

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2024

REGULAR SESSION

The County Council of Dorchester County convened into Regular Session on September 17, 2024 at 5:00 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: 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.

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; §3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; and, §3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. 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 September 17, 2024 at 5:01 p.m., in Room 110 of the County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613. 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.

The Council adjourned into Regular session

REGULAR SESSION

The County Council of Dorchester County convened into Regular Session on September 17, 2024 at 6:03 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: 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; Charles MacLeod, County Attorney; and, Irene Barnes, Executive Administrative Specialist.

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: Cambridge Waterfront Development Inc. Board Appointment.

The Council approved the amended agenda

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Pfeffer reported total cash and investments as \$26,965,628.36.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council convened into a Closed Session at 5:01 p.m. on September 17, 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)(7) and §3-305 (b) (3):

1. Notifications of recent personnel changes within the County were provided;
2. Received legal advice from the County Attorney regarding the following:
 - a) A request to convey a specific County property;
 - b) State of Maryland landfill requirements;
 - c) An agreement with a specific organization;
3. Discussed the potential acquisition of real property.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Council approved the minutes of September 3, 2024.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

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

LETTER OF COMMITMENT – GOVERNOR’S OFFICE FOR CHILDREN – FY25 ENGAGING NEIGHBORHOODS, ORGANIZATIONS, UNIONS, GOVERNMENTS, & HOUSEHOLDS – MOVING DORCHESTER FORWARD

Based on the request of Nancy Shockley, Local Management Board Coordinator, Moving Dorchester Forward, Inc., the Council agreed to enter into a Communities of Hope: Dorchester Partnership Agreement and provided a letter of commitment to be a core member of the

leadership team for Moving Dorchester Forward's FY25 Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) grant application through the Governor's Office for Children.

BUDGET TRANSFER REQUEST – COUNCIL'S OFFICE

The Council approved the FY24 Budget Transfer Request of the Council's Office.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS – RECREATION CENTER REPAIRS – RECREATION & PARKS

The Council approved the request of Duc Trieu, Recreation & Parks Director, to advertise a request for proposals for repaving, line striping, and sidewalk repairs for the parking lot at the Recreation Center.

PROCLAMATIONS

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring September as Suicide Prevention Month.

PRESENTATIONS

SUMMER READING PROGRAM – DORCHESTER COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Members of the Dorchester County Public Library: Crystal Henningsen, Director; Julie Kennedy, Assistant Director/Head of Youth Services; Lanett Bagley, Hurlock Branch Manager; and, Hannah Smutny, Hurlock Youth Services, presented information regarding the successes of the Library's Summer Reading Program.

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

INTRODUCTION – SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS

AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND AMENDING CHAPTER 155 (ZONING) OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE FOR THE PURPOSES OF REPEALING AND REENACTING § 155-50(LL) TO PROVIDE FOR ACCESSORY, SMALL SCALE, AND UTILITY SCALE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS, ADOPTING REGULATIONS REGARDING THE SAME, DEFINING TERMS ASSOCIATED THEREWITH, AND AMENDING THE TABLE OF PERMITTED USES BY ZONING DISTRICT REGARDING SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS; PROVIDING THAT THE TITLE OF THIS BILL SHALL BE DEEMED A FAIR SUMMARY, AND GENERALLY RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS IN DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND.

Ms. Barnes said for introduction is legislation regarding solar energy systems for the purpose of repealing and reenacting §155-50(LL) to provide for accessory, small scale, and utility scale solar energy systems, adopting regulations regarding the same, defining terms associated therewith, and amending the table of permitted uses by zoning district regarding solar energy systems; providing that the title of this bill shall be deemed a fair summary, and generally relating to solar energy systems in Dorchester County, Maryland.

Susan Webb, Planning & Zoning Director, provided highlights of the proposed bill.

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

The roll call was: Pfeffer – aye; Detmer – aye; Kramer – aye; Nichols – aye; and, Travers – aye.

Councilman Travers said the Council is working with local legislators to introduce a bill to privatize perc testing. The Council agreed to send a formal letter to the local delegation and Senator to introduce a pilot program.

The Council adjourned into regular session.

REGULAR SESSION

ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION MEETING DISCUSSION

The Council agreed to discuss the following items at the October 22, 2024 Annual Transportation Meeting with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT):

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
US 50 / Linkwood Road	Traffic Feasibility Study & Geometric Improvement Study for a fully functioning traffic light
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
Nealson Street	Town of Hurlock, for MDOT to take over Nealson Street as a State Connector Road
Rt 14/ 392 (Dockins)	Roundabout

FY25 MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE SESSION DISCUSSION

The Council agreed to discuss the following at the October 22, 2024 FY25 Maryland General Assembly Session:

