

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2022

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in Open Session at 6:03 p.m. on the 17th day of May 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 Travers 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: Request For Assistance-Athletic Center-Blackwater Athletics. The Council approved the amended agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Council approved the minutes of April 5, 2022 and May 3, 2022.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

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

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Newcomb reported total cash and investments as \$16,928,910.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council convened into Regular Session on May 17, 2022 at 5:14 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 in a Closed Session on May 17, 2022 at 5:15 p.m. to discuss the following items:

1. Approved the request of the Tourism Director to hire two individuals as temporary workers at the Visitor Center by a 4 to 0 vote;
2. Denied a specific employee's request for a retroactive retirement contribution by a 5 to 0 vote;
3. Agreed to provide additional pay to a specific employee in Emergency Services for a certain period of time by a 3 to 2 vote;
4. Agreed to provide a salary adjustment for a specific employee at the Airport by a 3 to 2 vote.

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. E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney joined the meeting late in Room 110.

PROCLAMATION-U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY-SAFE BOATING WEEK

The Council proclaimed May 21 to May 27 Safe Boating Week.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

PUBLIC HEARING

BILL NO. 2022-4 AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING: 2022-2023 ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney said a legislative public hearing is being held on an ordinance concerning the 2022-2023 Annual Budget Appropriations.

Mike Detmer, resident, stressed the importance of the placement of new County Emergency Medical Services stations in North and South Dorchester to meet residents' needs. In response to inquiries of Mr. Merryweather and Councilman Newcomb as to whether there were other individuals in the office or via telephone that wish to speak, there was no response. The public hearing was concluded.

The roll call on Bill No. 2022-4 was: Pfeffer-aye; Travers-aye; Nichols-aye; Nagel-aye and Newcomb-aye.

Councilman Newcomb and Ms. Lane thanked Michael Spears, Finance Director, and Martha Sparks, for their hard work during the budget process.

INTRODUCTION

AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND ACTING PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF TITLE 6, ELECTRICIANS, BUSINESS OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, REPEALING AND REENACTING SECTION 82-8, RECORDS AND REPORTS OF BOARD, AND SECTION 82-12, APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION, AND SECTION 82-13, COUNTY RESIDENTS PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN ESTABLISHED ELECTRICAL BUSINESS, AND SECTION 82-14, QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR REGISTRATION APPLICANTS, AND SECTION 82-16, EXAMINATIONS, AND SECTION 82-17, FEES AND BOND, AND SECTION 82-18, REVOCATIONS OR SUSPENSIONS OF REGISTRATION; HEARING, AND SECTION 82-19, RECIPROCITY OF CHAPTER 82, ELECTRICAL STANDARDS OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE PROVIDING FOR APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION FOR MASTER ELECTRICIANS, JOURNEYPerson ELECTRICIANS, OR APPRENTICE ELECTRICIANS, AND PROVIDING THAT AN ELECTRICIAN GENERAL CLASS OF ELECTRICIANS IS ESTABLISHED IN DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND, AND PROVIDING FOR THE LICENSURE AND REGISTRATION OF QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN GENERALS IN DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND, AND PROVIDING THAT ANY APPLICANT THAT APPLIES FOR REGISTRATION UNDER THIS CHAPTER THAT HAS BEEN LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTRICIANS AS AN APPRENTICE ELECTRICIAN OR AS A JOURNEYPerson ELECTRICIAN OR AS A MASTER ELECTRICIAN ARE QUALIFIED FOR REGISTRATION AS IN SUCH GRADE UNDER CHAPTER 82, AND PROVIDING FOR FEES FOR REGISTRATIONS AND PERMITS, AND PROVIDING FOR INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRANTS, AND PROVIDING FOR REVOCATIONS OR SUSPENSIONS AND HEARINGS, AND PROVIDING FOR RECIPROCITY, AND PROVIDING GENERALLY FOR THE REGULATION AND REGISTRATION OF MASTER ELECTRICIANS, JOURNEYPerson ELECTRICIANS, OR APPRENTICE ELECTRICIANS AND THE LICENSURE AND REGISTRATION OF ELECTRICIAN GENERALS.

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said pursuant to the passage of State legislation, before Council is a proposed bill for introduction which will create a general electrician holder status and grandfather this class until June 30, 2023 in order for them to obtain the required Master Electrician's license. He said after that date the license will be abolished. The Council agreed to proceed with publication of a public hearing.

