

**County Council of Dorchester County**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**September 3, 2024**

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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 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.; William V. Nichols; and, Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 were: Jerry Jones, County Manager; Donna Lane, Clerk to Council; and, Irene Barnes, Executive Administrative Specialist. Charles MacLeod, County Attorney, joined the meeting late.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Detmer 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: Request to Proceed – Video & Tracking System – Emergency Services. The Council approved the amended agenda.

**FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

Councilman Pfeffer reported total cash and investments as \$24,384,601.40.

**CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY**

The Council convened into Regular Session on September 3, 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; 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.; William V. Nichols; and, Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 were: Jerry Jones, County Manager; and, Irene Barnes, Executive Administrative Specialist. Charles MacLeod, County Attorney joined the meeting late. 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 September 3, 2024 at 5:01 p.m. to discuss the following items:

- 1) Notifications of recent personnel changes within the County were provided;
- 2) Personnel changes within the Council's Office;
- 3) Received legal advice from the County Attorney regarding the following:
  - a. A funding request for a specific project.
  - b. Compliance matters relating to a specific landfill;
  - c. An agreement with a specific organization;
  - d. A specific litigation settlement; and,
  - e. The potential disposition of County owned property.

Present in Room 110 were: George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President; Mike Detmer, Vice President; Rob Kramer, Jr.; William V. Nichols; and, Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 were: Jerry Jones, County Manager; 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 August 20, 2024 and August 21, 2024.

### **APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS**

The Council approved the vouchers as presented.

### **REQUEST TO PROCEED – STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT – PUBLIC WORKS**

Based on the recommendation of Dave Edwards, Public Works Director, the Council approved the Stormwater Management Agreement for an industrial building projected for David M. Hurley, Jr., Bluewater Marine, located at 5465 Moose Lodge Road, Cambridge, Maryland.

### **REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS – SNOW CONTRACTING – PUBLIC WORKS**

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards to advertise a request for proposals for snow contracting services.

### **FY25 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY GRANT AWARD – POLICE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION – SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Based on the request of James W. Phillips, Jr., the Council accepted an \$11,250.00 FY25 Police Recruitment and Retention grant award through the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy, with no match requirement and a performance period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, to fund 45 gym memberships for deputies.

**FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION FY24 AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT AGREEMENT – LAND ACQUISITION & SERVICES REIMBURSEMENT – AIRPORT**

Based on the request of Steve Nuwer, Airport Director, the Council accepted a Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – Airport Infrastructure grant offer through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for a 90% reimbursement, not to exceed \$110,040, of expenses related to acquiring aviation easements on two parcels, Bartrum F4 and Burns F9, for the Airport's Multi-Phase Obstruction Removal project, with a performance period of four-years from the date of acceptance.

**FAA FY25 GRANT AGREEMENTS - RUNWAY 16/34 & TAXIWAY REHABILITATION – AIRPORT**

Based on the request of Mr. Nuwer, the Council approved the following grants through the Federal Aviation Administration for a topographical survey that is needed for the Airport's Runway 16/34 and Taxiway Rehabilitation project:

- 1) \$45,000.00 Airport Improvement Program grant award, with a performance period of four-years from the date of acceptance; and,
- 2) \$48,350.00 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – Airport Infrastructure grant application, with a 10% match requirement.

**REQUEST TO PROCEED – EASTERN SHORE INNOVATION CENTER DUMPSTER – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Council approved the request of Susan Banks, Economic Development Director, to enter into a contract with Republic Services for a dumpster at the Eastern Shore Innovation Center (ESIC) at the cost of \$108 per month for a 36-month term, which reduces the current expense by \$145 per month.

**EASTERN SHORE INNOVATION CENTER LICENSE AGREEMENT AMENDMENT REQUEST – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Based on the request of Ms. Banks on behalf of Garrett Luthy, Chief Ag Solutions, LLC, the Council approved a ESIC License Agreement Addendum No. 1 to remove Suite 013 from the agreement, reducing the monthly license fee from \$500 to \$253 for the remaining base term, ending on April 30, 2026, with all other terms and conditions of the Agreement remaining unchanged.

