

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2024

REGULAR SESSION

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in Open Session in Room 110 of the County Office Building at 6:00 p.m. on the 21st 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.; and, Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 was Jerry Jones, County Manager.

The following members of the City of Cambridge were in attendance: Stephen Rideout, Mayor, and, the City Council: Lajan Cephas, President; Laurel Atkiss; Jameson Harrington; and, Brian Roche. City Commissioner Sputty Cephas, and, Brandon Hesson, Assistant City Manager, joined the meeting late.

The Council motioned to adjourn into a 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 to locate, expand, or remain in the County; and, §3-305(b)(8) to consult with staff, consultants, and/or other individuals regarding pending litigation. The Written Statement for Closing a Meeting under the Open Meetings Act is available upon request.

Voting in favor of the Closed Session were the present Dorchester County Council and the City of Cambridge representatives.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

In Room 110 of the County Office Building, open to the public, the County Council of Dorchester County convened into a Closed Session on the 21st day of August, 2024 at 6:03 p.m. 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 was Jerry Jones, County Manager.

The following members of the City of Cambridge were in attendance: Stephen Rideout, Mayor, and, the City Council: Lajan Cephas, President; Laurel Atkiss; Jameson Harrington; and, Brian Roche. City Commissioner Sputty Cephas, and, Brandon Hesson, Assistant City Manager, joined the meeting late.

The Council adjourned to Closed Session to discuss the following items pursuant to Title 3 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code §3-305(b)(1), §3-305(b)(4), and §3-305(b)(8):

- 1) To discuss specific personnel items;
- 2) To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business to locate, expand, or remain in the County; and,
- 3) To consult with staff, consultants, and/or other individuals regarding pending litigation.

REGULAR SESSION

The Council reconvened into Regular Session on August 21, 2024 at 7:24 p.m. 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 was Jerry Jones, County Manager.

The following members of the City of Cambridge were in attendance: Stephen Rideout, Mayor, Brandon Hesson, Assistant City Manager and, the City Council: Lajan Cephas, President; Laurel Atkiss; Jameson Harrington; Brian Roche; and, Spuffy Cephas.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS

There were no Council comments.

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 3 day of Sept, 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: 8/21/24; Time: 6:00 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."

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 discuss specific personnel items.	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 consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business to locate, expand, or remain in the County.	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) (8)	To consult with the City Council regarding pending litigation.	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.

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: 6:03 pm

Place: County Court Building

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: _____

Closed Session Summary
August 21, 2024

The Council convened into a Closed Session at 6:03 p.m. on August 21, 2024 to discuss the following items pursuant to Title 3 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code §3-305(b)(1), §3-305(b)(4), and §3-305(b)(8):

- 1) To discuss specific personnel items,
- 2) To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business to locate, expand, or remain in the County; and,
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