The Council adjourned into Regular Session.

REGULAR SESSION

CLARIFICATION-FY 2023 BUDGET

Mr. Spears, based on the request of Councilman Newcomb confirmed that the adopted FY2023 budget does not include a property tax increase.

SCHEDULE OF FEES PUBLIC HEARING

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney said before Council is a resolution to amend the County's Schedules of Fees to change certain Public Works Department fees. Dave Edwards, Public Works Director, advised that the below changes were made (strikethrough-removed; highlighted-added):

LANDFILL

Tipping fee	\$ 65.00 \$67.00 per ton
Refrigerant	\$ 15.00 20.00 surcharge
Tires:	
Passenger vehicle	\$ 2.00 3.00 per tire clean and off rim \$ 6.00 with rim and dirty
Truck	\$ 5.00 per tire clean and off rim \$ 10.00 with rim and dirty
Tractor	\$ 10.00 per tire clean and off rim \$ 15.00 with rim and dirty
By ton	\$ 160.00 \$175.00 per ton
Commercial haulers license	\$ 30.00 35.00 plus \$10.00 per truck

HIGHWAY FEES

Dorchester county map copy	\$ 2.00
Town name sign	\$ 25.00
2"x2"x10" square town sign posts	\$ 20.00
Road sign	\$ 164.33

PIPE INSTALLATION FEES

With County Highway Division New culvert installations up to 20 ft. plus cost of pipe	\$ 600.00 \$800.00
New pipe installations up to 10 ft.	\$ 300.00 \$500.00 plus cost of pipe
Pipe replacements per County Code	\$ 0
With Contractor	
New culvert installations up to 20 ft.	\$ 1,200.00 plus cost of pipe
New pipe installations up to 10 ft.	\$ 600.00 plus cost of pipe

The Council adopted the County's Schedule of fees which will become effective July 1, 2022 until June 30, 2023 and adjourned the meeting.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Donald Hall provided an update on the Opioid Command Center and Opioid Intervention Team. He noted that this year there were a total of 84 overdoses, of which 71 were non-fatal and 13 fatal, which is an increase from last year during which there were 66 overdoses of which 59 were non-fatal and 10 were fatal.

Councilman Pfeffer said there are programs under which family and loved ones are provided support at the hospital and individuals with a substance abuse problem through peer groups.

CAMBRIDGE WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT INC. UPDATE

Jeff Powell, the County's representation on Cambridge Waterfront Development, Inc. (CWDI) introduced Matt Leonard, CWDI Executive Director. He thanked Ms. Lane, who is on the CWDI Board as the Acting County Manager, for her participation on the board and assistance when necessary, including obtaining approval from the Council to allow CWDI to perform beach landscaping at the Visitors Center.

Mr. Leonard provided an update on CWDI (attached). He spoke about changing the membership of the Board. Pursuant to his inquiry, the Council said they will select two Council Members to meet with them regarding this endeavor.

Mr. Powell introduced Frank Narr, Board Member, CWDI. He said he appreciated the Council's continued commitment to CWDI and welcomed Council Members and candidates to reach out to them to obtain an overview of the proposed development of property now owned by CWDI. Mr. Narr said he has worked on this project for over 30 years. He thanked the Council for its support of the project noting that there will be local control of the waterfront to ensure the public has access as well as open green space. Councilman Nichols recollected the time he and Mr. Powell sat on the County Council 27 years ago noting he worked hard to bring the Hyatt to the County. He commended Mr. Powell for keeping the Council updated on CWDI's progress.

HOOPERSVILLE RESILIENCY STUDY PRESENTATION

Anna Johnson, Bayland Consultants and Designer, presented the Hoopersville Resiliency Study (summary attached). Councilman Nichols left the meeting. Councilman Newcomb said he hopes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will include Hoopersville in the Barren Island project. In response to a question from Councilman Newcomb, Ms. Johnson said there are grant opportunities available for this project.

