

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2022

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in Open Session at 6:05 p.m. on the 19th day of April 2022. The meeting was also available to the public by conference call. A roll call of the members was conducted. Present on the conference call and in Room 110 were: Jay L. Newcomb, President; Libby Handley Nagel, Vice President; William V. Nichols; George L. Pfeffer, Jr.; and, Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 and via telephone were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney; and Donna F. Lane, Acting County Manager.

REGULAR SESSION

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Pfeffer 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: Emergency Rental Assistance Application Request-Local Management Board. 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 \$20,661,180.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council convened into Regular Session on April 19, 2022 at 5:09 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. Present in Room 110 were: Jay L. Newcomb, President; Libby Handley Nagel, Vice President; William V. Nichols; George L. Pfeffer, Jr.; and, Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 was Donna F. Lane, Acting County Manager. Voting in favor of the Closed Session were the present Council Members.

The Council convened into a Closed Session at 5:10 p.m. on April 19, 2022 to discuss the following items pursuant to §3-305(b)(1):

1. Confirmed the hiring by the Circuit Court Judge of an individual to fill a Paralegal/Judicial Assistant position by a 4 to 1 vote and an individual to fill an Administrative Assistant position by a 5 to 0 vote;
2. Discussed compensation relating to an existing employee in Acting Capacity;
3. Approved the request of the Director of the Department of Corrections to readjust the salary of an employee by a 4 to 1 vote;
4. Approved the request of the Tourism Director to hire an individual as a temporary worker at the Visitor Center by a 5 to 0 vote;
5. Agreed that Council Members will conduct interviews for the Emergency Medical Services Manager position by a 4 to 1 vote;

Present on in Room 110 were: Jay L. Newcomb, President; Libby Handley Nagel, Vice President; William V. Nichols; George L. Pfeffer, Jr.; and Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 was Donna F. Lane, Acting County Manager. E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney joined the meeting late in Room 110.

COMMENDATION- SENIOR CLASS PLAY PARTICIPANTS-CAMBRIDGE SOUTH DORCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL

The Council presented Commendations to the participants of the Cambridge South Dorchester High School Senior Play.

COMMENDATION-TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The Council presented a Commendation to Phil Albert for being named Teacher of the Year 2022-2023.

COMMENDATION-FIRST CLASS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The Council presented a Commendation to Megan Walters for being named First Class Teacher of the Year 2022-2023.

COMMENDATION-YEARS OF SERVICE-NICHOLAS KOVACH

The Council presented a Commendation to Nicholas Kovach for his 10 years of service with Dorchester County.

PROCLAMATION-CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS' WEEK

The Council proclaimed May 2 to May 6, 2022 as Correctional Officers' Week.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

INTRODUCTION

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING: 2022-2023 ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney said before Council for introduction is a bill to introduce the 2022-2023 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance. The Council agreed to proceed to publication of a public hearing.

REGULAR SESSION

The Council convened into Regular Session.

PRESENTATION-PRIORITIES FOR RESILIENCY AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS-ELLIOTT'S ISLAND

Matthew Parks presented goals and priorities for resiliency and infrastructure improvements on Elliott's Island (see attached). Dave Edwards, Public Works Director, said the Coast Guard advised that the light on the jetty is now the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) responsibility. He said he has been reaching out to this entity and has not received a response, noting that DNR staff is working remotely. Wylie Abbott, resident, asked Mr. Edwards to meet with the residents on the Island. Mr. Edwards said he will meet with them.

UPPER SHORE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD- INTRODUCTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Daniel McDermott, the prior Executive Director of the Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board introduced Dan Schneckenburger, the new Executive Director.

RADIO REQUEST-RESCUE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

A motion to approve the request of Brad Walters, First Assistant Chief, Rescue Volunteer Fire Company (Rescue), to purchase three mobile radios to replace the ones being used by Station 36 (Lloyds) which is no longer an active volunteer fire company and provide them to Rescue failed with Councilman Newcomb, Councilwoman Nagel and Councilman Nichols opposing.

REGULAR SESSION

MANAGERS COMMENTS

REQUEST TO RESERVE BULKHEAD-COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING-DORCHESTER SKIPJACK COMMITTEE, INC.

The Council approved the request Pat Johnson, President, Skipjack Committee, Inc. to reserve dockage at the County Office Building bulkhead for the Nathan of Dorchester and to use the electric beginning April 19th.

REQUEST TO ACCEPT STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT-CNV HOLDINGS LLC-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Dave Edwards, Public Works Director, to accept a Stormwater Management Agreement for CNV Holdings, LLC for a project located at 4810 Williamsburg Church Road #4 Hurlock, MD 21643. Councilwoman Nagel abstained.

