

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2023**

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in Open Session in Room 110 of the County Office Building at 6:16 p.m. on the 21st day of February, 2023. A roll call of the members was conducted. Present in Room 110 were: George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President; Mike Detmer, Vice President; Rob Kramer, Jr.; William V. Nichols; Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 was Jeff Powell, Interim County Manager, Donna F. Lane, Chief of Staff and Irene Barnes, Executive Administrative Specialist.

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 Establishment of a Finance Committee was added and the Request to Schedule Public Hearing-Certification of Enterprise Zone-City Of Cambridge-Economic Development was moved from the Consent Agenda to Action Items. The Council approved the amended agenda.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Pfeffer reported total cash and investments as \$31,805,125.65.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council convened into Regular Session on February 21, 2023 at 5:21 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: George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President; Mike Detmer, Vice President; Rob Kramer, Jr.; William V. Nichols; Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 was Jeff Powell, Interim County Manager, Donna F. Lane, Chief of Staff and Irene Barnes, Executive Administrative Specialist.. Voting in favor of the Closed Session were the present Council Members.

The Council convened in a Closed Session on February 21, 2023 at 5:22 p.m. to discuss the following items:

- 1- Confirmed the request of the State's Attorney to hire an individual to fill an Assistant State's Attorney position by a 5 to 0 vote;
- 2- Confirmed the request of the Interim County Manager and the Emergency Medical Services Manager to hire an individual to fill an on-call hourly Emergency Medical Technician position by a 5 to 0 vote;
- 3- Confirmed the request of the Interim County Manager and the Emergency Medical Services Manager to hire an individual to fill an on-call hourly Emergency Medical Technician position by a 5 to 0 vote;
- 4- Confirmed the request of the Interim County Manager and the Emergency Medical Services Manager to hire an individual to fill an on-call hourly Paramedic position by a 5 to 0 vote;
- 5- Confirmed the request of the Interim County Manager and the Emergency Medical Services Manager to hire an individual to fill an on-call hourly Paramedic position by a 5 to 0 vote;
- 6- Confirmed the request of the Interim County Manager and the Planning and Zoning Director to hire an individual to fill an Inspector position by a 5 to 0 vote;
- 7- Confirmed the request of the Interim County Manager and the Public Works Director to hire an individual to fill the Administrative Associate position within the Highway Division by a 5 to 0 vote;
- 8- Approved a salary adjustment regarding specific employees within the Sheriff's Office by 4 to 1 vote;
- 9- Confirmed the request of the Interim County Manager to hire an individual to fill the Human Resources Director position by a 4 to 0 vote;
- 10- Agreed to hire an employee for the Finance Department by a 5 to 0 vote;
- 11- Agreed to hire an individual for the Planning and Zoning Department by a 5 to 0 vote.

Present in Room 110 were: George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President; Mike Detmer, Vice President; Rob Kramer, Jr.; William V. Nichols; Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 was Jeff Powell, Interim County Manager, Donna F. Lane, Chief of Staff and Irene Barnes, Executive Administrative Specialist.

PRESENTATIONS

PROCLAMATION – ENDOMETRIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring March 2023 as Endometriosis Awareness Month which was accepted by Shannon Pinder-Hannawald, Endo Warriors of the Eastern Shore, Endometriosis Association. The Council acknowledged that Ms. Pinder-Hannawald will like to establish March 10th as a day to wear yellow to spread awareness.

MARYLAND VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTER & EASTERN SHORE LONG TERM RECOVERY COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Maryland Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (MD VOAD) and Eastern Shore Long Term Recovery Committee (ES LTRC), Reverend Phillip C. Huber, Chair, MD VOAD/ES LTRC, Jennifer Dubosq, Director of Social Services and Kimberly Hopkins, Disaster

Response Coordinator, Boots on the Ground, presented to the Council an overview of their efforts in Dorchester County to assist residents with recovering following the October 29, 2021 tidal flooding that occurred in the Blackwater Reserve area.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS – WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 17, 2023

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

BUDGET TRANSFER REQUESTS – CORRECTIONS – PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the following FY23 Budget Transfer Requests: Department of Corrections; Public Works-Roads; Public Works-Landfill; Public Works-County Office Building and Public Works-County Buildings.

REQUEST FOR AMBULANCE & WAIVER OF FEE – CAMBRIDGE POWERBOAT RACING ASSOCIATION

The Council approved the request of Terry Robbins, Cambridge Powerboat Racing Association, for an ambulance at the race site and to waive the ambulance fee for both the May 20, 2023 to May 21, 2023 and the July 22, 2023 to July 23, 2023 races at Gerry Boyle Park.

