

**County Council of Dorchester County**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**April 2, 2019**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on April 2, 2019 with the following members present: William V. Nichols, President; Jay L. Newcomb, Vice President; Libby Handley Nagel; George L. Pfeffer, Jr. and Ricky C. Travers. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney and Donna F. Lane, Acting County Manager.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Nichols led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance. A moment of silence was held for Gerry Boyle, who passed away recently.

**STATEMENT**

Councilman Nichols read the following statement:

Prior to conducting County business, I would like to make a statement regarding Councilwoman Nagel. On the advice of legal counsel, we are not taking any questions or making any comment relating to the case pending in the District Court for Dorchester County relating to Councilwoman Nagel. This is a matter for the Judicial System.

**CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

Donna Lane, Acting County Manager, said the following item was removed from the agenda: Request to Purchase Material-Airport.

**MINUTES**

The Council approved the following regular session minutes: February 5, 2019; February 19, 2019; and, March 5, 2019.

**APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS**

The Council approved the vouchers as presented.

**FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

Councilman Nichols reported total cash and investments as \$4,068,431.77.

**CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY**

The Council convened into Regular Session on April 2, 2019 at 5:00 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 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)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. Present were: William V. Nichols, President; Jay L. Newcomb, Vice President; Libby Handley Nagel; George L. Pfeffer, Jr. and Ricky C. Travers. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney and Donna F. Lane, Acting County Manager. Voting in favor of the Closed Session were all of the present Council Members.

The Council convened in a Closed Session on April 2, 2019 at 5:01 p.m. to discuss the following items: 1) approved the request of the Finance Director to hire an individual to fill a Fiscal Clerk position by a 5 to 0 vote; 2) agreed to hire an individual to fill the Airport Director position by a 5 to 0 vote; 3) agreed to hire an individual to fill the Economic Development Director position by a 5 to 0 vote; 4) approved the request of the Recreation and Parks Director to re-hire an individual as a seasonal maintenance employee by a 5 to 0 vote; 5) approved the request of the Recreation and Parks Director to hire an individual to fill a Recreation and Parks Coordinator II position by a 5 to 0 vote; 6) confirmed salary increases for the State's Attorney and Sheriff by a 5 to 0 vote; 7) approved the request of the Information Technology Director to hire an individual to fill an Information Technology Network Technician II position by a 5 to 0 vote; 8) approved the request of the Emergency Services Director to hire individuals to fill Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support Provider vacancies and to approve individuals for placement in the on-call pool by a 5 to 0 vote; 9) denied the request of an employee for a shift rotation exemption by a 5 to 0 vote; and, 10) received legal advice regarding a County board. Present were: William V. Nichols, President; Jay L. Newcomb, Vice President; Libby Handley Nagel; George L. Pfeffer, Jr. and Ricky C. Travers. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney and Donna F. Lane, Acting County Manager. 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 Session were all of the present Council members.

## **REGULAR SESSION**

### **PROCLAMATION-SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring April 2019 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

### **PROCLAMATION- MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD-APRIL 2019**

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring April 2019 month of the young child.

#### COMMENDATION-NORTH DORCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR CLASS PLAY

The Council presented Commendations to the North Dorchester High School Senior Class Play cast and crew.

#### STORM READY CERTIFICATION PRESENTATION-NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE-WAKEFIELD

Jonathon McGree, National Weather Service-Wakefield, presented the County's Storm Ready Certification. The Council commended Steve Garvin, Emergency Management Planner, and the Emergency Services staff who worked towards this certification on behalf of the County.

#### BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE UPDATE

Marcia Pradines, Complex Leader, Chesapeake Marshlands, National Wildlife Refuge Complex provided an update on Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, which is attached.

In response to an inquiry from Terry Brohawn Robbins, Ms. Pradines advised that the pedestal for the Lee Brohawn Memorial Plaque has been repaired and it will be installed soon. She said she would keep in touch with Ms. Robbins.

