

**County Council of Dorchester County**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**January 7, 2020**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on January 7, 2020 with the following members present: Jay L. Newcomb, President; Libby Handley Nagel, Vice President; William V. Nichols; 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. Voting in favor of the Closed Session were all of the present Council Members.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Travers led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

**CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Council approved the minutes of December 17, 2019.

**APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS**

The Council approved the vouchers as presented with abstaining for payments made to Simmons Center Market.

**FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

Councilman Newcomb reported total cash and investments as \$11,524,235.34.

**CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY**

The Council convened into Regular Session on January 7, 2020 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; pursuant to §3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; and pursuant to §3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. Present were: Jay L. Newcomb, President; Libby Handley Nagel, Vice President; William V. Nichols; 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. Voting in favor of the Closed Session were all of the present Council Members. Voting in favor of the Closed Session were all of the present Council Members.

The Council convened in a Closed Session on January 7, 2020 at 5:01 p.m. to discuss the following items: 1) confirmed the promotion of three Deputies to Deputy First Class since they completed the required probationary period by a 5 to 0 vote; 2) discussed market salary increases in various Departments; 3) discussed the filling of a vacant position in the Public Works Department; 4) discussed the reassignment of an employee due to health issues; 5) discussed the potential acquisition of a property; and 6) received legal advice from the County attorney.

Present were: Jay L. Newcomb, President; Libby Handley Nagel, Vice President; William V. Nichols; 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. Voting in favor of the Closed Session were all of the present Council Members. 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-HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH**

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring January 2020 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

## **MANAGERS COMMENTS**

### **STORM WATER MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT-HILLS ELECTRIC**

The Council approved the request of Dave Edwards, Public Works Director, to execute a Storm Water Management Agreement with HEMS Properties, LLC (Hill's Electric) for 3901 Vincent Road, Linkwood.

### **SOUTH HANGAR LEASE-AIRPORT**

Based on the request of Meighan "Chis" Chisholm, Airport Director, the Council agreed to enter into month-to-month lease between the County and John Gooden for hangar space "A" in the South Hangar at the Cambridge-Dorchester Regional Airport for \$200 per month commencing January 1, 2020 and terminating upon 30 days' notice by either the County or tenant.

### **TRAVEL REQUEST-TOURISM**

The Council approved the request of Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, for Julie Gilberto-Brady, Manager, Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area, to attend the annual Small Museum Association Conference from February 16 to February 18, 2020 in College Park, Maryland utilizing FY20 Heritage Area Management grant funds.

#### **AWARD-VIRTUAL AUGMENTED REALITY-HARRIET TUBMAN BYWAY-TOURISM**

The Council approved the request of Ms. Fenstermaker to award the bid for the implementation of the Augmented and Virtual Reality tour along the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway to TimeLooper at the cost of \$59,200 with an annual fee of \$3,400.

#### **GREEN POINT ROAD EASEMENT-TOWN OF SECRETARY-PUBLIC WORKS**

Dave Edwards, Public Works Director, presented a request on behalf of the Town of Secretary, for the County Council to provide the municipality a perpetual, non-exclusive easement over and under the portion of the 50' right of way of the County known as Green Point Road for the purposes of maintaining, repairing and replacement a wastewater discharge pipe. The Council agreed to enter into this agreement and acknowledged that: 1) the Town is in the process of designing an update of its Wastewater Treatment Plan and needs to obtain this easement in order to secure funds from the United States Department of Agriculture and the Maryland Department of Environment to contract an Enhanced Nutrient Removal upgrade to the plant; 2) the Town will be responsible for any future maintenance of the discharge pipe within the County's right-of-way; and, 3) the County's maintenance responsibility for the roadway and ditches will not be affected by this easement.

#### **TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

The Council approved the recommendation of the Traffic Safety Committee, pursuant to the request of a resident, to place Disabled Child signs near 6925 Hynson Road in both directions due to safety concerns.

