

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2018**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on April 17, 2018 with the following members present: Ricky C. Travers, President; Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President; 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 Satterfield led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

The Council approved the following additions to the agenda: Air Conditioner Unit Replacement Request-Health Department; and a legislative item under Legislative Session for introduction only.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- APRIL 3, 2018

The Council approved the minutes of April 3, 2018.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented with Councilman Price opposing to a payment made to Cambridge Main Street for EV station match funds.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$6,298,738.00.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council convened into Regular Session on April 17, 2018 at 5:45 p.m. in Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613 and motioned to adjourn into Closed Session pursuant to Title 3 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, pursuant to §3-305(b)(1) to 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. Present were: Ricky C. Travers, President; Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President; 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. Voting in favor of the Closed Session were all of the present Council Members.

The Council convened in a Closed Session on April 17, 2018 at 5:46 p.m. to discuss the following items: Confirmed the following actions taken by the State's Attorney by a 4 to 0 vote: the promotion of an individual from Senior Assistant State's Attorney to Deputy's State's Attorney and the salary as well as the hiring of an individual to fill the resulting vacancy and the salary. Present were: Ricky C. Travers, President; Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President; 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. 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.

REGULAR SESSION

COMMENDATION-CAMBRIDGE SOUTH DORCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL PLAY

The Council presented a Commendation to the Cambridge South Dorchester High School Play cast and crew, teachers, parents and the community.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR-BENEDITA GOMES

The Council presented a Commendation congratulating Benedita Gomes for being named Dorchester County's Teacher of the Year 2018-2019.

FIRST CLASS TEACHER OF THE YEAR-ELIZABETH GEISINGER

The Council presented a Commendation congratulating Elizabeth Geisinger for being named First Class Teacher of the Year.

PROCLAMATION-SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK PROCLAMATION- APRIL 29-MAY 6, 2018

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring April 29 to May 6, 2018 as Soil and Water Stewardship Week.

VIETNAM TRAVELING WALL UPDATE

Royce Ball, Co-Chairman, Mid Shore Recovering Veterans Group, said the Vietnam Traveling Wall will come to the Eastern Shore on May 31 through June 6, 2018. He expressed appreciation for Council's support. He explained that two years ago, when this wall appeared in Timonium at a "Landing Zoning" event, MPT did a special on Vietnam Veterans. He said as a result Kenley Timms, current Commander of VFW Post 5118, Easton, decided to bring it to the Town. He said it is a three fifths scale model of the actual model location in Washington, DC and is 300 feet long and six feet tall. He stressed that this will be a solemn occasion for contemplation and reflection. Mr. Ball said there will be veteran service providers and grief counselors on site.

Gene Feher, Co-Chairman, advised that: 1) the opening ceremony will be held on Friday June, 1 2018 at 6 p.m. with a wreath laying being held first; 2) the Wall contains the names of 78 men from the Eastern Shore, including five men from Dorchester County; 3) the wreath laying ceremony for Dorchester County will be held on Tuesday, June 5th at 1 p.m. at which the families of all five men will be present; 4) the Friday evening guest speaker will be Larry R. Ellis, a retired four star general who was with the 101st Airborne in Vietnam and is a Dorchester County native; 5) the closing ceremony will be held on June 6th at 6 p.m.; 6) names of the individuals on the Wall will be read beginning Friday morning at 8 a.m. and will continue, except during the ceremonies, until nine each night and will end on Wednesday. He said VFW Post 5118 purchased banners for the 11 individuals from Talbot County which will be flown downtown Easton. He said the banners include a picture of the soldier in uniform, name, rank, date killed and "Remember Me" at the bottom. He noted that the intent of the Traveling Wall is to remember the sacrifices of Vietnam veterans.

Mr. Ball said approximately 1,500 motorcycles will escort the Wall to Easton. He advised that the next meeting on this event will be held on April 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Easton Post 5118, noting brochures are on the table.

SNIP/TUCK PRESENTATION

Cindy Smith provided an overview of the services Snip/Tuck provides using the attached power point presentation. She introduced President Tiffany Gieb and Vice President Amy Craig. The Council thanked Ms. Smith for her presentation. Councilman Satterfield said in the proposed FY19 budget is \$5,000 for Snip/Tuck. Ms. Smith thanked the Council.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

PUBLIC HEARING

BILL NO. 2018-1 AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND ACTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 10-102 AND SECTION 10-206 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND TO REPEAL AND REENACT THE TITLE OF ARTICLE II FROM "BOARD OF ESTIMATES" TO "MISCELLANEOUS" AND TO REPEAL SECTIONS 10-9, 10-11, 10-12, 10-14, 10-15, 10-18, 10-19, 10-20, 10-21 AND 10-22 OF CHAPTER 10 "COMMISSIONERS" OF THE CODE OF PUBLIC LOCAL LAWS OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND BEING ARTICLE 10 OF THE CODE OF PUBLIC LOCAL LAWS OF MARYLAND, TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF OBSOLETE PROVISIONS OF THE COUNTY CODE NOW CONTAINED IN THE CHARTER FOR DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND.