Pursuant to a question from Councilman Newcomb said although the Eaglefest was not held due to the federal government shutdown there were no complaints. She stated that she and the staff look forward to holding this event next year. She explained that the Refuge was closed for 35 days and she and one other employee worked without getting paid. Councilman Newcomb referenced the Council's support of legislation submitted during this Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session to increase Sunday hunting opportunities. Based on his query, Ms. Pradines said they are open to provide additional Sunday hunting opportunities if the legislation passes. She said Youth Hunting Day is held on Sunday.

#### MANAGERS COMMENTS

#### RESERVE DOCKAGE REQUEST-NATHAN OF DORCHESTER

The Council approved the request of Patricia Johnson, President, Dorchester Skipjack Committee, Inc. to reserve dockage at the County Office Building for the following dates and times since they will be displaced from its berth at Long Wharf due to the size of the American Cruise Line ships: April 13<sup>th</sup>, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, May 13<sup>th</sup>, June 2<sup>nd</sup> and November 11<sup>th</sup>. The Council acknowledged that the periods may be extended five to seven days due to logistics.

#### REAUTHORIZATION-FY17 ENGINEERING PROJECTS-FINANCE

The Council reauthorized the following projects for the same purpose, which results in an extension of the project completion deadline to 2022.

	Project cost	County's Share
Tar Bay Dredging	250,000	125,000
Watershed Implementation Plan	100,000	50,000
Hurst Creek Dredging	40,000	40,000

#### GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL AND PREVENTION-AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL-ANNUAL LETTER-FINANCE

The Council approved the request of Cindy Smith, Assistant Finance Director, to execute a letter to authorize that the Applicant Agency/Sub-Recipient designation on future grants with the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention except the Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN) be changed from Dorchester County Council to Dorchester County Sheriff's Office. The implementing agency will remain the same on Domestic Violence Unit Pilot Program; Gun Violence Reduction Grant, and Body Armor for Local Law Enforcement Grants: Dorchester County Sheriff's Office and Community Partnership for Children and Families for MCIN.

#### RECOMMENDATION TO DONATE PROPERTY-706 AND 708 ACADEMY STREET-TAX LIEN PROPERTIES-FINANCE

Ms. Smith noted that pursuant to the Dorchester County Government Tax Lien Property Repurpose Program if the property is located in a municipality the County may offer the property to that municipality for no cost if it is contiguous to another municipality-owned property. She said two properties, 706 and 708 Academy Street, Cambridge are contiguous to Meadow Street Park which is owned by the City. She stated that there is a boarded up house that will need to be demolished at 706 Academy and the other property is an empty lot. She noted that the County taxes on 706 are \$40 per year and 708 are \$60 per year. She advised that pursuant to Pat Escher, Division Manager, Planning, Housing and Economic Development, has advised that the City is interested in obtaining these properties. Ms. Smith expressed her belief that the City's goal is to expand the park through to the corner for the gateway along with the cemetery expansion on the opposite corner that the County is supporting with property donations. The Council agreed to transfer these properties to the City of Cambridge.

#### REQUEST TO AWARD-MARINE FACILITY TOILETS BID-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Ryan White, Public Works Director, to award the bid for the placement of portable toilets at 12 marine locations to the lowest bidder, Harmons Septic Care at the monthly cost of \$810 with additional pump out costs of \$30, \$40, \$50 depending on the location. State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant funding will be used for this purpose.

#### REQUEST TO AWARD-TAYLORS ISLAND BOAT RAMP PROJECT-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. White to award the Taylors Island Boat Ramp Replacement project to Murtech Marine Division, lowest bidder, at the cost of \$93,375 using DNR funding.