#### **QUEEN ANNE AVENUE SHORELINE RESTORATION REQUEST-PUBLIC WORKS**

The Council approved the request Mr. Edwards to perform rip rap work at the intersection of Queen Anne Avenue and Bay Street to safeguard the road from further damage. The Council acknowledged that the cost of this work is estimated at \$6,943.80 for which funding from the Public Works Department's roadways line item will be utilized.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING-REQUEST TO OPEN ROADS-THE PRESERVE AT WRIGHTS WHARF SUBDIVISION**

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said a public hearing is being held on the acceptance of the following roads in The Preserve at Wright's Wharf Subdivision into the County Road system: Jayar Way, Karli Court and Ben's Lane. Mr. Merryweather noted that no one signed up to speak. In response to his inquiry, Mr. Edwards advised that the road meets County standards. Mr. Merryweather asked if anyone present wished to speak. There was no response. The Council agreed to accept the roads into the County's Road System.

## **LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

The Council convened into Legislative Session.

### **INTRODUCTION**

AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND DECLARING THAT A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE ON THE WEST SIDE OF MACES LANE, CONTAINING 3.964 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, IN THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, CAMBRIDGE ELECTION DISTRICT OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND KNOWN AS 1103 MACES LANE, CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND 21613 AND BEING THE OLD MACES LANE SCHOOL PROPERTY, IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE BY THE COUNTY AND PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF THE PROPERTY TO MACE'S LANE COMMUNITY CENTER, INC., A MARYLAND NON-PROFIT CORPORATION AND AN IRS SECTION 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION, AT AND FOR THE PURCHASE PRICE OF ZERO DOLLARS AND WITHOUT A REVERTER CLAUSE.

Mr. Merryweather said before the Council for introduction is a bill to: 1) declare that a parcel of land situate on the west side of Mace's Lane containing 3.964 acres of land, more or less, in the City of Cambridge Election District, known as 1103 Maces Lane, is no longer needed for public use by the County; and, 2) providing for the sale of the property to Maces Lane Community Center, Inc., a certified Maryland nonprofit corporation and an IRS 501c3 corporation, for no compensation, which does not include a reverter clause requirement.

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

### **REGULAR SESSION**

The Council convened into Regular Session.

### **MANAGERS COMMENTS**

#### **REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TERMINATION OF TOWER LICENSE AGREEMENT**

Based on 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, the Council agreed to an extension until March 30, 2020 to allow for lease review/execution and removal of equipment from County tower.

#### **MARYLAND CENSUS GRANT AWARD-DORCHESTER COUNTY CENSUS COMPLETE COMMITTEE-LMB**

The Council approved the request of Nancy Shockley, Local Management Board Director, to accept a Maryland Census Grant Award Agreement from the Maryland Historical Trust in the

amount of \$20,000 for conducting outreach efforts through the Dorchester County Census Committee to focus on promoting and facilitating responses to the 2020 census.

#### CORRESPONDENCE-PLACEMENT OF ITEMS-TIME CAPSULE

The Council agreed to place a letter in the time capsule. Councilman Newcomb noted that some residents expressed concern about not being aware that they could submit items for the time capsule. In response to his queries, Ms. Fenstermaker said: 1) there have been no items added to the time capsule since December 19, 2019; 2) an advertisement seeking items was not placed; and, 3) the Heart of Chesapeake Heritage Area Committee selected items with the goal of providing a broad representation of the County. Ms. Fenstermaker confirmed that an item representing Handsell was placed in the capsule in response to Councilwoman Nagel's inquiry.

#### LETTER IN OPPOSITION-SENATE BILL 67-PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT APPLICATIONS FOR INSPECTIONS, RESPONSES & TIME LIMITS

Based on the recommendation of Mr. Merryweather, the Council agreed to send a letter in opposition to Senate Bill 67 entitled "Public Information Act Applications for Inspections, Responses & Time Limits" which will alter time periods to: 1) retrieve and produce a records from 30 days to 7 days which includes weekends and holidays; 2) determine if an application is to be denied from 10 working days to 5 working days; and, 3) reducing the time limit for an extension, with the consent of the applicant, from not more than 30 days to 7 days which includes weekends and holidays.

#### LETTER OF SUPPORT-SENATE BILL 47-COMMISSION TO ADVANCE NEXT GEN 911 ACROSS MARYLAND-EXTENSION & ALTERATION

Mr. Adkins said before the Council is the recommendation of Dozia Rahilly, Emergency Services Director, and staff to send a letter of support for Senate Bill 47 entitled "Commission to Advance Next Gen 911 Across Maryland-Extension & Alteration" to alter reporting requirements and the effective date of the Commission. The Council agreed to send letter of support.

