

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2024

REGULAR SESSION

The County Council of Dorchester County convened into Regular Session on October 1, 2024 at 5:03 p.m., in Room 110 of the County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613. A roll call of the members was conducted. Present in Room 110 were: 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. George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President, joined by phone. Charles MacLeod, County Attorney, joined the meeting late.

The Council motioned to adjourn into a Closed Session pursuant to the following sections of Title 3 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code: §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, §3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice. The Written Statement for Closing a Meeting under the Open Meetings Act is available upon request.

The Council adjourned into Closed Session.

CLOSED SESSION

The County Council of Dorchester County convened into Closed Session on October 1, 2024 at 5:04 p.m., in Room 110 of the County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613. Present in Room 110 were: 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. George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President, joined by phone. Charles MacLeod, County Attorney, joined the meeting late.

The Council adjourned into Regular session

REGULAR SESSION

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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 items were added: 1) Maryland Broadband Cooperative, Inc. Easement Agreement – Communications Division; and, 2) Request to Proceed - Tax Abatements – Finance. The Council approved the amended agenda.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Detmer reported total cash and investments as \$34,700,722.47.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council convened into a Closed Session at 5:03 p.m. on October 1, 2024 to discuss the following items pursuant to Title 3 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code §3-305(b)(1) and §3-305(b)(7):

1. Notifications of recent personnel changes within the County were provided.
2. Received legal advice from the County Attorney regarding:
 - a. A specific County owned property;
 - b. Specific tax exemptions; and,
 - c. Requirements of administering a specific board.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Council approved the minutes of September 17, 2024.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented.

GOCPP GRANT AWARD – FY25 STATE AID FOR POLICE PROTECTION – SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Based on the request of James W. Phillips, Sheriff, the Council accepted a \$164,894.00 FY25 State Aid for Police Protection Fund grant award through the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy to provide adequate police protection in the subdivisions and qualifying municipalities of Maryland, with a performance period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 and no match requirement.

EASTERN SHORE INNOVATION CENTER LICENSE AGREEMENT – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Based on the recommendation of Susan Banks, Economic Development Director, the Council agreed to enter into an Eastern Shore Innovation Center License Agreement with Ma8kr for the lease of Suite 038 effective October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2026 at \$113 per month, with an option for a one-year extension.

PROCLAMATION

4-H WEEK – BEYOND READY

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring October 6-12, 2024 as 4-H week.

PRESENTATIONS

LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD UPDATE – MOVING DORCHESTER FORWARD

Nancy Shockley, Local Management Board Coordinator, Moving Dorchester Forward, presented information regarding the FY24-26 Community Plan for Children, Youth and Families in Dorchester County. Dr. Jymil Thompson, Superintendent, Dorchester County Public Schools (DCPS), and Shay Lewis-Sisco, Career Coach, DCPS, also provided information pertaining to the community plan.

MARYLAND YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM – DORCHESTER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ms. Lewis-Sisco presented information relating to the Maryland Youth Apprenticeship Program.

In response to Councilman Detmer's inquiry, Ms. Lewis-Sisco said employers should reach out to her to connect with students on these programs.

The Council approved the request of Ms. Lewis-Sisco to collaborate with Dorchester County Public Schools and the Maryland Youth Apprenticeship Program to engage students in additional learning opportunities.

FINANCIAL UPDATES – FINANCE

Karen Tolley, Finance Director, presented information relating to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the County audits and the Uniform Financial Report.

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

INTRODUCTION – FY2024-2025 BUDGET AMENDMENT

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING: AMENDING THE 2024-2025 ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

Ms. Barnes said for introduction is legislation for the purpose of amending the FY25 Budget to incorporate the Department of Water and Wastewater Services, increasing the Operating Revenues and Expenditures by \$988,023.00; and, the Capital Budget Expenditures and Capital Budget Source of Funds by \$350,000.00, which will be funded by the Water & Wastewater Enterprise Fund balance.

The Council agreed to proceed with the publication of a public hearing.

The Council adjourned into Regular Session.

REGULAR SESSION

ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION MEETING DISCUSSION

No new items.

FY25 MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE SESSION DISCUSSION

No new items.

ACTION ITEMS

BID AWARD – ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES – PUBLIC WORKS

Based on the recommendation of David Dierks, Facilities & Risk Manager, Public Works, the Council awarded a bid for On-Call Engineering Services to the following firms, in no order and on an as-needed basis: 1) George, Miles & Buhr; 2) Lane Engineering; and, 3) Davis, Bowen & Friedel for a three year term, with an option for two one-year extensions.

BID AWARD – PAVILION – VIENNA PARK – RECREATION & PARKS

The Council approved the request of Duc Trieu, Recreation & Parks Director, to award the bid for the Vienna Park pavilion to the lowest bidder, Green Site LLC, for a 12'x20' gable roof hardtop pavilion with a four inch cement pad at \$27,223.00 which will be funded by FY24 Program Open Space funds.

FY2026 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN – BOARD OF EDUCATION

Based on the request of Dr. Thompson, the Council conceptually approved the Dorchester County Board of Education’s FY26 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for planning purposes only, contingent on future budget approvals.

Dr. Mike Collins, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services; and, Pat Murphy, Facilities Manager presented an overview of the Dorchester County Public Schools FY26 CIP which includes the status of previously approved projects and future requests. Mr. Murphy said: 1) 100% of new construction will be funded by the State of Maryland until FY26, but may be extended to FY28; and, 2) the State requested a feasibility study to be completed by all Open Space schools to determine which is more efficient, building new schools or remodeling existing facilities.

