

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2019**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on November 5, 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; Keith Adkins, County Manager, and Donna F. Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist.

REGULAR SESSION

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Nichols led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

After publication of the agenda, the following items were moved to the November 19, 2019 agenda: 1) Landfill Tipping Fee Waiver Request-Finance; and, 2) HVAC Unit Replacement Request-Department of Corrections. The Council approved the amended agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Council approved the minutes of October 15, 2019.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Nichols reported total cash and investments as \$11,329,264.39.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council convened into Regular Session on November 5, 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. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, Keith Adkins, County Manager; and Donna F. 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 November 5, 2019 at 5:01 p.m. to discuss the following items: 1) approved the request of the Director of Corrections to reclass a Pre-Trial release position by a 4 to 0 vote; 2) discussed a request of the Director of Corrections to restore a position-took no action; 3) approved the request of the Emergency Services Director to hire individuals as 911 Dispatchers and an individual as an on call 911 Dispatcher by a 5 to 0 vote; 4) approved the request of the Emergency Services Director to hire an individual as a full time Paramedic by a 5 to 0 vote; 5) agreed to hire an individual to fill the Public Works Director vacancy by a 5 to 0 vote; 6) discussed a personnel matter relating to a County Department; 7) received legal advice from County Attorney; and, 8) received legal advice from County Attorney regarding emergency medical services billing agreement. Present were: William V. Nichols, President; Jay L. Newcomb, Vice President; Libby Handley Nagel; and, George L. Pfeffer, Jr. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney; Keith Adkins, County Manager, and Donna F. Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist. Councilman Travers joined the meeting late. 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-HISTORICAL FREEDOM WEEK

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring November 9 to November 16, 2019 as Historical Freedom Week.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

INTRODUCTION

**AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND
PURSUANT TO SECTION 40-20 OF CHAPTER 40 OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY
CODE CLOSING AND ABANDONING A PORTION OF COUNTY PUBLIC ROAD
KNOWN AS "HOOPER NECK ROAD" SITUATE IN THE FOURTH ELECTION DISTRICT
OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND.**

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said the legislation before the Council for introduction, pursuant to Section 40-20 of Chapter 40 of the Dorchester County Code, is to close and abandon a portion of County public road known as "Hooper Neck Road" in the Fourth Election District. He explained that this is a follow-up to an informational public hearing held on the request of Don Eckrod, resident, for the road closure on April 18, 2017. Mr. Merryweather advised that there were no objections or comments during that meeting after which Council requested that legislation be submitted to close the road. The Council agreed to proceed with publication of a public hearing on this matter.

REGULAR SESSION

The Council convened into Regular Session.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

FY17 STATE HOMELAND GRANT PROGRAM – ADJUSTMENT NOTIFICATION- EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Steve Garvin, Emergency Planner, on behalf of Dozia Rahilly, Emergency Services Director, to execute a FY17 State Homeland Grant Program Adjustment Notification which reflects that \$65.27 of the original allocation of \$85,785.00 was unspent.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION-RADIO PROJECT-EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mr. Adkins said: 1) Ms. Rahilly is seeking Council's guidance on allotting base stations to volunteer fire companies in lieu of an extra portable; 2) pursuant to the prior administration's communications the fire companies were able to choose either option; and, 3) Emergency Services staff feel base stations are necessary and should be replaced in each station due to safety concerns and transmissions of alerts and calls.

Councilman Pfeffer made a motion to honor the agreements of the prior administration, which was seconded by Councilman Travers. Councilman Newcomb referenced Ms. Rahilly's request in which she noted that base stations are necessary and should be replaced. Councilman Pfeffer said when original arrangements were being made for the radio system, the Department of Emergency Services reached out to the Chief's Committee and provided them the option. He noted that some stations opted for the extra portable so they could use it as an operational radio during an active fire. He opined that this will have a greater impact and benefit than permanently mounted base stations. He said a scanner can be used in place of a base station.

In response to a question posed by Councilwoman Nagel, Corporal Robbie Larimer, a member of the radio committee, said the reason they feel base stations should be provided, in lieu of, not in replacement of an additional portable, is to ensure that if a tower experiences a failure, the base station will alert the station if there is a page due to its external antenna. He referenced the paging issues Motorola is currently addressing.