Councilman Newcomb explained that Donna F. Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist, is reviewing legislation filed during the 2020 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session, sending pertinent items to Department Heads for review and if they recommend either supporting or opposing a bill, placing the item before Council for its consideration.

#### BOARD APPOINTMENTS - SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD APPOINTMENT

The Council agreed to reappoint: 1) Glenn Ruark, Building Contractor, to the Building Code Appeals Board; and, 2) Sheriff James Phillips to the Recreation and Parks Board. Councilman Newcomb, referring to the list of Board and Committee vacancies Council received, noted that there are several vacancies on the Senior Services Board that need to be filled. Based on the request of Lisa Hartman, Director, Department of Social Services, Dorchester County

Office, the Council approved the appointment of Daryl Butcher on the Dorchester County Social Services Board for a three year term to replace Emily Stone.

#### **DOG CONTROL FACILITY UPDATE**

Councilwoman Nagel provided an update on the Dog Control Building Committee. She said while the County owns multiple properties many of them cannot be utilized for a dog control facility due to stipulations including some purchased with grant funds. She advised that they are considering two properties, one of which is located on the Airport property. She explained that Meighan "Chis" Chisholm, Airport Director, has submitted paperwork to ascertain whether the property can be utilized for a dog control facility. She noted that due to the 45 day timeline set by the Federal Aviation Administration, the Committee will not be able to provide a recommendation within the 30 day period requested by Council.

#### **POLL CONFIRMATION**

The Council confirmed its decision in the interim between meetings, by means of a poll, to close County Offices on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2019, by a 4 to 1 (no answer) vote.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no public comment.

#### **COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Pfeffer wished everyone a Safe and Happy New Year. Based on a motion made by Councilman Pfeffer, the Council agreed to purchase a table for the Dorchester Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting and Banquet.

Councilman Nichols thanked those who gave their prayers, sent cards or expressed concern about the loss of his stepfather.

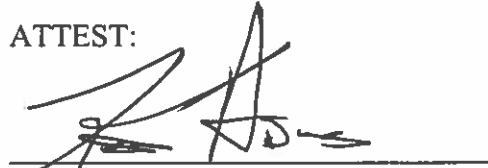
Councilman Newcomb said representatives of the seafood industry have asked Council to consider sending a letter supporting the release of additional H-2B seasonal worker licenses. He explained that this year a randomization process (the lottery) was utilized to select applicants, noting that there were 5,677 applications and 99,632 requests submitted for H-2B visas for the second half of 2020. He also noted that Congress passed a spending bill to release approximately 60,000 additional visas. The Council agreed to send the letter.

Councilman Newcomb read into the record correspondence he received from Rose Murphy, resident, about Emergency Medical Services transfers and citizens' concerns that included a petition and letters from the Mayors of the Towns of Vienna, Eldorado and Galestown, which is attached. Councilwoman Nagel referenced a recent incident during which there was a delay in response times. Mr. Adkins said he is meeting with Emergency Services Department staff and will bring this to their attention.

Councilman Newcomb announced that: 1) the next Council meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2020 at 6 p.m.; and, 2) a budget work session will be held on January 16, 2020 at 5 p.m.


With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:



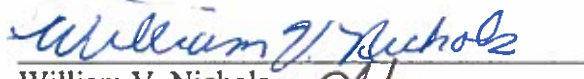
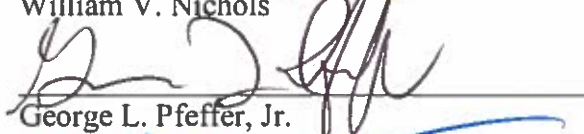
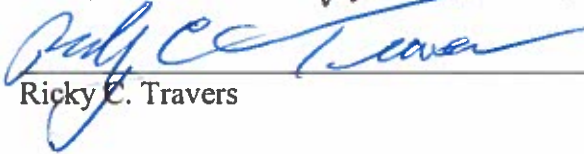
Keith Adkins  
County Manager

THE COUNTY COUNCIL  
OF DORCHESTER COUNTY:

  
Jay L. Newcomb, President

*absent*

Libby Handley Nagel, Vice President

  
William V. Nichols  
George L. Pfeffer, Jr.  
Ricky C. Travers

Approved the 21<sup>st</sup> day of January 2020.