OBSERVATION OF HALLOWEEN

The Council agreed to the observance of Halloween by County residents for children ages 12 and under on Thursday, October 31, 2024 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., which will not supersede prescheduled municipality events, however, this does apply to areas outside of town limits.

DEPARTMENTAL RESTRUCTURING DISCUSSION

Based on the recommendation of Mr. Jones, on behalf of Kristin Budd, Human Resources Director, the Council agreed to proceed with restructuring the following departments: Communications Division; Emergency Medical Services; Corrections; and, Director Positions.

Mr. Jones said the FY24 Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) salary study was taken into account to adjust positions and salaries for directors and staff within the Communications Division, Emergency Medical Services, and Corrections to increase competitiveness, safety, opportunities and retention. He said this is the first step, and that the retirement system is also being reviewed.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Council appointed the following:

Recreation & Parks Advisory Board

Antoine Patton
Brooks Parker

Planning Commission

Valerie Brown

Board of Zoning Appeals

Lin Spicer
Scott Wiehold

POLL CONFIRMATION

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

- Approve an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Cambridge and Dorchester County for a \$12,495.00 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant, which is split between the Cambridge Police Department and the Sheriff's Office, by a 4 to 0 vote.

MARYLAND BROADBAND COOPERATIVE, INC. EASEMENT AGREEMENT – COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Based on the request of Sheriff Phillips, the Council agreed to enter into an agreement with the Maryland Broadband Company, Inc. to allow access to and maintenance of its telecommunications facilities installed at Fieldcrest Drive for a term of 99 years, with an option for a 50-year extension.

REQUEST TO PROCEED – TAX ABATEMENTS – FINANCE

The Council approved the request of Karen Tolley, Finance Director, to proceed with tax abatements for the following:

- Cambridge Common's, LLLP
- Cambridge Skeet & Gun Club, Inc.
- Glenburn Associates
- Women's Auxiliary of DGH
- Cedar Meadows Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
- Homes for Hurlock Limited Partnership
- Cambridge Waterfront Development, Inc. (CWDI) / CWDI Holdings, LLC

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS

Councilman Nichols applauded the departmental restructuring efforts and said it should continue with the increase of lower tier salaries.

Councilman Pfeffer thanked Mr. Jones and the Human Resources Department for their great work on the departmental restructuring. He said Saturday, October 5, 2024 is the Hurlock Fall Festival, and apologized for his absence at the meeting.

Councilman Travers noted the effects of Hurricane Helene, and commended the community for coming together to assist those in need.

Councilman Detmer: 1) welcomed Bernard Dryden, Orphans' Court Judge; 2) said he will be attending the Hurlock Fall Festival; 3) highlighted the Nanticoke River Jamboree on October 12, 2024; 4) congratulated Hailey Leonard for being a 2024 Navy Bootcamp graduate; 5) provided his condolences to the Tinley family for the passing of Charles Tinley; 6) echoed Councilman Travers regarding Hurricane Helene.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Don Satterfield, Corrections Director, applauded the efforts and continued support of the County Council, Mr. Jones and Human Resources, and noted that there is still work to be done.

Ms. Lewis-Sisco provided additional information regarding the Maryland Youth Apprenticeship Program.

ADJOURNMENT

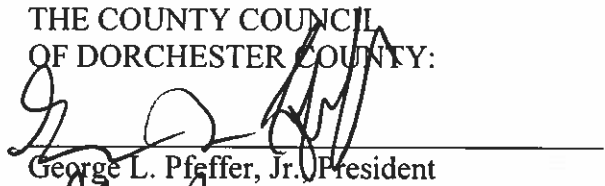
With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

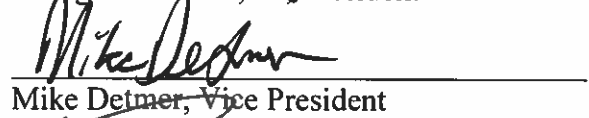


Jerry Jones
County Manager

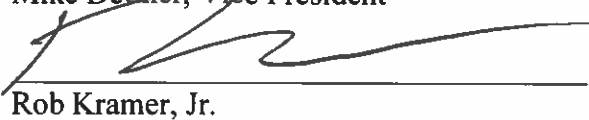
THE COUNTY COUNCIL
OF DORCHESTER COUNTY:



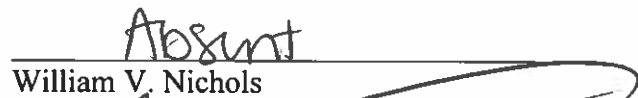
George L. Pfeffer, Jr. President



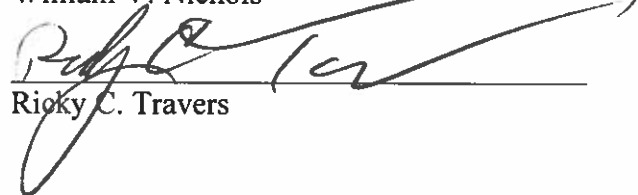
Mike Detmer, Vice President



Rob Kramer, Jr.



William V. Nichols



Ricky C. Travers

Approved the 15 day of OCT, 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: 10/1/24; Time: 5:03 p.m.; Location: Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland; Motion to close meeting made by: Kramer Seconded by Travers; Members in favor: Pfeffer, Detmer, Kramer, Nichols, Travers; Opposed: _____; Abstaining: _____; Absent: _____.

Pfeffer joined by phone

**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) (7)	To receive legal advice from the County Attorney regarding a specific County owned 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 specific tax exemptions.	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 requirements of administering a specific board.	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 Mike Depper, 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: _____