Pursuant to a query from Councilman Pfeffer, Corporal Larimer, said the volunteer fire companies were provided an option at some point, noting that there is a list of stations that wanted a portable instead of a base station. Corporal Larimer said they considered lower tier radios for base stations which reduced the cost by \$1,100 per unit since it basically only serves one purpose.

Councilman Pfeffer noted that Chiefs of several of the volunteer fire companies in the County are present. Councilman Nichols said they can speak in response to his inquiry.

Jason Trego, Chief, Hurlock Volunteer Fire Company, and the Chairman of the County's Chief Committee, said they were advised that they could either select a base station or an additional portable, not both. He said the four companies he can recall at this time who elected to receive a portable are Secretary, Vienna, East New Market and Taylors Island.

Brian Kimmey, Chief, Secretary Volunteer Fire Company, explained that according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to ensure fire fighter safety a member entering a structure during a fire must have a communication device on their person. He said he opted out to ensure members' safety during an active event. He stressed the need to ensure that operational costs are sustainable based on current allocations. He noted that the prior administration advised the volunteer fire companies that they can opt out and choose a portable.

Brad Murphy, Chief, said the Eldorado-Brookview Volunteer Fire Company, opted out for a hand held radio which is more valuable in the field than at the station. In response to a question from Councilman Nichols, Mr. Kimmy expressed his understanding that it was one hand held radio in exchange for one base station. He noted that the base station at the station is in a locked room for which he only has access.

Pursuant to a query from Councilman Nichols, Corporal Larimer, explained that while the radios are the same; a mobile has better coverage than a portable and a base station provides enhanced coverage if a tower site fails or if there is a system issue. He noted that a base station's antenna is 15 to 20 feet in the air.

Councilman Pfeffer referenced concerns expressed about the changing of volunteer fire company officers in addition to administrative and operational officers. He suggested having the volunteer fire companies acknowledge in writing their choice so there is no confusion in the future if this issue were to arise again. Mr. Trego said he was under the impression they would be required to do so, which action was agreed upon by the Chief's Committee's membership.

In response to a question from Councilman Nichols, Mr. Trego confirmed that the membership also agreed that if an individual station preferred a portable in lieu of a base they would be allowed to make that choice. Based on a queries from Councilwoman Nagel, Mr. Trego: 1) said the majority of the portable radios will be assigned to an engine so prior to entry a fire fighter will place it on their belt in order to be able to communicate with those outside of the structure running the scene; 2) expressed his understanding some stations have not received their allotments; and, 3) said fire equipment including radios is expensive. He explained that the odds of someone hearing the base station radio are slim to none since the majority of the volunteer fire company members are home, at work or are participating in other activities when calls are received. He said they also rely on text pages from the 911 Center to know when to respond to calls. Mr. Trego referenced NFPA regulations which require communication with every individual who enters a structure. He said it is cost prohibitive to provide each one with a radio, noting that a typical response to a structure fire is 30 people.

Councilwoman Nagel expressed concern that Ms. Rahilly is not present to speak about this issue. Mr. Kimmey said she was asked a last night's Chief's meeting about the status of the radios and they were advised that she was waiting on quotes. He noted that she did not tell them that issues

relating to the radios were on the agenda. Councilman Nichols noted that the items were submitted on October 31, 2019 and were included on the agenda. Mr. Trego confirmed that they asked Ms. Rahilly about the status, noting they were told that she had to obtain the total number of radios to be exchanged in order for Matt Meekins, Radio Technician, to obtain the quote.

Based on a question posed by Councilman Newcomb, the following numbers of radios received were noted by the present fire company representatives: 1) 12 for officers and fire fighters at the Secretary Volunteer Fire Company; 2) 13 handhelds and four older radios at Eldorado-Brookview Volunteer Fire Company; 3) 13 radios for the Linkwood Salem Volunteer Fire Department; 4) 35 for Rescue Fire Company; and, 5) 15 for the Hurlock Volunteer Fire Company.

Councilman Travers expressed his opinion that the fire chiefs should select the best option for their company. Councilwoman Nagel questioned when a final count of radios and costs will be provided to the Council. Ms. Lane stated that pursuant to an inquiry from Councilman Newcomb, she spoke to Troi Lynn Faith, Administrative Assistant, about the final counts and cost. She said Ms. Faith explained to her that after the decisions are made on the issues before Council, they will provide the information to Motorola which will generate the paperwork that will calculate the amount and costs.