REQUEST FOR REFERRAL – SOLAR – PLANNING COMMISSION

The Council approved the request of Susan Webb, Planning and Zoning Director, to refer to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation to the Council the development of solar regulations.

LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST-PEOPLE FOR CHANGE COALITION-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Based on the request of Susan Banks, Economic Development Director, the Council agreed to provide a letter of support to the People for Change Coalition's Early Stage Entrepreneurship Program, that will address barriers faced by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (SEDI), and non-SEDI on the Eastern Shore.

ACTION ITEMS

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the recommendation of the Traffic Safety Committee members to extend the 35 mph zone on Elliott Island by 1,500 feet past 2435 Elliott Island Road.

FY23 LOCAL PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM- RECREATION AND PARKS

Based on the request of Duc Trieu, Recreation & Parks Director, the Council approved the revision to the FY23 Local Parks & Playground Infrastructure program original request to remove the \$250,000 for renovations of the County's Recreation Center and apply the funds towards the School Street property for development of multi-use fields.

In response to Councilman Nichols' inquiry, Councilman Travers explained that the plan is still in the works and the light style has been changed to address previous concerns about the lights bothering residents. Councilman Pfeffer added that a new parking lot plan has been added to deter people from parking in residents' yards.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS – LEGAL SERVICES FOR FAMILY ADVOCACY CLINIC – CIRCUIT COURT

The Council approved the request of Mary O'Donnell, Magistrate, Circuit Court, to advertise a request for proposals to procure the contract services of an attorney or several attorneys, licensed in the State of Maryland, to serve as legal counsel and Director of the new Dorchester County Family Advocacy Clinic which will be funded by the Family Advocacy Grant.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT REQUEST – DELMARVA COMMUNITY SERVICES INC.

The Council deferred the request of Keith Adkins, Deputy Director, Delmarva Community Services, Inc., to appoint members to the Community Transportation Advisory Committee.

BOARD APPOINTMENT & COMPENSATION DISCUSSION – POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

The Council acknowledged that it is not an easy process to appoint members to boards and committees and agreed to set the board's compensation at \$100 per meeting.

Councilman Nichols expressed his hope that this board does not have to convene. Councilman Pfeffer noted that the Council needs to elect a Chairperson to the Police Accountability Board and work on appointing members to the Administrative Charging Committee (ACC). The Council agreed to appoint Benny Sampson to the ACC, contingent upon whether or not a Correctional Officer can be appointed.

LETTER OF OPPOSITION-HB692/SB489-PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION- CERTIFICATES FOR PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY-LOCAL PERMITS

The Council agreed to send a letter of opposition for House Bill 692/Senate Bill 489 entitled "Public Service Commission – Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity – Local Permits" which will eliminate the ability of a local jurisdiction to place any regulation or

restriction on the development of large-scale solar installations, with Councilman Nichols opposing.

POLL CONFIRMATIONS

The Council confirmed its decision in the interim of meetings, via poll, to provide a letter of support for House Bill 1025/Senate Bill 635, Bay Restoration Fund – Authorized Uses – Dorchester County Sanitary District.

REQUEST TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING-CERTIFICATION OF ENTERPRISE ZONE-CITY OF CAMBRIDGE-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council approved the request of Ms. Banks to schedule a public hearing regarding the re-designation of the City of Cambridge's Enterprise Zone within City limits from the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development and to start the review process of the resolution. The Council acknowledged that the resolution will be to consent to and apply to recertify the City of Cambridge Enterprise Zone as an Enterprise Zone by the Maryland Department of Commerce.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Council approved the request of Mr. Powell to establish a Finance Committee which will be comprised of the Council President, Finance Director and County Manager. The Council agreed that they will meet quarterly and provide updates to the Council.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS

Councilman Travers apologized for missing the last meeting, as he was under the weather and said it is a pleasure to work with the new council.

Councilman Detmer expressed interest regarding extending the airport runway. After a brief discussion ensued, the Council agreed to submit a letter of interest and request funding simultaneously to potentially start the process of extending the runway.

Pursuant to comments made by Councilman Detmer regarding dredging additional waterways, the Council agreed to have Mr. Edwards and Ms. Lane draft a letter, including Ms. Edwards's recommendations, to request funding from the State to apply to dredging projects. Councilman Detmer stated that he believes that by increasing the waterways it may increase property values, which in turn will increase County revenues.

Councilman Detmer encouraged residents to participate in Senator Chris Van Hollen's proposed Chesapeake National Recreation Area public comment form.

The Council agreed to establish a vacant property registry to increase safety for volunteer firefighters and also potentially increase property values.