#### FY19 CAPITAL FUNDING REQUEST-TECH PARK SIGN REPLACEMENT-ESIC OUTDOOR SECURITY LIGHT UPGRADES-ECON DEVELOPMENT

Councilman Nichols recused himself from this item due to a conflict of interest and left the room. The Council approved the request of Susan Banks, Acting Economic Director, to expend FY19 Capital Funds for the purchase and replacement of the Dorchester Regional Technology Park signs and the purchase and installation of additional outdoor security lighting at the Eastern Shore Innovation Center (ESIC) from Cambridge Architectural Mesh, at the lowest quoted price of \$9,798. The Council also approved her request to utilize the remaining capital funds of \$10,997 for the purchase and installation of additional outdoor security lighting at ESIC including: 1) LED solar grounds lights; 2) lighting of the Tech Park signs; 3) eight wall pack solar LED lights; 4) additional exterior lighting of the building; and, 5) solar LED dusk to dawn pole light, installed at the mail receptacle. Additionally, the Council approved her request to sole source with iValue LED Light, LLC a start-up business at Incubator, in the amount of \$10,507 for the purchase and and installation of lighting. The Council acknowledged that if any additional costs are incurred, they will be funded through the Economic Development FY19 Budget. Councilman Nichols returned to the meeting.

#### SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARATION REQUEST-AMBULANCE-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Dozia Rahilly, Emergency Services Director, to surplus the International Ambulance that is currently at county roads being stripped.

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER REQUEST- EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Ms. Rahilly to move forward on implementing of the County's new Emergency Operations Center in the City of Cambridge Public Safety Training Room. The Council acknowledged that: 1) Exelon has provided \$50,000 to use for moving and outfitting the Emergency Operations Center so Emergency Services is ready for this year's Hurricane Season and the CALVEX 2019 Exercise; 2) the Video wall will be purchased from Dell at the cost of \$16,012.04; 3) staff will meet with City staff to discuss the locking cabinets needed for work locations at an estimated cost \$6,000; 4) a Net clock will be acquired for around \$500; 5) a telephone/fax service to include equipment will also be purchased; and, 6) no County funds are required for this project which is provided by Exelon / Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant.

#### TRAVEL REQUEST-DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The Council approved the request of Joseph Hughes, Director, Department of Corrections, to attend the Maryland Correctional Administrators Association Conference and Training in Ocean City, from June 2 – June 4, 2019 with his senior staff, (two Captains and two Lieutenants). The Council acknowledged that: 1) registration fees of \$195 per person for a total of \$975 will cover the Awards Banquet, Honoring the Correctional Officers of the Year from each facility as well as

meals for the rest of the conference: and, 2) funds will be used from the mileage & conference budget line item.

#### BASEBALL TOMORROW FUND GRANT AWARD-HURLOCK ATHLETIC COMPLEX SOFTBALL FIELD LIGHTING-RECREATION AND PARKS

Frank Stout, Recreation and Parks Director, stated that he is seeking the Council's acceptance of a \$15,000 grant from the Baseball Tomorrow Fund, to be used along with Program Open Space (POS) and local funding, as matching dollars, towards the cost of installation of softball field lighting at the Hurlock Athletic Complex. He said the cost of the project has been reduced and; therefore, some of the POS money designated for this purpose can either be used for some other softball site related purpose, or be returned to the County's POS account balance to be used for another project. He explained, that pursuant to Mr. Merryweather's comments regarding the grant agreement, he asked the Granting agency to change the agreement so that it will be governed by the laws of the State of New York which will be the place of arbitration. He said since the project for which these funds are being used will be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup> this use is consistent with the granting agency requirements, he is recommending Council execute the agreement without changing the place of arbitration to the State to Maryland. Mr. Merryweather said he has no issues, noting that the County's risk is extremely low. The Council approved Mr. Stout's request.

#### REQUEST TO SURPLUS PROPERTY-FINANCE

The Council agreed to surplus a credenza.

#### FY20 COUNTY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Council agreed to adopt the FY20 County Holiday Schedule.

#### BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Council agreed to reappoint: 1) David Owens as the District 5 representative for the Council for Senior Citizens Services; and, 2) George Ames as the District 2 representative for the Ethics Commission.