Mr. Adkins said Mr. Meekins has the total counts and cost for the one to one radio exchange. He explained that the item before Council will be an added cost due to an additional radio purchase. He advised that Michael Spears, Finance Director, is closely monitoring the radio system budget since there are still remaining balances with Motorola, in order to stay within the allocated amount for the project. Pursuant to a query from Councilman Travers, Mr. Adkins explained that the request is to purchase additional base stations and allow the fire companies to maintain their portables. Mr. Adkins said the original plan to exchange radio for radio should not have been modified. He advised that at the last Radio Committee meeting he attended he asked that a letter be drafted seeking written confirmation of a fire company's choice.

Councilman Newcomb expressed his belief that the Radio Committee and Chief's Committee should meet and work together to develop a recommendation for the Council to consider at its next meeting. Councilman Nichols concurred. Councilman Pfeffer cited his concern about removing the portable radios from the companies that choose that option and only replacing base stations. He noted that radios were discussed with Director Rahilly at last night's Chief's Committee meeting. Councilman Nichols cited his belief the entire radio committee should participate in the discussion.

Corporal Larimer emphasized that the radio committee is seeking the Council's guidance due to the safety factor of having a base station. He said the members will abide by Council's decision.

Pursuant to a question posed by Councilman Newcomb, Corporal Larimer said: 1) if a tower is not operational the alert will go to the base station; and, 2) a portable radio can be used inside a structure for communication however service may not be optimal. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Pfeffer, Corporal Larimer said antenna coverage can be gained if a portable radio is modified.

Adam Pritchett Chief, Rescue Fire Company, noted that the radio system went online in October 2019 and said he believes some companies are waiting on their allotments and/or one to one radio replacements. He expressed his belief that stations should make the decision on a base station versus a portable radio based on their needs.

Sonny Willey, Chief, Linkwood Salem Volunteer Fire Company, said the fire company's base station went offline a year ago.

Pursuant to a query from Mr. Kimmey, Councilman Newcomb reiterated his belief that the two committees should meet and discuss items relating to the radios. He noted that he asked that the issues be brought before the Council at this meeting, in lieu of the next meeting, in order to ensure the project's completion in a timely fashion particularly since winter is approaching. Mr. Kimmey recognized that there should have been a one on one replacement, however, since they were provided a choice by the prior administration, they chose a portable radio. Councilman Newcomb recognized that changes relating to the radio system have been made over the years, noting there was a time when the base stations were necessary in order to determine if sirens were operating efficiently.

The motion to honor the agreement made by the prior administration failed with Councilman Newcomb, Councilman Nichols and Councilwoman Nagel opposing. Councilman Newcomb made a motion for a meeting to be held between the radio committee and Fire Chief's Committee regarding the radio issues and that a recommendation be provided to the Council for its consideration at its November 19, 2019 meeting which was seconded by Councilman Pfeffer for discussion. Based on a statement made by Mr. Kimmey, Councilman Nichols noted that administrations change in government and due to the turnover decisions may be changed. The motion passed with Councilmen Travers and Pfeffer opposing.

Mr. Adkins said: 1) the second item before Council is the deletion of any radios that were to be assigned to Station 36-Lloyds which has not been a functioning fire station for quite some time; 2) the prior administration allotted radios and a base station for that station; and, 3) Rescue Fire Company has requested that they receive radios slated for this station. Councilman Pfeffer questioned the reason Lloyds was included since it has not been a functioning volunteer fire company for a long period of time. Mr. Pritchett said Rescue Fire Company provided a loan of three of their radios to Lloyds which were returned when the company disbanded. He advised that they want a one on one swap. Based on a motion by Councilman Pfeffer, the Council agreed that this and the other two items submitted by staff relating to radios be discussed by the Radio and Chief's Committees. Mr. Pritchett reiterated earlier comments about the information Ms. Rahilly provided the Chief's Committee at last night's meeting. He noted that other individuals and not Ms. Rahilly advised them items regarding the radios were on the Council's agenda.