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said a public hearing is being held on Bill No. 2018-1 which: 1) eliminate items under “Board of Estimates” in the County Code that were followed for the budgetary process from 1916 until 2002 when the Charter became effective; 2) Since 2002 the Charter has been utilized for the budget process; 3) the other sections of law, relating to tax exemptions and the borrowing powers of the County, will still be included in the Code; and, 4) this action will remove those items which are no longer applicable. He noted that there were no names on the public hearing sign-up sheet and asked if anyone present wished to speak. There was no response.

Councilman Bradshaw made a motion to enact the bill which Councilman Price seconded for discussion. In response to questions from Councilman Price, Mr. Merryweather said “Board of Estimates” will be changed to “Miscellaneous” and that changes has no legal implications. He explained that it will contain the borrowing and tax exemptions provisions. He reiterated that the budgetary items will be moved since they are in conflict with the County Charter. The roll call on the enactment of Bill No. 2018-1 was as follows: Nichols – absent Satterfield-aye; Bradshaw-aye; Price-aye; Travers-aye.

INTRODUCTION

BILL NO. 2018-2 AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING: 2018-2019 ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

Mr. Merryweather advised that scheduled for introduction is the 2018-2019 Annual Budget Appropriation Ordinance.

Pursuant to an inquiry from Councilman Price, Mr. Goldman said the following about the proposed FY 2019 budget: 1) there is a one half of a cent increase in the real property tax which moves the County in position to receive payment in lieu of taxes (pilot) for State owned lands which will require a constant yield hearing; 2) the pilot will be a significant source of income beginning in FY 2020 which coincides with the first bond payment for replacement of North Dorchester High School and an emergency service radio system replacement; 3) the increase in real property tax is equivalent to \$5 per \$100,000 of assessed value; 4) the proposed FY 2019 budget is approximately \$1.3 million lower than the previous year due to a reduction in recordation tax revenue; 5) included in the proposed budget is step increase for employees which equals 2.5%; and, 6) there is no adjustment to income tax nor other increases in taxation.

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

BILL NO. 2018-3 AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND PURSUANT TO SECTION 20-805 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND TO REPEAL AND REENACT SECTION 144-37 TO CHAPTER 144, ENTITLED TAXATION, ARTICLE X, ENTITLED BUILDING EXCISE TAX TO THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE TO PROVIDE THAT THE BUILDING EXCISE TAX IS SUSPENDED FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS COMMENCING ON JULY

1, 2018 AND ENDING ON JUNE 30, 2020 AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE BUILDING EXCISE TAX DOES NOT APPLY TO BUILDING PERMITS FILED BETWEEN JULY 1, 2018 AND JUNE 30, 2020.

Mr. Merryweather said a couple years ago the Council enacted local legislation to suspend the building excise tax for a two year period with the hope of expanding the County's assessable base which also increases recordation tax revenue. He noted that this period will end on July 1, 2018. He explained that before the Council is a supplemental bill to extend this tax for an additional two years.

Councilman Bradshaw made a motion for this legislation to proceed to public hearing which Councilman Price seconded for discussion. Councilman Price requested information on what has transpired during the suspension period between now and the hearing. Mr. Goldman explained that this information requires Planning and Zoning staff to pull building and occupancy permits from that four year period; therefore, it will take several days to obtain this information. He said roughly over a four year period 12 new houses have been built, noting the excise tax is \$3,671. He explained that the intent of the suspension is to encourage individuals to build in the County for which property taxes will be garnered.

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

REGULAR SESSION

The Council adjourned into Regular Session.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

REQUEST TO RESERVE DOCKAGE-COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING-NATHAN OF DORCHESTER-DORCHESTER SKIPJACK COMMITTEE

The Council approved the request of Pat Johnson, President, and Lou Hyman, Board Member, Dorchester Skipjack Committee, to reserve dockage for the Nathan of Dorchester at the County Office Building bulkhead for a four to seven day period around the following events: 1) June 12-18, Chesapeake Cowboys; 2) April 20-27, May 1-6, May 14-16, American Cruise Line Constitution; 3) September 25-30, Ironman; and, 4) November 1-7, 12-16, American Cruise Line Constitution. The Council acknowledged that the Committee members will place signage and will need an electrical connection to the building. The Council recognized that this use will not supersede use of the parking lot by County employees/public and will not create hazards due to use of electrical outlets.