GRANT EXTENSION REQUEST-HOOPERSVILLE BOAT RAMP-DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards to extend the current Maryland Department of Natural Resources Waterway Improvement Fund Grant for the Hoopersville Boat Ramp and Bulkhead construction project through December 31, 2023. The Council acknowledged that there is no change to the funding amount of this grant agreement which is \$90,000.

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS-PUBLIC WORKS SIGNAGE-COUNTY PROPERTY-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the following Traffic Safety Committee recommendations: 1) to not place a yield sign on Ragged Point Road as motorists approach the intersection of Cassons Neck Road as it would potentially make this intersection more dangerous; and, 2) the placement of two 25 mph speed limit signs on Holly Terrace, one at the intersection of Holly Terrace and Wisteria Drive and one at the intersection of Holly Terrace and Hambrooks Boulevard. The Council acknowledged that the other section of Holly Terrace is already signed with 25 mph signs.

SIGNAGE-COUNTY PROPERTY-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council agreed to the placement of no overnight/unauthorized parking signage at County facilities, and in particular at the County Office Building, Sail winds/Visitor Center and Ragged Point Marina. Councilman Travers opposed. The Council acknowledged that personnel at both the Cambridge Police Department and the Sheriff's Office are unable to assist with the removal of such vehicles if there is no signage.

SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARATION REQUEST-SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Council approved the request of Sheriff James Phillips, to declare a 2013 Chevy Tahoe, VIN No. 1GNLC2E02DR202453 and a 2014 Chevy Tahoe, VIN No. 1GNLC2E06ER163495 as surplus property.

REQUEST TO REPLACE SHED-COUNTY POOL-SHOREFINS

The Council approved the request of Stacie Pietras, President, Dorchester Shorefins (Shorefins), to replace the Shorefins shed with a larger one at the County Pool with no County commitment with Councilwoman Nagel abstaining. The Council acknowledged that Ms. Pietras will coordinate with Mr. Edwards and Ms. Lane and the goal is to install a larger shed so Shorefin's other shed can be removed.

CHANGE ORDER REQUEST-RECREATION CENTER RENOVATION-RECREATION AND PARKS

The Council approved the request of Scott Ditman, Project Manager, Hill-Kimmel Contracting, for a change order to the proposal submitted by this company for the renovation of the Recreation Facility in the amount of \$9,052.40 due to an increase in costs due to the unavailability of AC plywood.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASE REQUEST-DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The Council approved the request of Kenny Rodgers, Director, Department of Corrections, to sole source and purchase the Stun-Cuff By Myers Enterprises, Inc. at the cost of \$2,500 to assist with the security and the safety of inmates, officers and the facility provided the funds are in the budget.

REQUEST TO INSTALL COURSE-MARYLAND STATE POLICE-STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATIVE-DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The Council approved the request submitted by Mr. Rodgers, on behalf of the Maryland State Police, for authorization for the installation of a LIDAR/Laser Calibration Course at 829 Field Crest Road, Cambridge, Maryland, which will consist of two posts with reflective signs. The labor and supplies will be provided by the State Highway Administration at no cost to the Council.

POOL RENOVATION CONTRACT-RECREATION AND PARKS

Ms. Land said: 1) at its April 5, 2022 meeting, the Council awarded the bid for the Pool Renovation project to Coastline Pool Services, at the cost of \$299,397; 2) in the process of obtaining the contract for signature it was discovered that this amount, which was reflected on the bid tabulation prepared by staff, was inaccurate; 3) ; 4) Option 1 for the zero entry tile was checked on the document provided for signature; 5) comments from staff were that Option 2 was supposed to be checked; 6) before Council are two contracts, one with Option 1 and one with Option 2; 6) Josh Walls, Vice President, Maryland Operations, Coastline Pool Services, has advised that Option 1 for the zero entry tile is fine; 7) Option 2 tile is long lasting and will be rolled on; 8) also before Council is a proposal to patch a 5 foot by 5 foot area located in the deep end of the pool and the main drains; and, 9) Council can decide to patch this area and replace the main drains and agree to move forward with the renovation project in the Fall in order to ensure that the pool opens as scheduled. The Council agreed to accept: 1) the proposal to perform the patching and replace the main drains now; 2) the revised proposal for the pool renovation project in the amount of \$294,397 which includes option one which will be done in the Fall.

CORRESPONDENCE-BANK OF AMERICA CORPORATE OFFICE- LIMITED ACCESS

The Council agreed to send correspondence to the Bank of America Corporate Office to request that additional access be made for citizens to access their safe deposit boxes.

CORRESPONDENCE-DAYROOM-CITY OF CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

The Council agreed to send to the City of Cambridge Council correspondence requesting that: 1) the walls be painted; 2) some type of barrier be placed on them to avoid marks due to furniture or other items striking them; and, 3) for the replacement of the carpet with a linoleum floor that can be easily cleaned and sanitized.