Councilman Pfeffer noted to Mr. Edwards that there is trash along Blinkhorn Road and Jackson Street that needs to be removed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joe Dougherty, resident, expressed his concerns regarding the gun range on Ross Neck Road for which he submitted complaints. Ms. Webb explained to Mr. Dougherty that the gun range is not permitted unless a special exception is granted. She noted that a special exception request has been received from the property owner. Mr. Dougherty noted that the local residents that he has spoken to are not in favor of the gun range at that location. The Council acknowledged his concerns.


ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.


ATTEST:



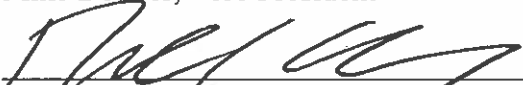
Jeff Powell
Interim County Manager

THE COUNTY COUNCIL
OF DORCHESTER COUNTY:


George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President



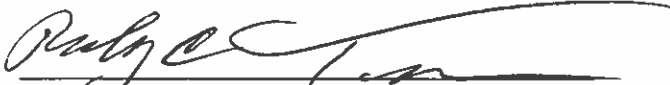
Mike Detmer, Vice President



Rob Kramer, Jr.



William V. Nichols



Ricky C. Travers

Approved the 7 day of March, 2023.

**PRESIDING OFFICER'S WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING
("CLOSING STATEMENT") UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT (General
Provisions Article § 3-305)**

This form has two sides. *Complete items 1 – 4 before closing the meeting.*

1. **Recorded vote to close the meeting:** Date: 2/21/23; Time: 5:22 p.m.; Location: Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland; Motion to close meeting made by: Dutmer Seconded by Nichols; Members in favor: _____; Opposed: _____; Abstaining: _____; Absent: _____.

2. **Statutory authority to close session (check all provisions that apply).**
This meeting will be closed under General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b) only:

(1) "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals"; (2) ___ "To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business"; (3) ___ "To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto"; (4) ___ "To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State"; (5) ___ "To consider the investment of public funds"; (6) ___ "To consider the marketing of public securities"; (7) ___ "To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice"; (8) ___ "To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation"; (9) ___ "To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations"; (10) ___ "To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans"; (11) ___ "To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination"; (12) ___ "To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct"; (13) "To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter"; (14) ___ "Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process." (15) ___ "To discuss cybersecurity, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to: (i) security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology; (ii) network security information . . . or (iii) deployments or implementation of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices."

Continued →

3. For each provision checked above, disclosure of the topic to be discussed and the public body's reason for discussing that topic in closed session.

Citation (insert # from above)	Topic	Reason for closed-session discussion of topic
§3-305(b) (1)	To confirm the request of the State's Attorney to hire an individual to fill an Assistant State's Attorney position.	Public Discussion of applicant's names and job info could discourage people from applying for County jobs
§3-305(b)(13)	Same topic as above	Public Information Act, GP Section 4-310 and 311 requires us to shield recommendation letters and job applications
§3-305(b) (1)	To confirm the request of the Interim County Manager and the Emergency Medical Services Manager to hire an individual to fill an on-call hourly Emergency Medical Technician position.	Public Discussion of applicant's names and job info could discourage people from applying for County jobs
§3-305(b)(13)	Same topic as above	Public Information Act, GP Section 4-310 and 311 requires us to shield recommendation letters and job applications
§3-305(b) (1)	To confirm the request of the Interim County Manager and the Emergency Medical Services Manager to hire an individual to fill an on-call hourly Emergency Medical Technician position.	Public Discussion of applicant's names and job info could discourage people from applying for County jobs
§3-305(b)(13)	Same topic as above	Public Information Act, GP Section 4-310 and 311 requires us to shield recommendation letters and job applications
§3-305(b) (1)	To confirm the request of the Interim County Manager and the Emergency Medical Services Manager to hire an individual to fill an on-call hourly Paramedic position.	Public Discussion of applicant's names and job info could discourage people from applying for County jobs
§3-305(b)(13)	Same topic as above	Public Information Act, GP Section 4-310 and 311 requires us to shield recommendation letters and job applications
§3-305(b) (1)	To confirm the request of the	Public Discussion of applicant's names