EXTENSION-WETLANDS MITIGATION CREDITS PURCHASE AGREEMENT- OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL PROGRAM-AIRPORT

The Council approved the request of Meighan "Chis" Chisholm, Airport Director, to enter in an Addendum to extend the Wetlands Mitigation Credits Agreement of Sale with Maple Dam Conservation, LLC due to the timing of the Obstruction Removal Program Phase 1 Design and

its permits process. The Council acknowledged that coordination with the Maryland Department of Environment and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requires that this agreement be extended.

LEASE-SOUTH HANGAR-AIRPORT

The Council approved the request of Mr. Chisholm to enter into a lease with Charles and Cheryl Midyett to lease Space "D" in the South Hangar commencing September 1, 2019 and terminating on October 31, 2020 at \$200 per month. The Council acknowledged that the Midyetts are on the waiting list for a T-Hangar when it becomes available.

MARYLAND AVIATION ADMINISTRATION-SPECIAL GRANT AGREEMENT-RUNWAY REPAIR AND RE-MARKING-AIRPORT

The Council approved the request of Mr. Chisholm to accept a Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) Special Grant Award for funding for the runway pavement crack sealing, sealcoating and remarking project. The Council acknowledged that the total cost of this project is \$182,639 with the MAA funding 75% or \$136,979 and the County funding 25% (\$45,660 from FY18 approved Capital budget line item Terminal HVAC).

LITTER FENCE RECOMMENDATION-LANDFILL-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council accepted the proposal of Metta Technologies, the company that provided the lowest quote, to supply the Landfill Division with ten sections of litter fence at the cost of \$50,808 for which funds of \$60,000 are included in the FY20 Capital Budget for this purpose.

EQUIPMENT REPAIR FUNDING REQUEST-PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Adkins advised Council that he was made aware by Public Works Department staff of unpaid invoices from 2018 for equipment repairs. He said he has verified that these two invoices are true and not duplicates. He asked the Council for authorization to pay these invoices, one for \$15,691.49 and one for \$15,784.54 utilizing funds from the contractual services line item. Pursuant to inquiries from Councilman Newcomb, Mr. Adkins said: 1) there are no interest or penalties due; 2) the individuals who were responsible for these repairs are no longer employed by the County; and, 3) there are no funds remaining in the shop repair line item. The Council authorized the payment of these invoices using contractual line item funds.

LINE STRIPING PROPOSAL ACCEPTANCE REQUEST-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the recommendation of Mr. Adkins to accept the proposal of the Maryland Department of Transportation for line striping of paved roads in the County at \$.07 per foot for a total of \$65,800.00 utilizing funding from the Public Works Contractual Services line item.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS-PROPERTY MAINTENANCE-PLANNING AND ZONING

The Council approved the request of James Chester, Zoning Inspector, on behalf of Steve Ball, Planning and Zoning Director, to advertise a request for proposals for property maintenance under the program known as "Clean and Lien." Mr. Ball acknowledged that Mr. Chester is a new employee and he is pleased to have him on staff.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING-USE OF FACILITY-RECREATION AND PARKS

The Council approved the request of Frank Stout, Recreation and Parks Director, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the Recreation and Parks Department and the Bay Country Racquet Club to use this facility for Recreation and Parks programming subject to the fee schedule for facility rental and personnel to run programs being approved by Council. In response to a question from Councilman Newcomb, Mr. Stout said the Bay Country Racquet Club is a privately owned, for profit corporation. He expressed his understanding that all owners are amicable to entering into this agreement.

BID AWARD RECOMMENDATION-ROOF REPLACEMENT-RECREATION AND PARKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Stout to award the bid for a metal roofing project at 446 Willis Street and the J. Edward Walter Park properties to B.A.S. Construction, Inc. at the cost of \$18,649 using FY20 Capital Budget monies allocated for this purpose. The Council acknowledged that there will be a metal roof placed on the office building, maintenance building and press box building and TPO on the concession stand.

BID AWARD RECOMMENDATION-SECURITY SYSTEM UPGRADE-RECREATION AND PARKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Stout to award the bid for a security system upgrade project at 446 Willis Street and at the County pool to Safehouse, LLC, the lowest bidder, at the cost of \$7,176.96 utilizing FY20 Capital Budget funds allocated for this project.