Gary McQuitty, resident, said he and his wife are full time residents. He said they started a community group four to five years ago and with the help of the Council received a grant to conduct this study. He expressed his understanding that there are grants available. He thanked the Council for its support. He advised that Maryland Department of Natural Resources officials are interested in a small model project which hopefully can be done on a larger scale. He said he has a meeting scheduled with NOAA and will keep the Council updated on this progress. He noted that in Hoopersville there are a few rentals, migrant workers, summer homes and three

picking houses which are vital to the seafood industry in the County. Colleen Rippons said many individuals moved to Hoopersville after they retired. She noted that there are multiple areas that may wash away such as Fishing Creek which will be lost if Hoopersville is washed away completely. She said she is hopeful the Council will assist them with ensuring that this does not occur. Councilman Newcomb thanked Ms. Johnson for conducting the study, who upon his query, said this is the first time she has been to Hoopersville. Mr. McQuitty expressed his appreciation for Ms. Johnson's assistance with the study.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

REQUEST TO USE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING PARKING LOT-ANNUAL CUBMOBILE DERBY-BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

The Council approved the request of Michael O'Connor to use the County Office Building parking lot and grounds, including the electricity on the outside of the building for the Annual Cub Scout Cubmobile Derby to be held on Sunday, October 2, 2022 and acknowledged that he will provide a Certificate of Liability Insurance for the event.

REFERRAL TO CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION-PLANNING AND ZONING

The Council, based on information provided by Susan Webb, Acting Planning and Zoning Director, agreed to refer to the Critical Area Commission enforcement action of a critical area property violation on Brooks Road. The Council acknowledged that Kate Charbonneau, Executive Director, is amicable to this action. In response to a question from Councilman Newcomb, Ms. Webb said enforcement actions have been pursued by Planning and Zoning staff for over 18 months without success.

LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST-FY23 MD OPIOID OPERATIONAL COMMAND CENTER PROPOSAL-AWAKEN RECOVERY FOUNDATION

The Council approved the request of Ashley Rogers on behalf of Awaken Recovery Foundation to provide a letter of support for its FY23 Maryland Opioid Operational Command Center proposal to provide Transportation for Rural Recovery Support Services for 65 individuals with substance abuse disorder living in recovery housing by providing transportation for employment, health/mental health appointments and mandatory court appearances.

WETLAND MITIGATION JOINT PERMIT APPLICATION-OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL-PHASE 2 PROJECT-AIRPORT

The Council, pursuant to the request of Steve Nuwer, Airport Director, agreed to submit the Joint Permit Application and Maryland Department of Environment billing form to allow continued progress toward obstruction removal on the Threesome Auto Salvage, LLC property.

WILDLIFE FENCE PHASE II DESIGN PROJECT APPLICATION AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS APPROVAL-AIRPORT

The Council, based on Mr. Nuwer's request, approved the following: 1) the Phase 2 Wildlife Fence Design; 2) the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) /U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Joint Permit Application and MDE Public Notice Billing Form; and, 3) his request to advertise for proposals for the project. Mr. Nuwer confirmed for Councilman Travers that emergency access will be available.

REQUEST TO SUBMIT FY 23 MARYLAND HERITAGE AREA GRANT APPLICATIONS-TOURISM

The Council agreed to submit a letter of interest for FY23 Maryland Heritage Area Grant applications, and more specifically, for Management and block grants. The Council acknowledged that the Management Grant monies being sought are \$100,000 with the match breakdown as follows:

- \$75,733 -Dorchester County Tourism - cash match
- \$5,000 - Dorchester County Government - cash match (FY 23)
- \$10,267- Volunteer Hours - in-kind match
- \$9,000- Donated Office Space

The Council also acknowledged that the monies being sought for the Block Grant application is \$25,000 and the match comes from cash and in-kind through partner organizations as we make this money available as mini grants.

BID AWARD REQUEST-RECYCLING CENTER FENCE-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Dave Edwards, Public Works Director, to award the bid for the Recycling Center Fence for the Chesapeake Drive/Siding Road location to Anderson Fence Co. Inc., the lowest bidder, at the cost of \$20,650 using Solid Waste/ Landfill FY22 Capital Budget.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS-TRANSFER STATION-REPLACEMENT RETAINING WALLS-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards to advertise a request for proposals for the replacement of the Solid Waste Transfer Station revetment/retaining walls at the Golden Hill Transfer station and the Secretary Transfer station using Solid Waste/Landfill FY22 Capital Budget monies. In response to Councilman Pfeffer's question, Mr. Edwards said there has been a temporary repair on the back portion and once the walls are completed there will be funds in the Public Works paving allocation to repave areas.