	Interim County Manager and the Emergency Medical Services Manager to hire an individual to fill an on-call hourly Paramedic position.	and job info could discourage people from applying for County jobs
§3-305(b)(13)	Same topic as above	Public Information Act, GP Section 4-310 and 311 requires us to shield recommendation letters and job applications
§3-305(b) (1)	To confirm the request of the Interim County Manager and the Planning & Zoning Director to hire an individual to fill an Inspector position.	Public Discussion of applicant's names and job info could discourage people from applying for County jobs
§3-305(b)(13)	Same topic as above	Public Information Act, GP Section 4-310 and 311 requires us to shield recommendation letters and job applications
§3-305(b) (1)	To confirm the request of the Interim County Manager and the Public Works Director to hire an individual to fill the Administrative Associate position within the Highway Division.	Public Discussion of applicant's names and job info could discourage people from applying for County jobs
§3-305(b)(13)	Same topic as above	Public Information Act, GP Section 4-310 and 311 requires us to shield recommendation letters and job applications
§3-305(b) (1)	To discuss a salary adjustment regarding specific employees within the Sheriff's Office.	Public Discussion of applicant's names and job info could discourage people from applying for County jobs
§3-305(b)(13)	Same topic as above	Public Information Act, GP Section 4-310 and 311 requires us to shield recommendation letters and job applications
§3-305(b) (1)	To confirm the request of the Interim County Manager to hire an individual to fill the Human Resources Director position.	Public Discussion of applicant's names and job info could discourage people from applying for County jobs
§3-305(b)(13)	Same topic as above	Public Information Act, GP Section 4-310 and 311 requires us to shield recommendation letters and job applications
§3-305(b) (1)	To confirm the request of the Interim County Manager and	Public Discussion of applicant's names and job info could discourage people

	Assistant Finance Director to hire an additional employee.	from applying for County jobs
§3-305(b)(13)	Same topic as above	Public Information Act, GP Section 4-310 and 311 requires us to shield recommendation letters and job applications
§3-305(b) (1)	To confirm the request of the Interim County Manager and Planning and Zoning Director to hire an individual.	Public Discussion of applicant's names and job info could discourage people from applying for County jobs
§3-305(b)(13)	Same topic as above	Public Information Act, GP Section 4-310 and 311 requires us to shield recommendation letters and job applications

4. This statement is made by , Presiding Officer.

WORKSHEET FOR OPTIONAL USE IN CLOSED SESSION: INFORMATION FOR SUMMARY TO BE DISCLOSED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT OPEN MEETING. (See also template for summary.)

➤ **For a meeting closed under the statutory authority cited above:**

Time of closed session: _____

Place: _____

Purpose(s): _____

Members who voted to meet in closed session: _____

Persons attending closed session: _____

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: _____

Topics actually discussed: _____

Actions taken: _____

Each recorded vote: _____

➤ **For a meeting recessed to perform an administrative function (§ 3-104):** Time: _____

Place: _____

Persons present: _____

Subjects discussed: _____

**PRESIDING OFFICER'S WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING
("CLOSING STATEMENT") UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT (General
Provisions Article § 3-305)**

This form has two sides. Complete items 1 – 4 before closing the meeting.

1. Recorded vote to close the meeting: Date: 2/21/23; Time: 4:45 p.m.; Location: Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland; Motion to close meeting made by: Detmer Seconded by Kramer; Members in favor: _____; Opposed: _____; Abstaining: _____; Absent: Nichols & Travers

(travers joined meeting late)

2. Statutory authority to close session (check all provisions that apply).

This meeting will be closed under General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b) only:

(1) "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals"; (2) ___ "To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business"; (3) ___ "To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto"; (4) ___ "To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State"; (5) ___ "To consider the investment of public funds"; (6) ___ "To consider the marketing of public securities"; (7) ___ "To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice"; (8) ___ "To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation"; (9) ___ "To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations"; (10) ___ "To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans"; (11) ___ "To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination"; (12) ___ "To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct"; (13) "To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter"; (14) ___ "Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process." (15) ___ "To discuss cybersecurity, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to: (i) security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology; (ii) network security information . . . or (iii) deployments or implementation of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices."

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3. For each provision checked above, disclosure of the topic to be discussed and the public body's reason for discussing that topic in closed session.

Citation (insert # from above)	Topic	Reason for closed-session discussion of topic
§3-305(b) (1)	To interview an individual for the position of Human Resources Director.	Public Discussion of applicant's names and job info could discourage people from applying for County jobs
§3-305(b)(13)	Same topic as above	Public Information Act, GP Section 4-310 and 311 requires us to shield recommendation letters and job applications

4. This statement is made by , Presiding Officer.

WORKSHEET FOR OPTIONAL USE IN CLOSED SESSION: INFORMATION FOR SUMMARY TO BE DISCLOSED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT OPEN MEETING. (See also template for summary.)

➤ **For a meeting closed under the statutory authority cited above:**

Time of closed session: _____

Place: _____

Purpose(s): _____

Members who voted to meet in closed session: _____

Persons attending closed session: _____

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: _____

Topics actually discussed: _____

Actions taken: _____

Each recorded vote: _____

➤ **For a meeting recessed to perform an administrative function (§ 3-104):** Time: _____

Place: _____

Persons present: _____

Subjects discussed: _____