his service and presented him a gift. Mr. Drewer thanked the Council.

Deputy Secretary Ports encouraged the Council to contact him or MDOT staff regarding any road concerns.

Councilman Satterfield recognized and thanked Mr. Drewer for his prior military service and for his service to residents as District Engineer. He congratulated Mr. Meredith on his promotion.

The Council thanked Deputy Secretary Ports and the Maryland Department of Transportation officials for attending this meeting.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

PUBLIC HEARING

BILL NO. 2016-5 AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND TO REPEAL AND REENACT SECTION 44-9 OF ARTICLE 10 OF THE CODE OF PUBLIC LOCAL LAWS OF MARYLAND RELATING TO THE WARDEN OF THE COUNTY JAIL, NOW KNOWN AS THE DORCHESTER COUNTY DETENTION CENTER.

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said a public hearing is being held on Bill No. 2016-5, the first of two bills to make modifications to the Dorchester County Detention Center. He explained that this bill is an amendment to public local law, which is enabling legislation from the legislature, and the second is the detail of the local ordinance. He further explained that this bill amends the enabling law to create the Detention Center and authorizes the Council to proceed with establishing details and specifications concerning this facility. There was no public comment.

The roll call on the enactment of Bill No. 2016-5 was as follows: Nichols-aye; Satterfield-aye; Bradshaw-aye; Price-aye; Travers-aye.

The Council adjourned into regular session.

REGULAR SESSION

MANAGERS COMMENTS

SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARATION REQUEST-STATE'S ATTORNEY OFFICE

The Council approved the request of William Jones, State's Attorney, to declare furniture and equipment as surplus property.

VENDING MACHINE PURCHASE REQUEST-EASTERN SHORE INNOVATION CENTER-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, summarized the request of Steve Dolbow, Incubator Manager, to sole source and purchase a vending machine to provide snacks and drinks at the Eastern Shore Innovation Center.

Councilman Travers questioned the need for this service since the facility has not reached full occupancy. Mr. Goldman advised that the occupancy rate is 85%. Pursuant to another question from Councilman Travers, Mr. Goldman explained that Mr. Dolbow and staff will be responsible for filling the machine. He noted that Mr. Dolbow's attempts to seek a vendor to place and stock a machine at this facility were unsuccessful due to concerns about low volume.

The Council approved Mr. Dolbow's request to sole source with Budget Vending & Supply, which submitted the lowest of three quotes, at a cost not to exceed \$3,296 from the FY17 Eastern Shore Innovation Center budget with Councilman Price and Nichols opposing.

FY17 MARYLAND HERITAGE AREAS AUTHORITY GRANT AGREEMENT AND DISBURSEMENT REQUEST-TOURISM

The Council approved the request of Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, to accept and execute a FY17 Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Grant Agreement for funds to support the continued operation and management of the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area under the Dorchester County Tourism Department.

FY17 MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION OPERATING-CAPITAL GRANT AWARDS-DCS-GRANT MONITOR

The Council approved the request of Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, on behalf of Delmarva Community Services, to accept the FY17 Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) grant award for operating funding for transportation services for the following programs: Section 5311 Operating Assistance, Americans with Disabilities Act compliant transportation and Statewide Special Transportation Assistance. The Council also approved Ms. Smith's request and to accept the FY17 MTA capital grant award for preventive maintenance and the purchase of three small cutaway vehicles.

REQUEST TO HOLD PRE-APPLICATION HEARING-GRANT MONITOR

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith to hold a pre-application hearing at the December 20, 2016 meeting for a Community Development Block Grant through the Department of Housing and Community Development for special project funding to support a local business.

PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST-TEXT AMENDMENT-GREENLAWN CEMETERY-PLANNING AND ZONING

The Council agreed to consider the introduction of legislation on a revised text amendment for the Greenlawn Cemetery, which was amended pursuant to a request from the Critical Area Commission.