COASTLINE POOL SERVICES CONTRACT RENEWAL-RECREATION AND PARKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Stout to renew the management services contract with Coastline Pool Services to manage pool operations and lifeguard responsibilities at the County pool for a two year period with an additional charge for the 2021 season to reflect the rise in Maryland's minimum wage. The Council acknowledged that the contract provides an option for a full 87 day season as well as the closing on Sunday August 30th and re-opening of the pool for the Labor Day weekend, depending on the school calendar.

FY20 PRETRIAL SERVICES PROGRAM GRANT AWARD-LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Council approved the request of Nancy Shockley, Local Management Board Director, to accept a FY20 Pretrial Services Program Grant award of \$26,000 to continue funding a part time pre-trial case management position through Quality Staffing Services for 20 hours per week.

REQUEST TO USE FY19 CAPITAL FUNDS-ROOF REPAIR-DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The Council approved the request of Joseph Hughes, Director, Department of Corrections, to use FY19 Capital funds and sole source with Arocon to apply a silicon coating to the metal roof above the addition of the Public Safety Complex which includes the 911 Center, Information Technology Office and Sheriff's storage area at the cost of \$30,000.

REQUEST TO EXTEND TERMINATION AGREEMENT-TOWER LEASE-T-MOBILE

The Council approved the written request of Kevin Fremming, Site Acquisition Specialist, Network Building and Consulting, on behalf of T-Mobile Northeast, LLC (T-Mobile) to extend the termination of the existing Tower Lease Agreement at the Health Department until December 31, 2019 for the purpose of facilitating T-Mobile's efforts to vacate the site.

PLANS TO REMODEL OFFICE-COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

The Council approved the plans of the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Office to renovate the office space it utilizes in the County Office Building at no cost to the County.

NUISANCE CONTROL ORDINANCE VIOLATION

Mr. Adkins said pursuant to Chapter 116, Nuisance Control, of the County Code, several Notices of Condemnation were sent to a property owner to advise that individual to demolish, remove or make safe a single story house with an attached garage on a property in Hooper's Island. He explained that Mr. Merryweather has confirmed, pursuant to the Ordinance, that the structure is "unfit" and has advised that the Council can chose to: 1) abate or correct the nuisance by demolishing the unfit structure, for which the property owner will be liable for the cost, and if not paid, can be collected in same manner as real estate taxes; or, 2) enforce criminal penalties spelled out in Section 116-7 of the County Code through District Court. Mr. Merryweather cited the need to ensure that funds are available for demolition as well as criminal penalties whichever the Council chooses to pursue. He noted that there is a possibility that the County may not receive repayment through the tax lien process based on his prior experiences. The Council agreed to the demolition of the structure after a new Property Maintenance vendor is selected. Pursuant to Mr. Merryweather, the Council also agreed to send the property owner a certified letter first with the estimated demolition cost.

PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT APPEALS BOARD NOMINATIONS

Mr. Adkins explained that the Council is required to submit three (3) nominations for each vacancy on the Property Tax Assessment Appeals Board. He said currently there is a member and an alternate vacancy, noting the Council has a list in front of them of persons interested in serving on this Board.

Councilman Travers made a motion to submit the names of all the interested persons to the Governor's Office which was seconded by Councilman Pfeffer. Councilwoman Nagel expressed her belief that individuals who serve on this Board should be property owners and queried whether State law addresses this matter. She questioned whether individuals are allowed to serve on the Board if they have a criminal background. Councilman Nichols spoke in favor of checking the backgrounds of all potential members. He cited his concern about an individual representing the Council with a criminal background. Councilman Pfeffer queried as to the criteria that should be used to determine if the background requires an individual's exclusion from the Board. Ms. Lane confirmed for Councilman Pfeffer that she verified the biographical statement she has, which each nominee must complete, is current. Councilman Travers noted that this is the second time these nominations were discussed. He expressed uncertainty about conducting a criminal background check based on his belief it is not required by the State which is responsible for Board appointments. The motion to submit all names as potential nominees failed with Councilman Newcomb, Councilman Nichols and Councilwoman Nagel opposing. The Council agreed to submit the names of the bottom three individuals on both of the lists they received with Councilmen Pfeffer and Travers opposing.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST-ACQUISITION OF COUNTY PROPERTY

Mr. Adkins said: 1) Raymond H. Simmons, Jr., Attorney, has submitted a letter of interest on behalf of his client, Shawn Bennett, to purchase a 1 acre parcel located on N/S Maryland Route 343 which is a County owned property; 2) this property was transferred to the County from the Board of Education so the procedure outlined in COMAR must be followed unless information is obtained to the contrary based on recent State legislative action. The Council agreed to proceed with the potential transfer of the property to Mr. Simmons' client contingent upon approval by the appropriate entities pursuant to COMAR and subject to the legislative and public hearing process.

