

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2022

By conference call, open to the public, the County Council of Dorchester County convened in Open Session at 6:02 p.m. on the 10th day of May, 2022. A roll call of the members was conducted. Present in Room 110 of the County Office Building and via conference call were: Jay L. Newcomb, President; William V. Nichols, George L. Pfeffer, Jr. and Ricky C. Travers. Via telephone was Libby Handley Nagel, Vice President. Also present via telephone and in Room 110 were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, and Donna F. Lane, Acting County Manager.

REGULAR SESSION

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Travers led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Newcomb reported total cash and investments as \$16,831,938.69.

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The Council convened into a public hearing. E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said this is the second public hearing on the proposed 2022-2023 budget. Mr. Merryweather noted that individuals signed up to speak on the proposed budget.

Clifford P. Coppersmith, Ph.D., President, Chesapeake College, thanked the Council for its support. He invited each Council Member to visit the College for an update on its activities. He said there is a demand for employment based training and that multiple high school students in Dorchester County are taking College classes.

Councilman Pfeffer thanked Dr. Coppersmith for meeting with him and Councilman Newcomb regarding the College. In response to a query from Councilman Pfeffer, Mr. Coppersmith said in coordination with the State the Queen Anne Technical Building, which was built in the 1970s and renovated in 2014, was evaluated. He advised that due to the outdated HVAC and electrical system, including code issues, he believes the State may recommend constructing a new building. He explained that they are interested in housing trade programs in one building, which include agriculture, welding and marine. He provide a list of those programs to the Council. He

advised in anticipation that the State may recommend constructing a new facility they are currently developing plans to do so in a new location that will be easily accessible for supplies and equipment. Dr. Coppersmith said they viewed a similar building at Wor-wic College building project and believe it is likely that the State will recommend a similar facility for Chesapeake College. He said the plans are due to the State in December 2022. He introduced Karen Smith, CFO/Vice President, Administrative Services, who is working on this project. He said consideration is being given to include in this building the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and the Small Business Center. He stated that he will keep the support counties updated on this proposed project.

Councilman Nichols expressed his appreciation for President Coppersmith and College representatives talking with him and Councilman Pfeffer regarding the College and its budget which was very educational.

In response to a question posed by Councilman Travers, Mr. Coppersmith said those paying are being provided Commercial Drivers' License (CDL) training while others who are taking the training through WIB will do so at a later date, which has a long list waiting list to November 2022. He stated that they have added trucks and simulators to use for this training. Pursuant to additional queries from Councilman Travers, Mr. Coppersmith said: 1) 160 individuals a year graduate from this program; 2) it is the most popular workforce program; 3) it takes four months to obtain an "over the road" license; and, 4) he will provide the Council with more specific information.

Mike Detmer, resident, referenced the \$2 million allocation in the proposed budget for South and North Emergency Medical Services stations. He cited his belief that public should be involved in the process and be provided access to information regarding high call areas in the County and potential station locations. He encouraged the Council to ask County staff to prepare a map of the areas that are served and underserved with broadband access. He cited his understanding that the number of Public Works employees is lower than in prior years, which may impact the Department's ability to continue to maintain the roads and ditches in the County.

Councilman Newcomb asked if anyone in the audience or via telephone wish to speak. Pursuant to a question posed by Dorothy Drazhal, resident, Michael Spears, Finance Director said money unspent on vacancy positions ends up in the bottom line of fiscal year operations and if excess revenues or expenditures become available the monies become available in the Fund Balance to use in a future year.

OTHER

The Council agreed to send a Letter of Congratulations to Jeremiah Copeland for participating in American Idol and being in the top seven.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned the meeting.

ATTEST:



Donna F. Lane
Acting County Manager

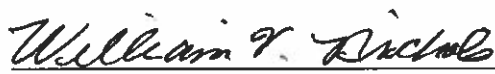
THE COUNTY COUNCIL
OF DORCHESTER COUNTY:



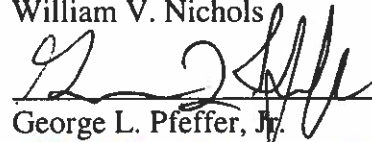
Jay L. Newcomb, President



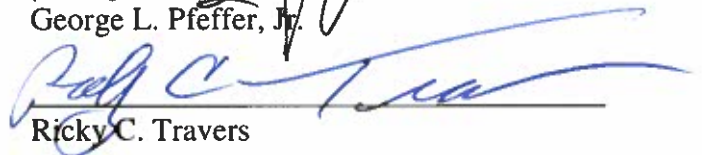
Libby Handley Nagel, Vice President



William V. Nichols



George L. Pfeffer, Jr.



Ricky C. Travers

Approved the 7th day of June, 2022.