

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2024

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in Open Session in Room 110 of the County Office Building at 6:01 p.m. on the 2nd day of April, 2024. 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.; Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 were: Jeff Powell, Interim County Manager; Charles MacLeod, County Attorney; Donna F. Lane, Clerk to Council; and, Irene Barnes, Executive Administrative Specialist. Councilman William V. Nichols joined the meeting late.

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 items were added: 2020 Grant Adjustment Notice – 2020 State Homeland Security Program – Emergency Management; and, Letter of Support – Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Application – Packing House Rehabilitation. The Council approved the amended agenda.

Councilman Nichols joined the meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Pfeffer reported total cash and investments as \$29,886,297.93.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council convened into Regular Session on April 2, 2024 at 5:02 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; §3-305(b)(4) to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; 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; 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, Clerk to Council; and, Irene Barnes, Executive Administrative Specialist. Voting in favor of the Closed Session were the present Council Members. Charles MacLeod, County Attorney, joined the meeting late.

The Council convened in a Closed Session on April 2, 2024 at 5:03 p.m. to discuss the following items:

- 1) Notifications of recent personnel changes within the County were provided;
- 2) Discussed an appointment to a specific board;
- 3) Discussed interviews for a specific position;
- 4) Discussed a specific rehabilitation project; and,
- 5) Discussed the acquisition of real property.

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, Clerk to Council; and, Irene Barnes, Executive Administrative Specialist. Charles MacLeod, County Attorney, joined the meeting late.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Council approved the minutes of March 19, 2024.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented.

BUDGET TRANSFER REQUEST – RECREATION & PARKS

The Council approved the FY24 Budget Transfer Request for Recreation & Parks.

LEASE RENEWAL REQUEST – AIRPORT TERMINAL OFFICE SPACE – AIRPORT

The Council approved the request of Steve Nuwer, Airport Director, to renew the lease agreement for the Airport Terminal Office #8 with iValue LED Light, LLC for a 24 month period, commencing on April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2026, with an optional one-year extension, at a total of \$10,404.00 for 36 months.

ANNUAL HOUSING BOND ALLOCATION – DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Council approved the written request of Kamili Jamal Brown, Assistant Director, Single Family Housing, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, to transfer Dorchester County's 2024 tax-exempt housing bond allocation of \$1,431,763 to the Community Development Administration (CDA) for the CDA Maryland Mortgage Program.

REQUEST TO PROCEED – CONTINUATION OF HVAC REPAIRS – PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY – 911

At its January 16, 2024 meeting, the Council approved a request to sole source with Gannon's

Refrigeration Services, Inc. for emergency repairs to the Public Safety Building's HVAC units, funded by FY24 Contingency funds. The Council approved the request of Sheriff James W. Phillips, Jr., to proceed with additional HVAC repairs to the Public Safety Building, for the 911 Center, provided by Gannon's Refrigeration Services, Inc., at the cost of \$36,175, plus \$3,750.00 to run electrical circuits needed for this project, which will be funded by the FY24 Operating Budget contractual services line item.

REQUEST TO SURPLUS VEHICLE – SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Council approved the request of Sheriff James W. Phillips, Jr. to surplus a 2014 Ford Explorer.

SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Based on the recommendation of Jenifer L. DuBosq, Director, Dorchester County Department of Social Services, the Council agreed to appoint the following individuals to the Social Services Board effective April 15, 2024 to April 15, 2027: 1) Shana Morgan; and, 2) Lucas Thorpe.

COMMENDATIONS

RETIREMENT – CHRISTOPHER TOLLEY

The Council presented a Commendation to Christopher Tolley congratulating him on his retirement and commending him for 17 years of service to Dorchester County.

RETIREMENT – RANDY LEWIS

The Council presented a Commendation to Randy Lewis congratulating him on his retirement and commending him for 21 years of service to Dorchester County.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The Council presented a Commendation to Katelyn Robinson for being named Teacher of the Year 2024-2025.

FIRST CLASS TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

The Council presented a Commendation to Jordan Lewis and Haley Wright for being named First Class Teachers of the Year 2024-2025.

PROCLAMATIONS

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring April 14, 2024 to April 20, 2024 as Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

ACTION ITEMS

DORCHESTER COUNTY HIGHWAY PRIORITIES – PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Dave Edwards, Public Works Director, to submit the following list of transportation improvements along State Highways in Dorchester County for future State of Maryland funding consideration:

- US 50 / MD 16 Mount Holly Road – Traffic Feasibility Study for a fully functioning intersection to provide access to the eastbound lane;
- MD 16 Mount Holly Road / Chateau Road – Traffic Feasibility Study for improvements to intersection;
- Linkwood Road / US 50 – Traffic Feasibility Study & Geometric Improvement Study for a fully functioning traffic light; and,
- US 50 from Bucktown Road to Mount Holly Road – Traffic Feasibility study to see if any improvements can be made to the crossovers to improve safety.

The Council acknowledged that the traffic issues at MD 16/Chateau Road are due to the lack of accessibility to the eastbound lane of US 50 from MD 16 Mount Holly Road. In response to Councilman Pfeffer's inquiry, Mr. Edwards confirmed that the Aireys Road spur area is under review.

BID AWARD – ALUMINIZED TYPE 2 METAL PIPE/HDPE DRAINAGE PIPE – PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards to award the bid to the lowest bidder, Lane Enterprises, to supply Aluminized Type 2 Metal Pipe and HDPE Drainage Pipe as needed for the period of April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025, with an optional one-year extension, funded by the Public Works Highway FY24 Operating Budget drainage materials line item.

