

**County Council of Dorchester County**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**August 6, 2024**

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 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 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: Jerry Jones, County Manager; Charles MacLeod, County Attorney; Donna F. Lane, Clerk to Council; 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(s) were added: 1) Announcement – Health Department Property Acquisition; and, 2) Maryland State Highway Administration Special Event Permit GFNY Cycling Event. The Council approved the amended agenda.

**FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

Councilman Pfeffer reported total cash and investments as \$24,918,268.20.

**CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY**

The Council convened into Regular Session on August 6, 2024 at 5:00 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; pursuant to §3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; and pursuant to §3-305(b) (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

Present in Room 110 were: George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President; Mike Detmer, Vice President; Rob Kramer, Jr.; and, Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 were: Jerry Jones, County Manager; Donna F. Lane, Clerk to Council; and Irene Barnes, Executive Administrative Specialist. Charles MacLeod, County Attorney, joined the meeting late.

The Council convened in a Closed Session on August 6, 2024 at 5:01 p.m. to discuss the following items:

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

- 2) Discussed two personnel matters relating to specific employees;
- 3) Discussed the potential acquisition of two properties;
- 4) Received legal advice from the County Attorney regarding the following:
  - a. Disposition of County properties;
  - b. Potential sale of a County property;
  - c. Liability issues relating to the use of County roads;
  - d. Financial matters relating to a project; and,
  - e. A potential funding allocation.

Present in Room 110 were: George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President; Mike Detmer, Vice President; Rob Kramer, Jr.; and, Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 were: Jerry Jones, County Manager; Donna F. Lane, Clerk to Council; and Irene Barnes, Executive Administrative Specialist. Charles MacLeod, County Attorney, joined the meeting late.

## **REGULAR SESSION**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Council approved the minutes of July 16, 2024.

#### **APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS**

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

#### **FY25 SENIOR CARE GRANT ANNUAL PLAN – DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

The Council approved the request of Jenifer L. DuBosq, Director, Dorchester County Social Services, to continue the Senior Care Program in Dorchester County with Maryland Department of Aging funding for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

#### **SURPLUS REQUEST-LANDFILL ALJON COMPACTOR-PUBLIC WORKS**

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards to surplus an Aljon compactor for scrap metal utilizing the only equipment vendor that is interested in purchasing this piece of equipment, Midshore Recyclers, Inc. for \$5,000 which includes pick up and removal.

#### **REQUEST TO SURPLUS VEHICLES-PUBLIC WORKS**

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards to surplus the following vehicles, which have reached the usage limit, by sending them to an upcoming auction:

- Unit #133, 2008 Ford Truck, VIN No. 1FTR12208KD60380
- Unit #135, 2002 Chevy Truck, VIN No. 1GCEC14W62Z228987

Unit #138, 2003 Chevy Truck, VIN No. 1GCEC14V53E370764

#### REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS – CRUSHED STONE – PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards to advertise a request for proposals for crushed stone over a two-year period, October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2026, which will be funded by the FY25 Operating Budget funds.

#### REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS – INSTALLATION OF PAVILION – VIENNA PARK – RECREATION AND PARKS

The Council approved the request of Duc Trieu, Recreation and Parks Director, to advertise a Request for Proposals to install a pavilion at the Vienna Park, which will be funded by FY24 Program Open Space.

#### FY25 GOVERNORS OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION GRANT AWARDS – SHERIFF’S OFFICE

##### Sex Offender Compliance & Enforcement in Maryland Grant Program

The Council approved the request of James W. Phillips, Sheriff, to accept a FY2025 Sex Offender Compliance and Enforcement grant award through the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) for \$9,624.00, with no match requirements, to be applied towards overtime for a Sex Offender Deputy during the performance period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

##### Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network Overdose & Drug Awareness Coordinator

The Council approved the request of Sheriff Phillips to accept a FY2025 Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN) Overdose and Drug Awareness Coordinator grant award through the GOCCP for \$53,261.00, with no match requirements, to be applied towards the salary and travel expenses of an Overdose & Drug Awareness Coordinator during the performance period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

#### COMMENDATIONS

##### RICHARD SMITH – RETIREMENT

The Council presented a Commendation to Richard Smith congratulating him on his retirement and commending him for 25 years of service to Dorchester County.

#### PROCLAMATIONS

##### CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring August as Child Support Awareness Month.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **DIRECTOR OF RURAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY – MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

Carl Anderton, Director of Rural Economic Strategy, Maryland Department of Commerce, introduced himself and said he will be acting as a conduit between local government and the State to facilitate growth throughout the County and to help move things along with all state departments.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **PAVING REQUEST – SUNNYSIDE COURT – PUBLIC WORKS**

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards to pave 0.18 miles of Sunnyside Court, including the cul-de-sac, using the lowest bidder, Russell Paving Co, Inc., at the cost of \$32,135.00, which will be funded by the FY24 Capital paving allocation.

### **OIL SHED PURCHASE REQUEST – SECRETARY TRANSFER STATION – PUBLIC WORKS**

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards to purchase an oil shed from the lowest bidder, Pop's Market, Inc., at the cost of \$3,126.00 to replace an old shed at the Secretary Transfer Station, which will be funded by the FY25 Landfill Operating Budget.

