

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2023**

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in Open Session in Room 110 of the County Office Building at 6:08 p.m. on the 19th day of December, 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 were: 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 Pfeffer 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: Airport Terminal Electrical Split – Restaurant Space – Airport. The Council approved the amended agenda.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Pfeffer reported total cash and investments as \$36,299,888.43

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council convened into Regular Session on December 19, 2023 at 5:32 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; and, pursuant to §3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition.

Present in Room 110 were: George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President; Rob Kramer, Jr.; William V. Nichols; Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 were: 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. Mike Detmer, Vice President, joined the meeting late.

The Council convened in a Closed Session on December 19, 2023 at 5:33 p.m. to discuss the following items:

- 1) Notifications of recent personnel changes within the County were provided;

- 2) Discussed personnel issues regarding a specific employee;
- 3) Discussed real estate acquisition regarding a specific entity; and,
- 4) Discussed real estate acquisition regarding a commercial building.

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 were: Jeff Powell, Interim County Manager; Donna F. Lane, Chief of Staff; and, Irene Barnes, Executive Administrative Specialist.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Council approved the minutes of December 5, 2023.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

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

REQUEST TO SURPLUS VEHICLES – DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The Council approved the request of Don Satterfield, Interim Director of Corrections, to surplus the following vehicles: 1) 1994 Dodge Van, VIN No. 2B5WB35Z5RK151174; 2) 1997 Dodge Van, VIN No. 2B5WB35Y9VK517543; 3) 2005 Ford, VIN No. 2FAFP71W35X120908; 4) 2005 Ford, VIN No. 2FAFP71W35X120908 ; and, 5) 2003 Ford, VIN No. 1FDXE45F53HB48716.

GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL AND PREVENTION GRANT AWARD – FY24 WARRANTS & ABSCONDING PROGRAM – SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Based on the request of Sheriff James Phillips, the Council accepted the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention FY24 Warrants & Absconding Program grant award of \$20,000, with no match requirements and a performance period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 for the cost of overtime for Deputies.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT – AGRICULTURAL DEER COOPERATOR PERMITS

Based on the requests of George Timko, Deer Project Co-Leader, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and Kevin Sullivan, State Director, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services, the Council agreed to: 1) provide letters of support for the Agricultural Deer Cooperative Permit applications of William Malkus, Lee Lyons, Phil Jackson, Sr., Phil Jackson, Jr., Curtis Windsor, Shawn Hall and USDA Wildlife Services; and, 2) for these individuals to have an increase in nighttime shooting hours for the 2023 season through the 2024 season.

FY23-24 THIRD/FOURTH QUARTER MEETING SCHEDULE

The Council adopted the FY23-24 County Council Third/Fourth Quarterly Meeting Schedule.

ACTION ITEMS

REQUEST TO APPROVE STATEMENT OF WORK – AIRPORT RUNWAY REHAB SURVEY & BASE MAPPING – AIRPORT

Based on the request of Steve Nuwer, Airport Director, the Council approved the statement of work of AECOM Technical Services, Inc. to complete a topographical survey and base mapping of the Airport property to support the future design of the runway/taxiway rehab project at \$98,350. The Council acknowledged that Mr. Nuwer will seek an Airport Improvement Program Grant to reimburse the County \$88,515.00, with the remaining \$9,835 to be funded by the Airport's FY25 Capital Budget.

ESIC LICENSE EXTENSION AGREEMENT REQUEST – SCOSA MARKETING INC. – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council approved the request Susan Banks, Economic Development Director, to enter into an Eastern Shore Innovation Center License Extension Agreement with Scosa Marketing, Inc. for 12 months commencing on January 10, 2024 and ending of January 10, 2025 at \$261 per month for Suite No. 011.

REQUEST TO ACCEPT STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS – PUBLIC WORKS

K&T Utilities

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards to accept a Stormwater Management Agreement from Thomas and Kelli Short, K&T Utilities LLC, for 4943 Vienna Back Street, Vienna, Maryland.

Marshy Hope Properties LLC

The Council approved the request of Dave Edwards, Public Works Director, to accept a Stormwater Management Agreement from Marshy Hope Properties LLC for 2918 Old Route 50 Road, Cambridge, Maryland.

POLL CONFIRMATIONS

The Council confirmed its decision in the interim of meetings, via poll, to approve the request of Susan Webb, Planning & Zoning Director, to submit of a Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Connect Maryland grant, Home Stretch for Difficult to Serve Properties, in the amount of \$1,466,667 with a match of \$366,667 provided by Choptank Fiber by a 4 to 1 vote.

Mr. Powell stated that if a resident is interested in this, to let their cable provider know so a list of interest can be compiled. He thanked Ms. Webb for her diligence and timely submission of the application.

AIRPORT TERMINAL ELECTRICAL SPLIT – RESTAURANT SPACE - AIRPORT

The Council approved the request of Mr. Nuwer to award a bid to split the electric between the Airport Terminal and the restaurant space to Barnes Electric, Inc. at \$14,400, which will be funded by the Airport's existing budget.

INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Powell wished everyone Happy Holidays and thanked the Council for the opportunity to work with them over the last year. He stated that the residents and staff are fortunate to have the current Council leading the County.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS

Councilman Nichols stated that staff members are a core part of the team and thanked the Department Heads that are consistently at each County Council meeting. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilman Kramer expressed that he hopes everyone has a good Christmas.

Councilman Travers stated that Christmas is a time to reflect and be thankful for our blessings. He expressed that he feels blessed to be part of the current Council and to work with such great staff. Councilman Travers also provided his condolences on the passing of Dr. Theresa Stafford, Board of Education. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilman Detmer echoed that the success of the County is due to the current leadership and staff members. He also provided his condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Stafford. He wished everyone Happy Holidays and a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Pfeffer gave his condolences to Dr. Stafford's family and the Board of Education. He noted that the "tire bandit" is back, dumping in the area of Baker and West Haven roads.

In response to Councilman Pfeffer's inquiry, Mr. Edwards provided a brief storm updated and stated that the majority of the storm damage was in Galestown due to washouts. Councilman Pfeffer expressed his enthusiasm of the placement and timing of the snow markers. Councilman Travers added that it shows a true path of the road when flooding occurs. Mr. Edwards stated that the County has had eight inches of rain within the last seven days. Mr. Powell said there has been great team work and coordination with the State. Councilman Pfeffer added that the Maryland Department of Transportation funding has been cut, which will result in a decrease of mowing and trash pickup on State roadways, however, most of the projects that the Council has been discussing are still in the pipeline. He thanked the staff, stating that he received high

compliments of the Planning and Zoning Department. Councilman Pfeffer wished everyone Happy Holidays and reminded everyone to check on the elderly, their neighbors and family.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

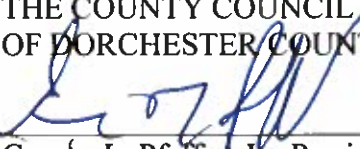
ADJOURNMENT

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 2nd day of January 2024.

**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: 12/19/23; Time: 5:32 p.m.; Location: Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland; Motion to close meeting made by: Travers Seconded by Nichols; Members in favor: Kramer, Nichols, Pfeffer, Travers, Detmer; 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) | 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 |
| §3-305(b) (1) | Discusses personnel issues regarding a specific employee. | 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) (3) | To discuss real estate acquisition regarding a specific entity. | To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose. |
| §3-305(b) (3) | To discuss real estate acquisition regarding a commercial building. | To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose. |

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: _____