ELDORADO BROOKVIEW VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY BUILDING CLARIFICATION REQUEST

Councilwoman Nagel advised that Robert Murphy, on behalf of the Eldorado Brookview Volunteer Fire Company, contacted her to ask that consideration be given to sending correspondence to the State Fire Marshall's office supporting its request for an exemption of the sprinkler system requirement for its new structure. She expressed her understanding that pursuant to State law a building that houses Emergency Medical Services equipment must be equipped with a sprinkler system. A discussion ensued. Pursuant to a statement made by Mr. Murphy, Councilman Newcomb noted that Planning and Zoning staff approved the permit for this structure based on the information the volunteer fire company provided which was that the building was for storage. Councilman Newcomb noted that correspondence from the Town of Eldorado clearly states that the structure had to meet County requirements, County setbacks and State requirements. Mr. Murphy clarified that he is seeking a letter of support for a State law amendment. The Council took no action.

MARYLAND POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2021 DISCUSSION

The Council discussed moving forward with establishing the two oversight bodies, pursuant to the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 which are a Police Accountability Board and an Administrative Charging Committee. Mr. Merryweather explained that the new Act provides that: 1) any complaints against law enforcement will be provided to the Police Accountability Board for investigation; 2) if the Board believes that a complaint has merit, it will be sent to the Administrative Charging Committee; 3) if the Committee determined that disciplinary action is requested it is provided to the Trial Board. Mr. Merryweather said the Council will need to adopt legislation to establish these Boards. He suggested asking Sheriff James Phillips which legislation he prefers from a County that has pursued such legislation. John Stichberry, Captain said the Sheriff has reviewed both the Talbot County and Caroline County legislation. He noted that the boards will consider civilian not internal complaints. Councilman Pfeffer said the boards are for the County level only, noting that the boards will oversee the Sheriff's Office, the City of Cambridge Police Department and the Hurlock Police Department. The Council agreed to proceed with establishing the Boards and for Ms. Lane to contact the Sheriff regarding this matter.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND DISCUSSION

Ms. Lane noted that before Council are requests for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund monies for its review and consideration as well as a spreadsheet with items for which these funds have been approved or identified as potential projects. Councilman Pfeffer referenced his prior

recommendation and submission of a plan to provide premium pay for employees who were not compensated during COVID restrictions which he hopes the Council will take into consideration.

Councilman Travers left the meeting.

POLL CONFIRMATIONS

The Council confirmed its following decisions by a three to two vote (no response) via poll in the interim between meetings:

- the following Emergency Rental Assistance Applications

Altair Apartments	\$1,659.00
Cambridge Club Apartments	\$4,950.00
Cambridge Commons	\$2,114.00
Cherril Duncan	\$3,150.00
Christopher Adams	\$4,800.00
Ed James	\$6,100.00
JKL Holdings	\$5,225.00
Rob Lowe	\$7,500.00
Marion Wheatley	\$4,410.00
Martin Mullaney	\$12,780.00
Safelock Properties	\$4,719.00
Severn Management	\$14,164.00
Woods Crossing Apartments	\$4,110.00
Woods Road Meadows	\$6,515.00

- to apply for a State Aid for Protection Grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention for funds for the Sheriff's Office.

REQUEST TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION-REPAVE WOODS ROAD-RURAL MARYLAND COUNCIL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council approved the request of Susan Banks, Economic Development Director, to submit a grant application to the Rural Maryland Council for funds from the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund to repave Woods Road. The Council acknowledged that: 1) these grant funds, if received, will assist with a match to a prior grant and overall costs; and, 2) there is a 75% match for these funds however you can use federal funds to match it, such as ARPA funds.

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION APPROVAL REQUEST-LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Council approved the request of Nancy Shockley, Local Management Board Director, to approve the following Emergency Rental Assistance Applications:

Altair Apartments	\$1,510.00
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Cambridge Club Apartments	\$4,130.00
Cambridge Commons	\$4,707.00
Choudhry Akhtar	\$9,350.00
Foxtail Crossing	\$3,068.00
John James	\$5,625.00
Mac Farms	\$2,600.00
Thomas Woolford	\$4,350.00
William Collier	\$5,615.00
Zachary Morris	\$6,000.00

OTHER

In response to a question from Councilman Newcomb, Beth Wilson, Director of Operations, Dorchester County Board of Education, explained that several schools are holding summer school during the hours Dorchester County Elections is seeking polling places. Ms. Wilson noted that the Maces Lane School is available. She said she will talk to the Board of Education regarding potential schools sites that may be able to be used as polling places.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:



Donna F. Lane, Acting 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 3rd day of May, 2022.