TREE TRIMMING SERVICES REQUEST-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards, to use Contingency Funds to contract with Eastern Tree Services to trim portions of the following three roads: 1) Palmers Mill Road at cost of \$750.00; 2) Payne Road at the cost of \$8,400.00; and 3) Skeet Club Road at the cost of

\$1,500.00. The Council also approved his request to use Contingency Funds to sole source with Extreme Tree Service to trim Egypt Road and Old Field Road at the total cost of \$15,500. Councilwoman Nagel noted that farmers cited their concerns about the trees because the GPS unit they utilize on top of farm equipment can be damaged if they are not trimmed as well as truck drivers and school bus drivers who can be damaged by overgrown tree limbs. She thanked Mr. Edwards for addressing this matter.

REQUEST TO SUBMIT FY23 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATION-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards to apply for a Department of Natural Resources Water Improvement Fund Grant to assist with yearly Marine Facility Portable Toilets contract at cost of \$12,000.

ESO REPORTING PROGRAM PURCHASE-EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT (EMPG)-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Dozia Rahilly, Emergency Services Director, to use FY 2020 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funds of \$21,989 to purchase an ESO reporting program with the \$21,989.00 which is a mandatory reporting program that will give Emergency Services the ability to collect county wide data that is mandated to report.

2020 EMPG COVID SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT ADJUSTMENT APPROVAL-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Ms. Rahilly to adjust the Covid-19 Supplemental 2020 EMPG grant to reflect actual costs vs projected, resulting in a reduction of \$30.84.

CONTINGENCY FUND REQUEST-POOL RENOVATION-RECREATION AND PARKS

The Council acknowledged: 1) its approval of the bid for the Pool Renovation project to Coastline Pool Services, at the cost of \$294,397; and 2) Local Parks and Playgrounds Infrastructure Funds were allocated for the Pool Renovation in the amount of \$262,047; and 3) that there is an outstanding balance of \$32,350. The Council agreed to use Contingency Funds to cover this outstanding balance. In response to a question from Councilwoman Nagel, Ms. Lane said the prior Recreation and Parks Director did not seek the remaining funds for this project.

YOUTH OUTREACH EVENT

The Council agreed to provide \$2,249.50 in Contingency funds to pay for treats that will be provided to students during visits of each of the elementary schools in the County by the Sheriff's Office and Emergency Services.

REQUEST TO USE COUNTY POOL-VOLT-3C GROUP-SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Council agreed to allow Volt 3C Group's use of the County Pool every Thursday night throughout the summer from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to provide a safe and secure gathering place for our youth including the wave of entry fee and the County providing life guard protection contingent upon the dates not conflicting with the Shorefins use of the pool, which has used the pool for practices and meets for multiple years.

FY23 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT-NOXIOUS AND INVASIVE WEEDS-MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Council approved the written request of Tiffany Hatridge, Plant Protection & Weed Management, to enter into a Cooperative Agreement between the Maryland Department of Agriculture and Dorchester County for cooperation in the control and eradication of noxious and certain invasive weeds for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

POLL CONFIRMATIONS

The Council confirmed its following decisions via poll in the interim of meetings:

- Consensus by 5 to 0 to provide the full budget request of Chesapeake College.
- Agreed to submit a Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention Gun Violence Grant application for \$15,000 with no local match which will be used to pay Sheriff's Deputies premium overtime for targeted patrols, being at gun shows and tracing the origin of legal funds by a 4 to 1 (no response) vote.
- Approved the request of Cambridge Waterfront Development, Inc. to proceed with the beach landscaping of the County's portion of Sailwinds Park at no cost to the County by a 3 to 2 vote (no response)

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE-ATHLETIC COMPLEX-BLACKWATER ATHLETICS, LLC

The Council approved the request of Ricky Dukes to assist Blackwater Athletics, LLC in facilitating a meeting between interested stakeholders including Planning and Zoning, Maryland Department of Environment, Council, Economic Development, for a proposed athletic complex consisting of approximately ten multi-sport fields which will provide the youth in the County the opportunity to participate in sports and bring revenue to the County. In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Mr. Dukes said Blackwater Athletics, LLC is a for-profit limited liability corporation and will pay taxes.

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 5th day of July, 2022.