POLICY DISCUSSION – VEHICLES USED FOR COUNTY BUSINESS

The Council approved the request of Kristin Budd, Human Resources Director, to review Resolution 507 entitled Vehicles Used for County Business and recommend changes to the Council for approval at a future Council meeting. The Council recognized that surrounding Counties will be polled regarding their policies.

LETTER OF SUPPORT DISCUSSION – 118TH CONGRESS – SENATE BILL 3013 H-2B SEAFOOD EXEMPTION

After a brief discussion, the Council agreed to provide a letter of support regarding the 118th Congress Senate Bill 3013 H-2B Seafood Exemption to permanently authorize the exemption of aliens working as fish processors from the numerical limitation on H-2B nonimmigrant visa.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Council appointed the following:

- Terri Nuwer to the Agricultural Land Preservation Board;
- Wendell Meekins, Jr., and Robert Howard to the Agricultural Reconciliation Committee;
- Eugene Morris, Rodney Travers, Lou Koski, Jr., Jimmy Travers, Jr., and Jim Crist to the Electrical Examiners Board; and,
- Benny Horseman & Robert Hardy to the Seafood Reconciliation Committee.

2020 GRANT ADJUSTMENT NOTICE – 2020 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Council approved the request of James Windsor, Emergency Management Planner, to accept a Grant Adjustment Notice for the 2020 State Homeland Security Program to reflect actual costs versus projected, resulting in a decrease from \$103,000.00 to \$93,932.30.

LETTER OF SUPPORT – MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION – PACKING HOUSE

The Council approved the request of Azyia Ryans, Program Associate, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), to provide a letter of support, with a clause stating that it does not obligate the County to provide funding, for a Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development application for financial assistance through the Neighborhood Business Works Program to revitalize the Packing House, located at 411 Dorchester Avenue, Cambridge Maryland

INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER’S COMMENTS

Mr. Powell stated that there is a vacant County seat on the Cambridge Waterfront Development, Inc. (CWDI) Board to be filled by the Council, which he will decline if he is asked to be reappointed. The Council agreed to post the vacancy on social media to seek interest. Mr. Powell expressed his appreciation of the Department Heads, staff and the Council.

COUNCIL’S COMMENTS

Councilman Kramer relayed residents’ appreciation of Mr. Edwards and his team for resolving several drainage issues on Dailsville Road and Town Point Road. He said there are drainage issues at 2650 Hoopers Island Road, Fishing Creek, Maryland. In response to Councilman Kramer’s inquiry, Mr. Edwards said the drainage issues on Laurie Lane, Woolford, Maryland may be due to a crosspipe which may belong to the State.

In response to Councilman Travers’ inquiry, Mr. Edwards stated that the roadwork on Hambrooks Boulevard should be completed in about three weeks. He said the delay is due to weather conditions and the replacement pipe being damaged by the contractor, which was a custom pipe manufactured by request.

Councilman Detmer stated the following regarding CWDI: 1) no negotiations are underway between CWDI and the YMCA; 2) information regarding the proposed hotel cannot be disclosed at this time; 3) HAZMAT remediation was completed per the Maryland Department of the Environment requirements; and, 4) Angie Hengst, CWDI Board President, released a letter regarding information on public access. Councilman Detmer said he had conversations with local teachers to discuss their needs, which are retention, recruitment and safety. Councilman Detmer provided his condolences to Eldorado-Brookview Volunteer Fire Company and the families of Brinsfield Lowe, and Mark Hess.

In response to Councilman Pfeffer's inquiry, Mr. Edwards stated that multiple cross pipes failed due to recent heavy rainfalls, which were temporarily fixed with steel plates, and Backlanding Road should be completed in a couple weeks. Councilman Pfeffer thanked the staff and Department Heads for their dedication to the County.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Frank Raine, resident, expressed concerns about drainage issues on Wesley Church Road and the lower south County. Mr. Edwards stated that the request is in the work order system, however there may be significant delays due to prioritizing requests by level of safety concerns.

Shamya Johnson Stover, Human Resources Administrator, Dorchester County Public Schools, thanked the Council for their support of teachers, as their jobs are very critical, and they do not know how much they are appreciated. Ms. Johnson Stover said retention and safety of teachers are their main focus.

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



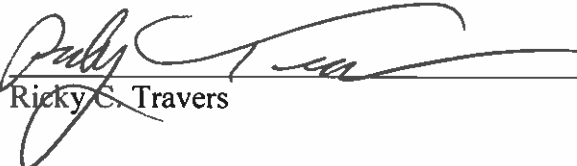
Mike Detmer, Vice President



Rob Kramer, Jr.



William V. Nichols



Ricky C. Travers

Approved the 16th day of April, 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: 4/2/24 ; Time: 5:02 p.m.; Location: Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland; Motion to close meeting made by: #Nichols Seconded by Kramer ; Members in favor: Pfeffer, Kramer, Detmer, Nichols, Travers ; 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)	To discuss an appointment to a specific board.	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 interviews for a specific 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) (4)	To discuss a specific a rehabilitation project.	The General Assembly added this exception on the basis of its understanding that some businesses might be deterred from making proposals about relocation, expansion or retention of an existing facility if all such discussions were open to public view 7 OMCB Opinions 148, 159-63 (2011)
§3-305(b) (3)	To discuss the acquisition of real property.	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: _____