

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2022**

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in Open Session in Room 110 of the County Office Building at 5:30 p.m. on the 9th day of August 2022. A roll call of the members was conducted. 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.

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 with Councilman Travers abstaining for payments made to Simmons Center Market.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Newcomb reported total cash and investments as \$13,662,800.13.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING AND DESIGN-HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Council recognized: 1) its August 2, 2022 decision to use \$3 million of the American Rescue Plan Act funds for the preliminary engineering and design of the Health Department; and, 2) the County has two consultants, Lane Engineering and Geosyntec Consultants. Councilwoman Nagel made a motion for Dave Edwards, Public Works Director, to move forward at his discretion on identifying a qualified vendor. A discussion ensued regarding renovation to include whether to add on to the existing building or build a second story; the possibility of moving Emergency Services/Emergency Operations Center to this location; and potentially purchasing a property. The Council agreed to have Mr. Edwards contact individuals/companies to view the building and property and provide their thoughts regarding design, scope of work and potential costs with Councilmen Pfeffer and Travers opposing.

SOCCER EQUIPMENT SOLE SOURCE-PURCHASE REQUEST-RECREATION AND PARKS

The Council approved the request of Ms. Lane to sole source with BSN Sports to purchase the soccer equipment at the cost of \$1,773.83 using FY23 Recreation and Parks Operating Funds.

She noted that t-shirts will be purchased from another vendor. Pursuant to a query from Councilman Pfeffer, Ms. Lane said Aris Reyes, Program Coordinator, provided her the list of equipment after meeting with the soccer coaches.

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND RECOMMENDATIONS-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Lane noted that at its August 2, 2022 meeting, the Council made the decision not to move forward with submitting three projects to the Mid Shore Regional Council for Rural Economic Development Funds. Susan Banks, Economic Development Director, said there is \$550,000 available. She noted that Dave Edwards, Public Works Director, suggested that \$500,000 of these funds be allocated to the Town of Secretary for the Twin Cities Wastewater Treatment Plant project in lieu of American Rescue Plan Act funds which will allow those funds to be used for other purposes, and more specifically, for Public Works projects. She noted that projects submitted for the use of these funds must be completed within 24 months. Councilman Pfeffer said he is unsure if the Town's project will be completed within that timeframe, noting that Town officials have relayed to the State of Maryland and the United States Department of Agriculture the Council's allocation of \$500,000 for the project. The Council agreed to the submission of the Town of Secretary's project to MSRC for funding of \$500,000 and to include the \$50,000 into the Woods Road project with Councilman Travers opposing.

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 6th day of September 2022.