Donna Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist, provided an update on two of the properties the Board of Education transferred to the County. She stated that after multiple conversations and communications, they are finally on an Interagency Commission for School Construction (IAC) November 14, 2019 agenda for approval. She said she has been advised that the process has changed whereby Maryland Board of Public Works approval is no longer necessary and she will obtain written confirmation to this effect after the IAC meeting.

FY19-20 COUNTY COUNCIL THIRD/FOURTH QUARTER MEETING SCHEDULE

The Council agreed to adopt the FY19-20 County Council Third/Fourth Quarter Meeting Schedule.

FY21 BUDGET ADOPTION SCHEDULE

The Council agreed to adopt the FY21 Budget Adoption Schedule.

POLL CONFIRMATIONS

The Council confirmed its decisions, in the interim between meetings, by means of a poll, to agree to:

- lifting the burn ban effective October 22, 2019, by a 5 to 0 vote; and,
- revising its request for introduction of legislation for amendments to Section 19-903 of the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland entitled "Class C Beer, Wine, and Liquor License" to allow non-profit organizations who lease Governors Hall at Sailwinds Park to obtain a Class C beer, wine and liquor license since Sailwinds of Cambridge Inc. has been forfeited.

Ms. Lane said she is still working with the bill reviewer on the potential legislative amendment to Section 19-903 to ensure that if the name of the Hall is changed the legislation will still be applicable.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Councilman Nichols confirmed for Donna Hooper, resident, that background checks are conducted on employees before they begin employment with the County. Pursuant to inquiries from Ms. Hooper, Councilmen Travers and Pfeffer advised that they are members of the volunteer fire companies which discussed the radio issues. They also confirmed they will vote when the matter comes before the Council.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Newcomb expressed his understanding that comments are included in some type of State Liquor Association newsletter about concerns that the Dorchester County Board of License Commissioners (BOL) is restricting liquor licenses. In response to his inquiry, Councilmen Travers and Pfeffer said they are unaware of such a newsletter. Councilman Newcomb asked for a copy of the newsletter.

Councilman Travers noted that many years ago when the BOL had a different composition there were discussions about limiting the number of licenses but that never came to fruition. He said a BOL public hearing will be held, which is being advertised, to obtain comments from various commercial establishments, such as salons, boutiques and retailers about holding events at which alcoholic beverages are offered to patrons. He advised that pursuant to the current law it is

illegal for them to do so without a license issued by the BOL. He said Roger Short, Liquor Inspector, has spoken to the State's Attorney and legislation may be drafted for a temporary license for small events at which alcoholic beverages are being offered but not sold. Based on an inquiry from Councilwoman Nagel, Councilman Travers said there will be a limit placed on the number of times such an event can occur. He explained that the BOL members will discuss this matter further after the public hearing.

Councilman Nichols announced that the next meeting is on November 19, 2019 at 6 p.m.


With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

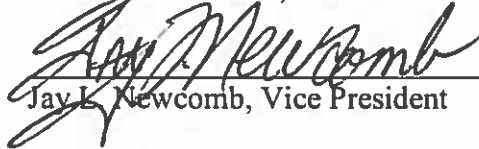


Keith Adkins
County Manager

THE COUNTY COUNCIL
OF DORCHESTER COUNTY:



William V. Nichols, President



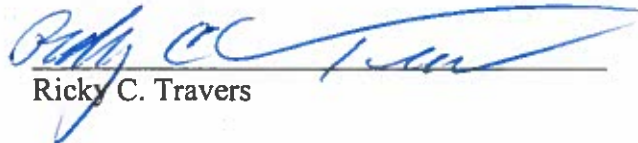
Jay L. Newcomb, Vice President



Libby Handley Nagel



George L. Pfeffer, Jr.



Ricky C. Travers

Approved the 19th day of November, 2019.