REQUEST TO WAIVE STANDBY AMBULANCE FEES - CAMBRIDGE CLASSIC POWER BOAT RACES

The Council approved the request of Allen Nelson to waive stand-by fees for ambulance service to be provided by Emergency Medical Services on: 1) May 19 and May 20, 2018 for the Cambridge Classic Event; and, 2) July 28 and July 29, 2018 for the Thunder on the Choptank.

BID RECOMMENDATIONS-COUNTY TAX LIEN PROPERTIES-GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR

Based on the recommendation of Cindy Smith, Grants Administrator, Council agreed to award the following bids to acquire tax lien properties: 1) 602 Hubert Street, Cambridge, \$1,000, to Dominique Demby; 2) 806 Pine Street, Cambridge, \$500 to 808 Pine, LLC; 3) 401 Pleasant Street, Cambridge, \$525, to Cemetery Avenue, LLC; 4) 5536 Galestown Road, \$1,600, to Cynthia and Terry Trice, Owner Occupant bidder; 5) 392 Circle Drive, Cambridge, \$1,100, to Ed Cornish; 6) 325 Cemetery Avenue, Cambridge, \$2,705, to Tyre Gordy and Stephanie Middleton.

OFFSHORE BLIND AND RIPARIAN RIGHTS RENEWALS-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Ryan White, Public Works Director, to renew Offshore Blind and Riparian Rights Licenses for the following County waterfront properties for a three year period: Cassons Neck Road, Hoopers Island Road (north end of causeway), Hoopers Neck Road (south end of causeway); Wharf Road; Ragged Point Marina Road; and Hoopers Island Road (Wallace Creek).

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS-COURT HOUSE DOOR REPLACEMENT-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. White to advertise for proposals for the replacement of doors at the Circuit Court House.

BID AWARD-CRUSHED STONE-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the recommendation of Mr. White to award the bid for the annual contract for the supplying of crushed stone to the Public Works Department to Chaney Enterprises, the lowest bidder of all but one stone which is used infrequently.

FY19 MARYLAND HERITAGE AREA AUTHORITY GRANT APPLICATIONS-TOURISM

The Council approved the request of Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, to submit the following applications:

- FY 19 Management Grant for \$100,000 - a standard annual grant to support the continued operation and management of the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area under the Dorchester County Tourism Department.

- FY 19 Block Grant - which will allow the County access to a separate \$25,000 block grant to redistribute mini-grants to partner organizations that will increase support to the community by \$15,000 this year.
- Cannery Park Rail to Trail conversion - \$50,000 for the construction of a rail to trail, 1/3 of mile in length from Cedar Street to Washington Street.
- Economic and Community Impact of the Harriet Tubman Visitor Experience, \$10,000 for a study to measure the economic impact of having the Visitor Center in Dorchester County.
- Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit-WaterWays-\$5,000 to bring this exhibit Dorchester County.

POTENTIAL DONATION-613 ROBBINS STREET-TAX SALE PROPERTY-GRANT ADMINISTRATOR

The Council agreed to donate 613 Robbins Street, Cambridge, a lot, to Agape Temple of Praise and Ministries Church.

JUNE 20, 2017 TAX SALE-TWO PROPERTIES-DONATION TO COUNTY-GRANT ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Goldman advised that: 1) Robert A. Thorton, Jr. has offered to donate the following two lots, 615 Wells Street and 617 Wells Street located in Cambridge, to the County; 2) these properties are in the Pine Street Revitalization area and therefore is a significance to that project; 3) it is the recommendation of Michael Spears, Finance Director, to pay the taxes for both properties of \$40 which is more cost effective than paying to foreclose on the properties. Councilman Bradshaw made a motion to accept the donation and pay the taxes. Mr. Merryweather explained that the motion should include that the approval is limited to the set of facts pertaining to these properties. He noted that if approved, no policy will be set obligating the County to pay City taxes. He advised that in this case the savings is substantial since the County will be paying \$40 in lieu of \$5,000 to foreclose on the properties.

Based on the amended motion made by Councilman Bradshaw to incorporate Mr. Merryweather's comments, the Council agreed to pay City, State and County taxes, a total of \$40 for both lots based on only the set of facts relating to these properties and to accept them as a donation.

REHABILITATION AND CONTRACTUAL LIEN-CDBG-DELMARVA COMMUNITY SERVICES GROUP HOMES-GRANT ADMINISTRATOR

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith to enter into a Contract for Rehabilitation and Contractual Lien between Dorchester County and Delmarva Community Services for the following three parcels of land in the City of Cambridge: 405 Shepherd Avenue, 500 Glenburn Avenue and 709 Church Street. The Council acknowledged that since funding

was provided from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development in the form of a Community Development Block Grant, the County, as grantee, is required to place a lien on facilities that are improved by these federal funds to ensure that they remain in the approved use for the term of time required by the regulations.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING-INTEROPERABILITY & SHARING OF SYSTEM INFORMATION- WICOMICO-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Anna Sierra, Emergency Services Director, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Wicomico County for interoperability and sharing system information and more specifically, to share radio code plugs for the new County system.