#### RAILROAD RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION

Ms. Lane provided a brief summary on the prior Council's decision to acquire control of the railroad right-of-way between Hurlock and Cambridge and possibly a right-of-way between Hurlock and Preston owned by the Maryland Transit Administration to use to restore freight service to Cambridge or develop a recreation trail. She stated that a railroad right-of-way abandonment and rail banking process will have to be followed which will require a hiring an attorney to assist in the rail banking process. She advised that Harry Romano, Rail Program and Policy Manager, MDOT Office of Freight and Multimodalism, is interested in knowing whether or not the current Council wants to continue with the acquisition of this rail right-of-way. She said he has offered to speak to the Council at an upcoming meeting about this matter. Meighan

“Chis” Chisholm, Airport Director, said obtaining the rail will enable the extension of the Cambridge-Dorchester Regional Airport runway. He explained that for a number of years staff has worked with the Maryland Aviation Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration through the Airport Plan Approval process each year. He said the control of the right-of-way of the railroad will be one step closer to an over 5,000 feet extension, which is the standard length for corporate jets which will assist the local economy. Councilman Travers noted that some of property on the rail lies is important to the growth of the Beulah Landfill. The Council asked staff to contact Mr. Romano to schedule him on an upcoming meeting to provide information on this matter.

#### **POLL CONFIRMATION**

The Council, in the interim between meetings, by means of a poll, approved the request of Dozia Rahilly, Emergency Services Director, to the build out of an area off of the current server room and the modification of a wall by Ron Short, Maintenance, Detention Center by a 5 to 0. The Council recognized that this work need to be completed so electric can be pulled over to the new 911 Dispatcher room at the Emergency Services Department. The Council acknowledged that there is a new option to reuse an existing space.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no public comment.

#### **COUNCIL’S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Travers congratulated Cindy Smith, Assistant Finance Director, for being chosen as a Hometown Hero.

Councilman Pfeffer commended Emergency Services for also being chosen as a Hometown Hero. Based on a motion made by Councilman Pfeffer, the Council agreed to send a letter asking Governor Lawrence “Larry” Hogan to veto House Bill 298 entitled “entitled “Oysters-Tributary-Scale-Sanctuaries-Protection and Restoration” which will establish a network of oyster sanctuaries in five tributaries identified by the Department of Natural Resources for large-scale restoration. Councilman Pfeffer recognized and commended the North Dorchester High School Senior Play participants for their hard work as well as the Cambridge South Dorchester High School Senior Play participants.

Based on a motion made by Councilman Newcomb, the Council agreed to support the release of 30,000 additional visas for seasonal workers. Councilman Newcomb thanked the community for pulling together to raise \$35,000 for Johnny Parks who lost his boat at a recent fundraiser.

Councilwoman Nagel congratulated Ms. Smith and the County’s Emergency Medical Services for being recipients of Hometown Hero awards. She noted that she was the first recipient of that award.

Councilman Nichols commended Frank Stout, Recreation and Parks Director for his efforts in seeking grant monies for lighting at the Hurlock softball field as well as his attendance and participation at sports games. He noted that the youth basketball league won a tournament. He recognized Herschel Johnson, who coached the County's team 50 years ago, of which he was a member, noting they also won the tournament. Mr. Stout commended Debbie Marshall, Recreation and Parks Program Coordinator II, for her assistance with the basketball program and Mr. Johnson.

The Council appointed Keith Adkins as County Manager, effective April 8, 2019, with Councilman Nichols opposing.


Councilman Nichols announced that: 1) Meighan "Chis" Chisholm is the new Airport Director; and, 2) the next County meeting will be held on April 16, 2019.

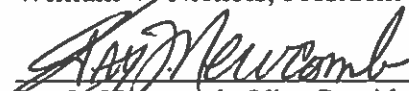
With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

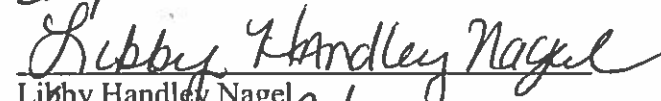
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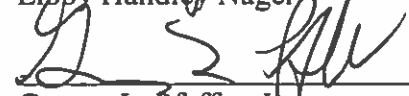
  
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Donna F. Lane  
Acting County Manager

THE COUNTY COUNCIL  
OF DORCHESTER COUNTY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William V. Nichols, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jay L. Newcomb, Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Libby Handley Nagel

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George L. Pfeffer, Jr.

  
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Ricky C. Travers

Approved the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2019.