State Law Amendment: Lease Advertisements	To amend Section 10-312(F) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland entitled “County property; housing projects; franchise; required notice,” as it relates to leases, to allow the County to enter into a lease for a term of five years or less, without providing notice of publication.
State Law Amendment: Polygraph Examination as a Condition of Employment	To amend Section 3-702 of the Labor and Employment Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to exempt the following Dorchester County employment applicants from the prohibition on employers requiring, or demanding, that an individual submit to, or take, a polygraph examination as a condition of employment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 911 Dispatcher • Paramedic • Emergency Medical Technician • Correctional Officer
Juvenile Crime	To consider legislative, or other initiatives, to address juvenile crime.
Doe Hunting (2023)	Reintroduce the “Natural Resources-Female Deer Hunting Contests-Authorization” bill.
Passing on Shoulder	Abolish the law that allows passing on the shoulder when vehicles are making left hand turn.
Privatizing Perc Tests	Introduction of a pilot program.
Planning & Zoning – Board of License Commissioners	Placeholder

ACTION ITEMS

BID AWARD – ASBESTOS ABATEMENT – COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING – PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Dave Edwards, Public Works Director, to award the bid for asbestos abatement at the County Office Building to the lowest bidder, Compliance, Construction and Remediation, Inc., at the cost of \$14,800.00 which will be funded from the remainder of the FY24 Capital Budget – County Building HVAC.

PIGGYBACK REQUEST – WARWICK ROAD IMPROVEMENTS – PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Edwards to piggyback on a Maryland Department of Transportation contract with David A Bramble for improvements to Warwick Road, from Suicide Bridge Road to Red Haven Road, at the cost of \$387,754.00 which will be funded by the FY25 Capital Budget – Infrastructure Repairs and Road Paving.

Councilman Detmer said this road is in desperate need of repair and is cannot accommodate the traffic load. Councilman Pfeffer added that the sides of the road are deteriorating, and he has received complaints of stones and asphalt becoming airborne as traffic passes through the area from Warwick Manner.

CLOVERDALE ROAD – TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Council approved the recommendation of the Traffic Safety Committee to move forward with the following requests regarding Cloverdale Road to: 1) change the speed limit from 25 mph during school hours, to a permanent 25 mph zone, with increased markings; and, 2) install a crosswalk in the area of North Dorchester High School.

On behalf of the Traffic Safety Committee, Councilman Detmer said it was a unanimous decision to recommend moving forward with the requests.

POLL CONFIRMATION

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

- Submit a Letter of Commitment to collaborate with the City of Cambridge to develop a Cambridge Trail Expansion Plan to connect the following bike and pedestrian trails throughout Cambridge: 1) the Packing House; 2) Pine Street Revitalization; 3) Cambridge Harbor; 4) Main Street area; and, 5) the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay, by a 3 to 0 vote (no responses).

CAMBRIDGE WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT INC. BOARD APPOINTMENT

The Council appointed Tim Crosby to the Cambridge Waterfront Development Inc. Board as the representative for Dorchester County.

Councilman Pfeffer said Mr. Crosby is a recognized architect and planner in the County.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS

Councilman Travers said: 1) the IRONMAN Maryland triathlon is this weekend, with roughly 1,800 athletes participating, beginning at 6:00 a.m. in the water, then transitioning into bicycling and running; 2) it is very rewarding to hear the stories of athletes and the reason behind why they are participating; 3) the race brings a lot to the community; and 4) the Dorchester County Showcase is at the end of September.

Councilman Detmer: 1) wished the IRONMAN Maryland participants and community luck and safety; and, 2) highlighted upcoming events relating to Dorchester Goes Purple.

Councilman Pfeffer: 1) wished the IRONMAN Maryland participants the best of luck and success; 2) asked for the public's patience during the race with concerns regarding traffic and trash; 3) directed the public to contact the Council's Office for questions and concerns relating to the race; and, 4) highlighted that school is back in session, and asked the public to be more attentive while driving, and parents to be more aware of what is happening in the community and school.

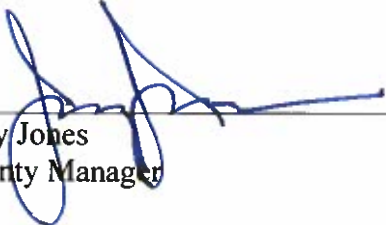
PUBLIC COMMENTS

In response to an inquiry by Phil Cecil, resident, Councilman Pfeffer said the dissolution of the Sanitary District is in process, and will be finalized on October 19, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:



Jerry Jones
County Manager

THE COUNTY COUNCIL
OF DORCHESTER COUNTY:

Via Telephone

George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President

Mike Detmer

Mike Detmer, Vice President

Rob Kramer, Jr.

Rob Kramer, Jr.

William V. Nichols

William V. Nichols

Ricky E. Travers

Ricky E. Travers

Approved the 1st day of October, 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: 9-17-24; Time: 5:00 p.m.; Location: Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland; Motion to close meeting made by: Detmer Seconded by Kramer; Members in favor: Pfeffer, Detmer, Kramer, Nichols; 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) (7)	To receive legal advice from the County Attorney regarding a request to convey a specific 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 State of Maryland landfill requirements.	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) (3)	To discuss the potential acquisition of real property.	To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto

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: _____