**EVENT REQUEST – PAWS IN THE POOL – RECREATION & PARKS**

The Council approved the request of Duc Trieu, Recreation & Parks Director, to partner with Baywater Animal Rescue and Dorchester County Dog Control to host the second annual "Paws in the Pool" event at the County pool on September 29, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., with proceeds from the event being donated to Baywater Animal Rescue.

**CENTER FOR TECH & CIVIC LIFE GRANT AWARD – 2024 RURAL/NONMETRO  
ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE – ELECTIONS**

Based on the request of Jessica Noranbrock, Data Application Specialist, Dorchester County Board of Elections, the Council accepted a \$50,000.00 Center for Tech and Civic Life 2024 Rural and Nonmetro Election Infrastructure Grant Program award, with no match and a performance period of July 31, 2024 through December 31, 2024, for the public purpose of planning and operationalizing reliable and secure election administration in Dorchester County, Maryland.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – BRIC DTA – FEDERAL EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

The Council agreed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide a framework for the collaboration with Dorchester County for the purpose of pursuing funding for the Hoopers Island causeway and other potential County infrastructure projects through its Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Direct Technical Assistance (DTA) program.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

**RECOVERY AWARENESS MONTH**

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring September as Recovery Awareness Month.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**REQUEST TO TAR & CHIP MULTIPLE ROADS – PUBLIC WORKS**

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards to utilize a current contract with American Paving Fabrics to tar and chip the following roads for a total of 97,847 square yards at the cost of \$224,069.60 to be funded by the FY25 Operating Budget:

Tates Bank Road	Riverview Road	Mulberry Lane
Elks Lodge Road	Great Oaks Road	Brittland Drive
Backwoods Drive	Aeberle Road	Little Creek Road
Cannon Road	North Court	Little Creek Court
Peach Tree Drive	Belle Aire Road	Fox Run Road
Sunrise Drive	Ryans Run Road	Goose Feather Lane
Waterview Drive	Vineyard Drive	French Farm Road
Woodland Acres	Beach Haven Road	Springdale Road
Meadowbrook Road	Indian Creek Road	

In response to inquiries from Councilman Detmer and Councilman Pfeffer, Mr. Edwards said: 1) this is a reapplication of tar and chip; 2) road repairs will be addressed prior to application; 3) an annual survey and traffic study are completed to prioritize road work; and, 4) these roads will be

completed in the fall, more roads may be repaired in the spring. Councilman Pfeffer highlighted that these roads are all concentrated in a small geographical area.

#### BID AWARD – CRUSHED STONE – PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards to award the bid for crushed stone to the lowest bidder, Patuxent Materials, Inc., at the below rates, which will be funded by the FY25 Operating Budget:

AASHTO #3 OR MD #2	\$40.35/ton
AASHTO #57 OR MD #6	\$41.15/ton
WASHED AASHTO #8 OR MD #7	\$43.85/ton
AASHTO #10 OR MD #10	\$29.75/ton
MD CR6 OR HASAB	\$35.20/ton

#### FUNDING REQUEST – CHESAPEAKE HOUSING MISSION

The Council deferred the request of Maureen L. Williams, Board Chair, Chesapeake Housing Mission (CHM), to provide \$25,000 support CHM in carrying out home repairs and accessibility improvements throughout the community. The Council directed staff to determine if funding is available, and to provide a funding sheet to Council for a future discussion.

#### POLL CONFIRMATIONS

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

- Approve the request of Mary O'Donnell, Magistrate, Circuit Court, to submit a Child Welfare grant application for a Dorchester County Preventative Family Advocacy Clinic Pilot for \$403,000.00 with no match which will be used to start a clinic to assist citizens involved in the child welfare system by a 5 to 0 vote; and,
- Approve a request of Frank Narr, on behalf of Cambridge Waterfront Development, Inc., for temporary funding from the County in the amount of \$35,000.00 to renew its general liability insurance policy at the cost of \$33,557.20, plus late fees, which will be reimbursed to the County with proceeds from the sale of a property to Yacht Maintenance, by a 4 to 1 vote, Councilman Kramer opposed.
- Approve the request of James W. Phillips, Sheriff, to submit a Byrne Justice Assistance Grant application through the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy in the amount of \$38,736.00 with no match requirement and a performance period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, to reduce gaps in existing services by providing additional video surveillance equipment in crime hot spots in Dorchester County, by a 4 to 0 vote (no response).
- Approve the request of Susan Webb, Planning & Zoning Director, to submit a Byrne Justice Assistance Grant application through the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy in the amount of \$113,783.00, with no match requirement and a performance period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, for the purchase and installation of a limited

access entry system at the County Office Building, and to install six additional security cameras at Sailwinds Park, by a 5 to 0 vote.