TAX SALE PROPERTY OFFER

The Council approved the offer of Lamar McCoy, to purchase 5513 Rhodesdale Road, Vienna, a County owned property acquired via tax sale, for \$150

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

PUBLIC HEARING

BILL NO. 2016-6 AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND PURSUANT TO SECTION 44-9 OF ARTICLE 10 OF THE CODE OF PUBLIC LOCAL LAWS OF MARYLAND, BEING CODIFIED IN CHAPTER 44 OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE, TO REPEAL AND TO REENACT CHAPTER 75 OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE, ENTITLED "DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION", PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY DETENTION CENTER AND PROVIDING FOR A DIRECTOR OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND PROVIDING FOR THE DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION.

Mr. Merryweather said a public hearing is being held on Bill No. 2016-6 to amend the local ordinance, specifically Chapter 44 of the County Code to create the Department of Corrections which includes the duties and qualifications for a Director in specific detail.

There was no public comment.

Mr. Goldman stated that the title "Warden" is typically used when the Sheriff of a specific jurisdiction is in charge of a Detention Center, noting this legislation will result in the utilization of the correct terminology. Mr. Merryweather said an expanded job description

is included in this bill.

The roll call on the enactment of Bill No. 2016-6 was as follows: Nichols-aye; Satterfield-aye; Bradshaw-aye; Price-aye; Travers-aye.

INTRODUCTION

TEXT AMENDMENT-GREENLAWN CEMETERY-PLANNING AND ZONING

Mr. Merryweather advised that the bill to be introduced revises language of an original text amendment for a local cemetery and crematorium (Greenlawn Cemetery) pursuant to the request of the Critical Area Commission. He said this matter was referred to the Planning Commission which held a public hearing and is recommending that the Council adopt the revisions. He explained that if the Council agrees with the Planning Commission a motion can be made to introduce this legislation and to proceed with a public hearing.

The Council agreed to proceed with publication of a public hearing on this matter.

REGULAR SESSION

The Council convened into Regular Session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cathy Collins, resident said she is speaking on behalf of the North Dorchester Neighborhood Coalition, who wishes to formally place on the record that they are still not in agreement with the Sunnee-Bee Solar Project. She advised that they were unaware that the proposed project was moving forward until receipt of correspondence from the Planning and Zoning Office on October 31, 2016. She explained that as a result they formed the coalition in an effort to work on a plan that is able to manage solar farms in the County. She thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Nichols wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Councilman Satterfield echoed Councilman Nichols Happy Thanksgiving wish. He said there are several churches and organizations who are providing meals on Thanksgiving Day so hopefully all citizens will have the opportunity to have a warm meal and a place to congregate. He thanked emergency medical services (EMS) personnel based on his recent experience as a result of a neighbor's injury. Councilman Satterfield noted that EMS personnel arrived quickly and were extremely professional. He also thanked law enforcement. He noted that this past week was Veterans Day and said, as a veteran, he is very appreciative for the programs and services provided for the Veterans in this County through many of the local organizations.

Councilman Price acknowledged and thanked the groups and organizations who held Veterans Day recognition events, including the North Dorchester Middle School. He thanked veterans for their service. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilman Bradshaw reminded the Council of the invitation of Chief Donna “Wolf Mother” Abbott, Nause Waiwash Band of Indians, to attend a tree planting ceremony in honor of law enforcement at the Long House on Friday, November 25th at 10 a.m. He advised that last night he attended the Oyster Advisory Commission meeting and as Delegate Mautz pointed out he did spar with environmentalists who are seeking the designation of additional sanctuaries which would strictly limit oyster harvesting. He wished everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

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; 2) the next county council meeting will be held on December 6, 2016; and 3) the Council reserves the right to meet in closed session prior to regular session.

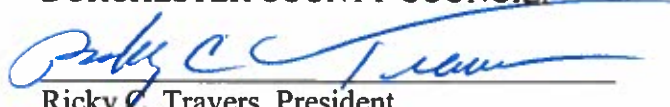
With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

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 6th day of December, 2016.