

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2020

By conference call, open to the public, the County Council of Dorchester County convened in Open Session at 6:07 p.m. on the 2nd day of November 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 and in Room 110 were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney; Keith Adkins, County Manager, and Donna F. Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist. Councilman Newcomb and Councilman Nichols were also present in Room 110.

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 item was added: Resolution in Support of Maryland Department of Commerce Loan. The Council approved the amended agenda.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Newcomb reported total cash and investments as \$20,049,178.48.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

By conference call, the Council convened into Regular Session on November 2, 2020 at 4:30 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)(4) to consider a preliminary matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; 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)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; and, pursuant to §3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. Present on the conference call were: Jay L. Newcomb, President; Libby Handley Nagel, Vice President; William V. Nichols; and George L. Pfeffer, Jr. Also present via the conference call and in Room 110 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 the present Council Members. Councilman Newcomb and Councilman Nichols were also present in Room 110.

By conference call, the Council convened in a Closed Session on November, 2020 at 4:31 p.m. to conduct a personnel hearing and to discuss the following items pursuant to §3-305(b)(4); §3-305(b)(1); §3-305(b)(7); and §3-305(b)(3): 1) received an update on a potential business relocation to the County; 2) approved the request of an employee to remain on call as a Paramedic by a 5 to 0 vote; 3) approved the request of the Public Works Director to promote three employees to Motor Equipment Operator III positions by a 5 to 0 vote; 4) received legal advice from County Attorney regarding a potential pass through loan for an entity-agreed to discuss in open session; 5) obtained legal advice from County Attorney about a proposal regarding housing at the Dorchester County Detention Center; and, 6) continued discussion regarding the acquisition of a property. 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 the conference call and in Room 110 were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, Keith Adkins, County Manager; and Donna F. Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist. Councilman Newcomb and Councilman Nichols were also present in Room 110.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION-REAPPOINTMENT-SANITARY COMMISSION-DORCHESTER COUNTY SANITARY DISTRICT, INC.

The Council approved the request of the Dorchester County Sanitary Commission members to reappoint Leonard Greenhawk to the Commission.

TIPPING FEE WAIVER REQUEST-FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN EAST NEW MARKET

The Council approved the request of Gordon Heck, on behalf of the First Baptist Church in East New Market, for a landfill tipping fee waiver for the demolition of a house located on 27 Academy Street, East New Market. The Council acknowledged that: 1) the estimated amount of tonnage is 200 and the estimated cost is \$13,000; and, 2) Dave Edwards, Public Works Director, has no comments regarding this request. In response to a question from Mr. Merryweather, Keith Adkins, County Manager, confirmed that pursuant to the State Department of Assessments and Taxation the property is owned by the church.

COLLECTION BOX PLACEMENT REQUEST-TOY DRIVE-MICHAEL WHEATLEY

The Council approved the request of Michael Wheatley to place a Dorchester Santa Toy Drive box in the Dorchester County Office Building for the collection of toys for children which will be placed in the lobby the day after the Election and will be removed the middle of December 2020.

REQUEST TO SEEK FUNDING-EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES CARE BICYCLE TEAM-EMERGENCY SERVICES

Troi Lynn Faith, Administrative Associate, said before Council is the request of Dozia Rahilly, Emergency Services Director, for authorization to seek grant funding and donations for an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) bicycle team. Juanita Darby, Scheduling Coordinator, EMS said she was approached by several employees after the last triathlon about difficulty the drivers of units and gators had traversing down the street due to large crowds. She said by having a bicycle team, EMS care will be expedited for street events, triathlons, events and other events where extended response times occur with large crowds. The Council acknowledged that letters of support for a team have been received for two entities who hold events in Dorchester County. The Council approved Ms. Rahilly's request.

SALT UTILIZATION AGREEMENT-STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION- PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Dave Edwards, Public Works Director to enter into a Salt Utilization Agreement by and between the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration and Dorchester County, Maryland, to allow the Public Works Department to obtain salt if necessary during weather events at \$78.45 per ton.

REQUEST TO PROCEED WITH STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION- ASPLUNDH TREE AGREEMENT-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards to piggyback on the State Highway Administration's Tree removal contract with Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC for tree trimming, if assistance is necessary such as with storm damage and items out of the County's scope. Councilwoman Nagel said she received an email complimenting staff on trimming trees in the norther part of the County and thanked Mr. Edwards and County staff. In response to questions from Councilman Pfeffer and Councilman Travers, Mr. Edwards clarified that the unit cost and only required equipment will be utilized.

REQUEST TO PURCHASE LANDFILL STRAW BLOWER-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards to purchase a Finn B70T Straw Blower for the Landfill Division from Security Equipment Co, the vendor with the lowest quote, at the cost of \$31,344 for which \$50,000 is allocated in the FY21 Capital Budget for the Landfill for this equipment.

SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARATION REQUEST-SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Council approved the request of Sheriff James Phillips to declare 11 computers that are out of service and cannot be upgraded or fixed as surplus property.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING REQUEST-SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS-BOARD OF EDUCATION-SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Council agreed to enter into a revised Memorandum of Understanding, Implementation and Administration of Programs Involving Sheriff Deputies in Schools (MOU) between the County, the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office and the Board of Education of Dorchester County contingent upon changes being made to the document. Councilman Nichols opposed. The Council recognized that this MOU is required as part of the submission of a grant application to the Maryland Center of School Safety Grant Application for funding in the amount of \$91,100 for overtime costs for deputies to serve as School Resource Officers.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE GRANT AGREEMENT REQUEST-RESTAURANT RELIEF FUNDS

The Council agreed to accept a Department of Commerce Grant Agreement for \$233,143 to establish a Restaurant Relief Fund for Dorchester County businesses. The Council acknowledged that a Restaurant Relief Fund Grant Program will be developed under which the funds will be administered.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING REQUEST-LOCAL REENTRY PROGRAM-DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES-DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The Council approved the request of Joseph Hughes, Director, Department of Corrections, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services for a Local Re-Entry Program which includes a 30 day termination clause. The Council acknowledged that: 1) under this program inmates originally from Dorchester County who will return after release will be moved to the Detention Center for the last year of their sentence during which they will be provided assistance in obtaining a job, housing, etc.; 2) the County will be paid \$45 a day per inmate; and, 3) costs relating to major sickness/illness/injury will be covered by the State.

2021 MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS-MEMBER AND ALTERNATE

The Council agreed to nominate Councilman Pfeffer as the member and Councilman Nichols as alternate to represent the Dorchester County Council on the 2021 Maryland Association of Counties Legislative Committee.

OTHER

Councilman Newcomb announced that: 1) the Council proclaimed November 2020 as Native American Heritage Month in Dorchester County; 2) the Council proclaimed November 8 to November 14, 2020 as National Nurse Practitioner Week; and, 3) the next Council meeting will be held on November 17, 2020 at 6 p.m.


ADJOURNMENT

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 17th day of November, 2020.