#### **MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT DISBURSEMENT REQUEST – MCKEIL POINT NO. 1 – SANITARY DISTRICT**

Based on the request of Sandra Tripp-Jones, Sanitary District Consultant, the Council approved the submission of a disbursement request to the Maryland Department of the Environment for \$1,406,723.00 for the McKeil Point No. 1 On-Site Sewage System Removal project.

#### **REQUEST TO PROCEED – VIDEO & TRACKING SYSTEM – EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The Council approved the request of Debbie Wheedleton, Chief, Emergency Medical Services, to replace the current video and tracking system in the EMS fleet with Samsara, at the cost of \$13,525.20, which will be funded by the FY25 Operating Budget.

Ms. Wheedleton provided an overview of the benefits of switching to Samsara. Councilman Pfeffer said this may increase the safety and security of providers and patients, prevent accidents, enhance maintenance efforts, and minimize risk. In response to Councilman Travers' inquiry, Ms. Wheedleton said the cameras will provide footage of the driver and the road, noting that cameras will not be in the back. Councilman Pfeffer added that other counties use Samsara.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Councilman Pfeffer announced that tonight is Ms. Lane's last Council meeting as she pursues a career opportunity with the State of Maryland. The Council and Mr. Jones honored Ms. Lane by reflecting on her 19 years at the County, and wished her the best in her future endeavors.

#### **COUNCIL'S COMMENTS**

Councilman Nichols said to Mr. Edwards that the Rod and Gun Club will need to borrow a trailer on Aireys Road.

Based on a recommendation from Councilman Detmer, the Council directed staff to determine if a Lobbyist is needed. Councilman Detmer highlighted the Dorchester Goes Purple event on the corner of Race Street and Cedar Street on September 4, 2024.

Councilman Pfeffer said school is back in session, and to remember that is illegal to pass a school bus when it has stopped to pick-up or drop-off children. He wished teachers and students a safe, happy and healthy school year.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Derek Griffin, Police Accountability Board & Administrative Charging Committee; Karen Tolley, Finance Director; and, Mr. MacLeod thanked Ms. Lane for her assistance during her time

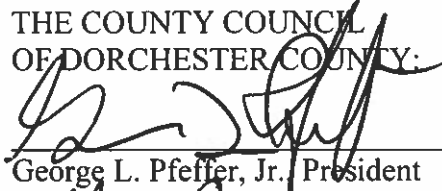
with the County. Ms. Lane said it has been a pleasure working the current and past Council members and staff.


**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

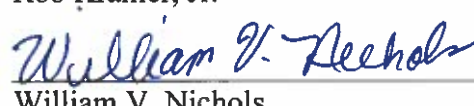
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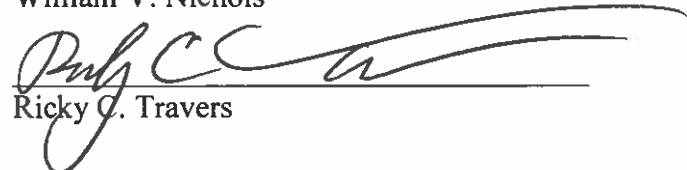
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Jones  
County Manager

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 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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: 9/3/24; Time: 5:00 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, Detmer, Nichols, Detmer, 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 personnel changes within the Council's Office.	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) (7)	To receive legal advice from the County Attorney regarding a funding request for a specific project.	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 compliance matters relating to a specific landfill	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 an agreement with a specific organization.	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 specific litigation settlement.	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 potential disposition of County owned property.	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: \_\_\_\_\_