SPECIAL EVENTS AGREEMENTS-SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Council agreed to enter into Special Events Agreements between Annapolis Bicycle Racing Team, the County Council and the Sheriff of Dorchester County to provide public safety services in the form of four vehicles and four deputies at the sum of \$1,200, which was calculated based on premium overtime, for each of the Church Creek Time Trials which will occur on June 30, 2018 and on August 18, 2018.

FY18 NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT-MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Council approved the written request of Julianne A. Oberg, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), to execute a FY18 Noxious Weed Control Cooperative Agreement between MDA and the County with no funds being provided by the County or the Maryland Department of Agriculture for the control and eradication of specific noxious weeds for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

POLL CONFIRMATIONS

The Council confirmed its following actions in the interim between meetings, by means of a poll:

- To declare the following vehicles as surplus property by a 4 to 1 (1 no answer) vote:

2002 Chevy Truck	VIN# 1GCEC14W62Z228987
2004 Chevy Truck	VIN# 1GCEC14W84Z123914
2008 Ford	VIN# 2FAHP71V58X124267
2005 Ford	VIN# 2FAFP71W75X120913 Unit 2502
2007 Dodge Van	VIN# 2D4GV47X7H668623
1998 Chevy Truck	VIN# 1GCCS1440W8206035 Unit 113

- To submit the following names as nominees for the Local Government Insurance Trust Board of Trustees by a 4 to 1 (1 no answer) vote: Abby McNinch, Denton;

John Miller, Middletown; John O'Connor, St. Mary's County and Shelley Heller, Kent County.

AIR CONDITIONER UNIT REPLACEMENT REQUEST-HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Mr. Goldman stated that: 1) two quotes were obtained for the replacement of the air conditioning unit in the server room of the Dorchester County Health Department since the existing unit cannot maintain the required load; 2) the current unit is under a partial warranty; 3) he is seeking Council's approval to sole source and contract with the company that submitted the lowest quote to install a new indoor and outdoor unit, which is portable; and, 4) monies from the building maintenance line item and/or Capital Contingency funds will be used to cover this cost. The Council approved Mr. Goldman's request to sole source and contract with Joseph M. Zimmer, Inc. Contractors, which submitted the lowest quote, at the cost of \$5,676.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Satterfield encouraged the public to view the Traveling Vietnam Wall. He thanked staff, including Department Heads, for their assistance and input during the budget process. He also expressed appreciation for the way the Council members worked together to prepare the proposed FY19 budget. He recognized service law enforcement and emergency responders for their service to citizens and public safety as well as Snip/Tuck and other organizations that spay and neuter cats.

Councilman Price echoed Councilman Satterfield's remarks regarding viewing the Traveling Vietnam Wall. He advised that the Social Services Board met this afternoon noting he provided Council with copies of the Department of Social Services 2017 Annual Report. He referenced the recent challenging weather conditions as well as two fires in the Hurlock area the last few weeks. He said his thoughts go out to those who have been displaced. He wished the Tri City Little League well this season, noting opening day is Saturday.

Councilman Bradshaw said he was recently appointed as a member of the Oyster Advisory Commission re-instated by Governor Lawrence "Larry" Hogan" to replace Captain Ben Parks, who was very dedicated to the Commission. He said he received correspondence about this appointment from Mark Belton, Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, noting the first meeting he will attend is in Annapolis on May 14, 2018. Councilman Travers congratulated him on his appointment. Councilman Bradshaw stated that he was recently reappointed as the Maryland Association of Counties representative on the Maryland Heritage Area Authority Board. He said he is honored to serve on these boards.

Councilman Satterfield asked staff to reach out to the organizers of the Traveling Vietnam Wall to obtain the names of the Dorchester County soldiers with the goal of purchasing flags for each of them. Councilman Travers said they can be hung on the existing racks along Maryland Avenue. The Council agreed to proceed with the purchase and to seek the necessary approvals to install the flags along that street. Councilman Satterfield advised that there is a large dip in the road surface of the "S" turn by Hoosier Church on Hooper's Island that is encroaching into the travel area.

Councilman Travers referenced the loss of over 58,000 men and women who served the country overseas and recognized their sacrifice as well as those who served. Councilman Satterfield said those wearing a Vietnam jacket and cap should be recognized and encouraged the public to shake their hand, thank them for their service and welcome them home.

Councilman Travers announced that: 1) the next Council meeting will be held on May 1, 2018, during which the first of two public hearings on the proposed FY19 budget will be held; 2) a second public hearing will be on May 8, 2018; and, 3) the budget legislative hearing/adoption is scheduled for May 15, 2018.

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 1st day of May, 2018.