

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2020

By conference call, open to the public, the County Council of Dorchester County convened in Open Session at 6:00 p.m. on the 28th day of April, 2020. A roll call of the members was conducted. Present on the conference call were: Jay L. Newcomb, President; Libby Handley Nagel, Vice President; William V. Nichols, George L. Pfeffer, Jr. and Ricky C. Travers. Also present via telephone 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 Pfeffer 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 DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Newcomb reported total cash and investments as \$2,959,048.39.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

INTRODUCTION

**AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING: 2020-2021 ANNUAL BUDGET AND
APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF DORCHESTER COUNTY**

The Council introduced the Bill No. 2020-2.

Councilman Newcomb announced the following:

It was a difficult budget process since there was uncertainty in revenue projections due to the impact of COVID-19. Therefore, the Council has taken a cautious, conservative approach, focusing new expenditures on core functions of public safety, education and health of its residents. The General Fund operational

budget is \$59.7 million, up \$3.6 million or 6% from FY2020. While most of general fund is unchanged, significant initiatives for FY2021 are: 1) new funding for School Resource Officers; 2) new funding for an ALS Unit based in Cambridge; 3) new funding for recruitment/retention in public safety; 4) Maintenance of effort for public schools. The Capital budget is \$18.6 million. Major projects include: 1) Replacement of Health Department, \$10 million; 2) Public Works Infrastructure, \$2.4 million; 3) Airport Infrastructure; \$1.2 million, and; 4) Public School projects, \$750,000. The budget bill will be uploaded to the County's website tomorrow and be available for pick up at the Council's Office. He said there will be two additional public hearings on the budget, both by teleconference; however, there will also be an opportunity for residents to provide their comments in Room 110 of the County Office Building, the Council's Meeting Room. He stressed that attendance in the Meeting Room will be limited due to the social distancing requirement.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned the Regular Session meeting and convened into an open Budget Work Session.

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 19th day of May, 2020.