

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2023

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in Open Session in Room 110 of the County Office Building at 6:02 p.m. on the 18th day of July, 2023. A roll call of the members was conducted. Present in Room 110 were: George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President; Rob Kramer, Jr.; William V. Nichols. Also present in Room 110 were Jeff Powell, Interim County Manager; Donna F. Lane, Chief of Staff; and, Irene Barnes, Executive Administrative Specialist. Mike Detmer, Vice President, joined the meeting by phone. Ricky C. Travers was absent.

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.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Pfeffer reported total cash and investments as \$24,361,340.77.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council convened into Regular Session on July 18, 2023 at 5:30 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; Rob Kramer, Jr.; William V. Nichols. Also present in Room 110 were Jeff Powell, Interim County Manager; Donna F. Lane, Chief of Staff; and, Irene Barnes, Executive Administrative Specialist. Mike Detmer, Vice President, joined the meeting by phone. Ricky C. Travers was absent. Voting in favor of the Closed Session were the present Council Members.

The Council convened in a Closed Session on July 18, 2023 at 5:31 p.m. to discuss the following items:

1. Notifications of recent personnel changes within the County were provided.

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

PRESENTATIONS

COMMENDATION – LIFE SAVING EFFORT

The Council presented a Commendation to Josh Davies, Paramedic, Emergency Medical Services, for saving the lives of a group calling for help from the middle of the Potomac River while he was visiting Harpers Ferry National Park in West Virginia.

COMMENDATION – RETIREMENT – ALFRED TRAVERS, JR.

The Council presented a commendation to Alfred Travers, Jr., Motor Equipment Operator IV, Public Works, congratulating him on his retirement and commending him for 18 years of service to Dorchester County.

PROCLAMATION – HISTORICAL FREEDOM WEEK

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring July 22, 2023 to July 29, 2023 as Historical Freedom Week.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Council approved the minutes of July 3, 2023.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented, with Councilman Detmer abstaining from payments made to APG.

BUDGET TRANSFER REQUESTS – PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the FY23 Budget Transfer Requests for Public Works.

GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION GRANT AWARDS – SHERIFF’S OFFICE

The Council accepted the following Governor’s Office of Crime Control & Prevention grant awards:

- 1) Sex Offender Compliance & Enforcement of \$8,648 with no match requirement and a performance period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 to be applied towards the salary of a Deputy to monitor sex offenders;
- 2) Police Accountability Community & Transparency of \$31,000 with no match requirement and a performance period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 for the benefit of real time alerts via The Sheriff App;
- 3) Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network-Heroin Coordinator of \$50,161.00 with no match requirement and a performance period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 to be applied towards the salary of a Heroin Coordinator Deputy; and,
- 4) Body Armor for Local Law Enforcement of \$8,984 with a 50% match of \$4,492 requested from Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership, administered by the US Department of Justice, and a performance period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 to purchase eight bullet proof vests.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY LEGACY PROGRAM GRANT AWARD – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Based on the request of Susan Banks, Economic Development Director, the Council accepted the Department of Housing & Community Development Community Legacy Program Grant award of \$250,000 with no match requirement and a performance period of January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025 to be applied towards WHCP Radio's buildout in the Packing House which is a pass through grant.

EASTERN SHORE INNOVATION CENTER LICENSE AGREEMENT – EASTERN SHORE SLINGSHOT RENTAL – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council approved the request of Ms. Banks to enter into a License Agreement between the County and Eastern Shore Slingshot Rental, LLC to lease Suite 038 at the Eastern Shore Innovation Center consisting of 90.25 square feet for a two year term commencing on approximately July 17, 2023 to July 17, 2025 at \$113 per month for office space only, as rentals will be stored at another location.

REQUEST TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT – STRYKER – EMERGENCY SERVICES

Based on a request presented by Ms. Lane, on behalf of Emergency Services, the Council agreed to enter into a contract with Stryker for prevention maintenance/repairs for a one year period at the cost of \$79,995.75 using funds from the FY24 Emergency Medical Services contractual services budget line item for the following items: 1) Stair Chairs (9), Power Load (8), Power Cots (15), LP15s (14) and LUCAS devices (5).

LETTER OF SUPPORT – TAYLORS ISLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Based on the request of Patti Tieder, on behalf of the Taylors Island Volunteer Fire Company, the Council agreed to provide a letter stating: 1) there are no local government or County 508 funds available for the purchase of a 2023 pumper at the cost of \$474,990; and, 2) the Council's

support of the volunteer fire company's Maryland State Firemen's Association Voluntary Company Assistance Fund request.

ACTION ITEMS

TRANSPORTATION VAN REPAIR REQUEST – DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Based on the request of Kenny Rodgers, Director, Department of Corrections, the Council deferred his bid award request to repair the transportation van unit #5005 until comparable quotes are obtained.