### **REQUEST TO USE EGYPT PARK – TOUR DE MARYLAND – MD DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – RECREATION AND PARKS**

Based on the request of Mr. Trieu, on behalf of the Maryland Department of Veteran's Affairs, the Council approved the use of Egypt Park on October 8, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for a Tour de Maryland cycling event. The Council acknowledged that: 1) the organization will provide adaptive/recumbent bikes for disabled veterans, which furthers its goal to hold events for veterans in underserved communities; 2) 25-30 veterans registered for the event; and, 3) a Certificate of Liability Insurance will be provided.

### **REQUEST TO USE PORTION OF HURLOCK ATHLETIC FIELDS – MOPAR MOBB AUTO GROUP – RECREATION AND PARKS**

Based on the request of Mr. Trieu, on behalf of Douglas Dobson, MOPAR MOBB Auto Group, the Council approved the use of a portion of the Hurlock, Maryland athletic field along Poplar Street on October 16, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for its Annual Car Show. The Council acknowledged that Mr. Dobson will provide a copy of his Certificate of Liability Insurance prior to the event.

#### LANDFILL TIPPING FEE WAIVER REQUEST – WALLACE TEMPLE AME ZION CHURCH

The Council approved the request of Deborah Humphreys, Head Trustee, on behalf of the Wallace Temple AME Zion Church, to waive the landfill tipping fee when clearing the property adjacent to 4935 Kraft Road to expand the lot to rebuild the church. The Council acknowledged that this fee was waived in 2022 when the church was demolished.

#### FY25 CRITICAL AREA GRANT AWARD – PLANNING AND ZONING

The Council approved the request of Susan Webb, Planning and Zoning Director, to accept a FY2025 Critical Area Grant Agreement for \$5,000, with no match requirement, to fund a portion of the salary of the Environmental Planner. The Council acknowledged that historically \$9,000 was received for this purpose, however, it was reduced to \$5,000, therefore the Planning and Zoning budget will absorb the remaining \$4,000.

#### POLL CONFIRMATIONS

The Council confirmed its decisions in the interim of meetings, via poll to:

- Approve the submission of a FY25 School Resource Officer (SRO) Adequate Coverage Grant application for the Sheriff's Office through the Maryland Center for School Safety in the amount of \$91,228.00, with no match, to be applied to SRO overtime, by a 5 to 0 vote; and,
- Agree to schedule an additional Council meeting on October 22, 2024 beginning at 6 p.m., for the Maryland Department of Transportation officials and the local legislators annual meetings, by a 4 to 0 vote (no response).

#### ANNOUNCEMENT – HEALTH DEPARTMENT PROPERTY ACQUISITION

The Council announced the acquisition of 627 Race Street, Cambridge, Maryland, formerly Department of Social Services, to relocate the Dorchester County Health Department due to poor building conditions and limited space, which this move will take several months for the transfer of technology and infrastructure to be completed.

Roger Harrell, Health Office, Dorchester County Health Department, thanked the Council.

#### MARYLAND STATE HWY ADMIN SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT GFNY CYCLING EVENT

The Council agreed to the execution of a Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration Permit for the Gran Fondo New York Cambridge 2024 cycling event to be held on October 6, 2024 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Council acknowledged that the Certificate of Insurance has been provided.

**COUNCIL'S COMMENTS**

Councilman Travers said the relocation of the Health Department has been long overdue and apologized to its staff for poor working conditions.

Councilman Detmer reiterated Councilman Travers remarks, adding that the new location is in the heart of the community and well deserved.

Councilman Pfeffer highlighted that National Night Out is happening tonight in Cambridge, Secretary and Hurlock, Maryland, and is a great time to meet local law enforcement.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.


**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Jones  
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 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 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: August 6, 2024; Time: 5:00 p.m.; Location: Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland; Motion to close meeting made by: Travers Seconded by Kramer; Members in favor: Pfeffer, Detmer, Kramer, Travers; Opposed: \_\_\_\_\_; Abstaining: \_\_\_\_\_; Absent: Nichols.

**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."

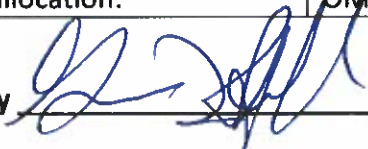
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**3. For each provision checked above, disclosure of the topic to be discussed and the public body's reason for discussing that topic in closed session.**

<b>Citation (insert # from above)</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reason for closed-session discussion of topic</b>
§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 )	Discussed personnel matters relating to specific County employees	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 )	Discussed personnel matters relating to specific employees	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 acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.	To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto
§3-305(b) (3)	To discuss acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.	To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto
§3-305(b) (7)	To receive legal advice from the County Attorney regarding a potential sale of County property	Council does not want to waive the attorney-client privilege. See page 101, August 17, 2021, OMCB ruling (15 OMCB 99)
§3-305(b) (7)	To receive legal advice from the County Attorney regarding the disposition of County property	Council does not want to waive the attorney-client privilege. See page 101, August 17, 2021, OMCB ruling (15 OMCB 99)



§3-305(b) (7)	To receive legal advice from the County Attorney regarding legal issues relating to the use of County roads for an event	Council does not want to waive the attorney-client privilege. See page 101, August 17, 2021, OMCB ruling (15 OMCB 99)
§3-305(b) (7)	To receive legal advice from the County Attorney regarding a contractual agreement.	Council does not want to waive the attorney-client privilege. See page 101, August 17, 2021, OMCB ruling (15 OMCB 99)
§3-305(b) (7)	To receive legal advice from the County Attorney regarding matters relating to a potential funding allocation.	Council does not want to waive the attorney-client privilege. See page 101, August 17, 2021, OMCB ruling (15 OMCB 99)

4. This statement is made by , Presiding Officer.

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_