

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2020**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on January 21, 2020 with the following members present: Jay L. Newcomb, 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.

REGULAR SESSION

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Nichols led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

The Council approved the following addition to the agenda: Request to advertise Receptionist/Secretary Position- Department of Corrections.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Council approved the minutes of January 7, 2020.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers with additions with Councilman Travers abstaining for payments made to Simmons Center Market.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Newcomb reported total cash and investments as \$7,767,960.31.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council convened into Regular Session on January 21, 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; 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; 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 Council convened in a Closed Session on January 21, 2020 at 5:01 p.m. to discuss the following items: 1) discussed career development for certain employees; 2) discussed filling a vacant Receptionist/Secretary position at the Department of Corrections; 3) confirmed a cost of living adjustment for certain grant funded employees per the State; 4) obtained legal advice from County Attorney on possible termination of an agreement; and, 5) discussed the potential acquisition of property.

Present were: Jay L. Newcomb, 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-MENTORING MONTH

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring January 2020 as Mentoring Month.

COMMENDATION-RETIREMENT-CHARLES BROOKS, JR.

The Council presented a Commendation to Charles Brooks, Jr. congratulating him on his retirement and commending him for 22 years of service to Dorchester County.

PUBLIC HEARING-FARM LEASE-BOBTOWN ROAD

The Council convened into a public hearing to consider the execution of a farm lease with Parisi's Plants to till 4 acres of land located on the north side of Bobtown Road for a term of three years with an annual rent of \$1,000. There were no public comments. The Council agreed to enter into the lease with Councilwoman Nagel voting by written proxy.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

TRAVEL REQUEST-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Dozia Rahilly, Emergency Services Director, for Steve Garvin, Emergency Management Planner, Troi Lynn Faith, Administrative Assistant and herself to attend the All Local Emergency Management Directors

(ALEMD) meeting at Rocky Gap Casino Resort from February 12 to February 13, 2020 utilizing available funds from the Calvert Cliffs lodging and meals line item within the Emergency Management budget. The Council acknowledged that: 1) Ms. Rahilly and Ms. Faith will spend one night at the resort and Mr. Garvin will stay two (February 11 to February 13th); and, 2) lodging is \$130.86 per night for two rooms. Councilwoman Nagel voted in favor via written proxy.

REQUEST TO INSTALL-AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT-DOOR OPENER-COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Dave Edwards, Public Works Director, to sole source with Salisbury Door and Hardware, Inc. for the installation of a door opener for the front door of the County Office Building at the cost of \$3,845 utilizing Capital Budget funds with Councilwoman Nagel voting via written proxy.

REPAIRS-PUBLIC WORKS OFFICE BUILDING

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards to select Dri Guys Restoration, LLC, the company that submitted the lowest quote, for repairs to areas of the Public Works Office Building including the conference/vault room at the cost of \$3,446.71 utilizing the FY20 Highway Division repairs budget. Councilwoman Nagel voted in favor by written proxy.

REQUEST TO REPAIR-RAGGED POINT MARINA BULKHEAD-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards to award the bid for the repair of the Ragged Point Marina Bulkhead, to Spedden Marine Construction, LLC, which provided the lowest quote, at the cost of \$7,075 with Councilwoman Nagel voting via written proxy. The Council acknowledged that: 1) funding from the FY20 Marine Facilities budget will be used for this purpose; and, 2) an application has been submitted for a Department of Natural Resources grant for \$5,000, which if approved, can assist with reimbursement of some of the costs incurred.

FY20 CAPITAL BUDGET EXPENDITURE REQUEST-ROADSIDE BUSHER- PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards to expend FY20 Capital Budget funds to purchase a roadside busher, from Atlantic Tractor, which provided the lowest quote at the cost of \$132,904.74 with Councilwoman Nagel voting by written proxy.

MARYLAND HERITAGE AREAS AUTHORITY GRANT EXTENSION-CANNERY PARK RAILS TO TRAILS PROJECT-TOURISM-FINANCE

The Council approved the request of Cindy Smith, Assistant Finance Director, on behalf of the Tourism Department, for a grant extension for a FY19 Maryland Heritage Areas Authority grant entitled "Cannery Park Rail to Trail Conversion" for \$50,000 with a

\$40,000 cash match and a \$10,000 in-kind match. Councilwoman Nagel voted by written proxy.

SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARATION REQUEST-SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Council agreed to declare a 2006 Dodge Vehicle, Vehicle Identification No. 2B3KA43H86H374456, as surplus property with Councilwoman Nagel voting via proxy.

BESTPITCH FERRY BRIDGE DISCUSSION

The Council agreed to seek a second opinion and/or prices on repairs to the Bestpitch Ferry Bridge. The Council acknowledged that Mr. Edwards will advertise for proposals.

CIRCUIT COURT HOUSE BUILDING-PAINTING

The Council agreed to obtain prices on painting the Circuit Court House.

DETERMINATION OF USE-OFFICE SPACE

Keith Adkins, County Manager, said: 1) both Emergency Services and Sheriff James Phillips have expressed an interest in using Kim Vickers' old office; 2) pursuant to Sheriff Phillips, Anna Sierra, prior Emergency Services Director, advised him they could use this office; 3) the Sheriff said in exchange for that use he provided parking spaces for Emergency Services vehicles, allowing them to stay plugged in for charging reasons; 4) the proposed use of this office is for recording interviews, which space will meet his obligations by law - to have a separate office for this purpose; 5) Sheriff Phillips has advised that due to poor audio quality as a result of the recording equipment, location of room and noise outside of the room the recordings cannot be used for court purposes; and, 6) Deputy First Class Michael Rickwood needs to be moved to an individual work space at which he will register court ordered sex offenders, can be locked and has a secure location for the storage of files. A motion to allow Sheriff Phillips to use the space failed due to the lack of a majority with Councilman Newcomb, Councilman Nichols and Councilwoman Nagel (by written proxy) opposing.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY POSITION- DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The Council agreed to advertise a vacant Receptionist/Secretary position in the Department of Corrections with Councilman Nichols opposing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Council approved the request of Beth Wilson, Director of Operations, Dorchester County Public Schools, for the Board of Education to attend an FY21 Budget Work Session. The Council agreed to consider such requests on a case by case basis.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

A motion to ask Department Heads to be present when their operating budgets are being considered died due to the lack of a majority. Councilmen Pfeffer and Councilman Travers voted in favor and Councilman Newcomb and Councilman Nichols opposed. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Newcomb, Mr. Adkins said he met with each of the Department Heads regarding budget.

Councilman Pfeffer said he wishes to reconsider the Sheriff's use of Kim Vickers' old office in the Public Safety Complex. He expressed his understanding that Emergency Services wants to use the space for a breakroom for the 911 Center while the Sheriff wishes to utilize it for an operational office. He made a motion to reconsider the use of the space by the Sheriff's Office. Councilman Newcomb expressed his belief that pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order, since the item was already voted on, it must be brought up at another meeting. Councilman Pfeffer said he wants to ensure that the Council is well informed about the potential use of the space by the Sheriff's Office since there was no discussion about the request earlier in the meeting. Councilman Newcomb noted that the space has consistently been used by the Emergency Services Department based on a query from Councilman Travers. The motion by Councilman Pfeffer to reconsider the request was withdrawn. The Council agreed to place the reconsideration of this request on the next agenda. Councilman Nichols opposed, citing concern about revisiting the same item when it has already been voted on.

Councilman Newcomb announced that: 1) the next Council meeting will be held on February 4, 2020 at 6 p.m.; and, 2) a budget work session will be held on February 13, 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



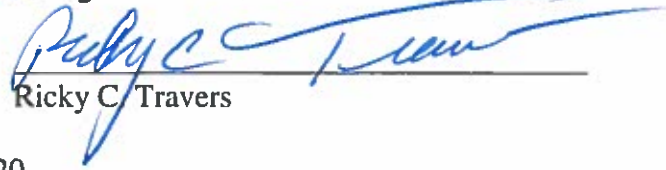
Libby Handley Nagel, Vice President



William V. Nichols



George L. Pfeffer, Jr.



Ricky C. Travers

Approved the 18th day of February, 2020.