HOOPERSVILLE MARINA PAVING BID AWARD – PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Dave Edwards, Public Works Director, to sole source with Russell Paving to pave portions of the Hoopersville Marina at the cost of \$35,150 funded by the FY23 Capital allocations of \$200,000 for marina repairs.

REVISED UPPER SHORE WORKFORCE AREA LOCAL PLAN CONCURRENCE – 2022-2024 – UPPER SHORE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

The Council approved the request of Dan Schneckenburger, Executive Director, Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board, and concurred with the revised 2022-2024 Upper Shore Workforce Area Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Combined Plan.

FY24 CATEGORICAL BUDGET – BOARD OF EDUCATION

Based on the request of W. David Bromwell, Superintendent, Dorchester County Public Schools, the Council approved the Board of Education's (BOE) FY24 Categorical Budget based on the County's FY24 allocation to the BOE of \$24,006,038 for operating expenses and \$0 for capital expenses; and, 2) to execute the Annual Budget Certification Statement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

In response to Councilman Pfeffer's inquiry, Mr. Bromwell explained that: 1) the cost of pupil services decreased because grants are offered for these expenses, so funding was increased in areas that grants are unavailable; and, 2) the cost of textbooks was reduced because online versions are becoming more mainstream.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OWNED RAIL RIGHT OF WAY & TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

Based on information received from Heather Murphy, Director, Office of Planning and Capital Programming, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Council discussed railbanking inactive railroads to preserve the right of ways owned by MDOT and Maryland Transit Administration. After a brief conversation, the Council decided to obtain legal advice and meet with the City of Cambridge prior to further discussion.

MARYLAND PUBLIC INFORMATION REQUEST UPDATE

Ms. Lane provided an update to the Council regarding the Maryland Public Information requests.

FY24 BUDGET CLARIFICATION

Mr. Powell provided clarification on the FY24 Budget Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) introduced in the FY24 Budget which Council adopted:

1. An increase to all full-time positions under minimum wage to \$15 per hour and then a 3% COLA;
2. A COLA of 3% to all full-time employees earning less than \$60,000; and,
3. A COLA of 2% to all full-time employees earning over \$60,000.

Based on a recommendation made by Councilman Pfeffer, the Council agreed to provide the COLA to all full-time, part-time, on-call and seasonal employees as referenced above in numbers two and three, excluding those that work for the County through a temp agency.

Mr. Powell noted that the estimated cost will be \$50,000 to 60,000.

POLL CONFIRMATION

The Council confirmed its decision in the interim of meetings, via poll, to provide a letter of support for a \$250,000 African American Heritage Preservation Program grant with no match requirements which will be submitted by Patti Tieder, for the Taylors Island School Stabilization and Restoration which the school is located at 4212 Hooper Neck Taylors Island by a 3 to 0 vote.

OTHER

Ms. Lane provided an update to the Council on the July 10, 2023 Police Accountability Board meeting.

INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Powell stated that: 1) a meeting has been scheduled regarding McKeil Point and progress is being made with the Maryland Department of the Environment; and, 2) a lease has not been signed for the restaurant space at the Cambridge Regional Airport.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS

Based on Councilman Nichols request, the Council appointed Linda Henry to the Charter Review Commission.

Councilman Kramer asked Mr. Edwards to trim the weeds on the left side of Gootes and on Marsh Road to prevent blind spots due to safety concerns.

Councilman Detmer said: 1) he supports the Taylors Island School Restoration & Stabilization Project; 2) he applauds the Directors of Planning and Zoning and Human Resources for fully staffing the Planning & Zoning Department; 3) he is taking a personal interest in tick management and, in particular, concerns about the Lone Star Tick; 4) a solar meeting is being held on July 19, 2023 and a map of the community solar is also on his Facebook page; 5) Dorchester County Public School is performing a survey and a link to it is also on his Facebook page; and, 6) he appreciates Mr. Edwards and his staff for addressing flood concerns on Centennial Road. He also noted the following constituent concerns regarding: 1) IRONMAN races; 2) the speed limit through Bonnie Brook; 3) kayaks being launched on the wrong side of the road at New Bridge, which a resolution is in the queue at Public Works; and 4) off-road vehicles being used on public roads.

Councilman Pfeffer thanked Mr. Edwards for assembling a crew to clear the roadways after the heavy storms, noting that there are still issues with an outlet ditch in Hurlock through Skeet Club Road.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

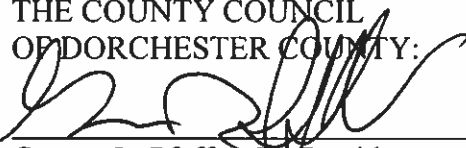
ADJOURNMENT

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 1st day of August, 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: 7/18/23; Time: 5:30 p.m.; Location: Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland; Motion to close meeting made by: Kramer Seconded by Nichols; Members in favor: Pfeffer, Nichols, Kramer, Detmer (by phone) Opposed: _____; Abstaining: _____; Absent: Travers.

**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 receive notifications of recent personnel changes within the County.	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 G. J. Pfl 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: _____