

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2016**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on November 1, 2016 with the following members present: Ricky C. Travers, President; Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President; William V. Nichols; Rick M. Price and Don B. Satterfield. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney; Jeremy Goldman, County Manager; and Donna Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist.

REGULAR SESSION

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Satterfield led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- OCTOBER 18, 2016

The Council approved the minutes of October 18, 2016.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers with additions as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$11,908,372.84.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council adjourned from a Regular Session and convened in 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 and pursuant to §3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter on November 1, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613.

Action taken at the Closed Session: 1) discussed a matter relating to board membership and attendance; 2) approved the request of the Public Works Director to fill a Motor Equipment Operator III position at the Landfill by a 4 to 1 vote; 3) discussed a matter

regarding health insurance; and, 4) discussed with legal counsel an offer relating to a State law tax requirement.

The purpose of the Closed Session is also set forth in the Written Statement of Closing a Meeting Under the Open Meetings Act, which will be provided upon request. Voting in favor of the closed Closed Session were all of the present Council members.

REGULAR SESSION

PROCLAMATION-HISTORICAL FREEDOM DAY

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring November 10, 2016 Historical Freedom Day which Dr. Carl Barham accepted.

PROCLAMATION-HUNGER AND HOMELESS AWARENESS WEEK

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring November 12 to November 20, 2016 as Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week which Jeanine Beasley, Mid Shore Behavioral Health, accepted.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring November 2016 as Native American Heritage Month. Reverend Dr. Trish Hopkins, Southern Tuscarora Ancestor, and Chief Donna "Wolf Mother" Abbott, Nause Waiwash Band of Indians, were in attendance.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY REQUEST-SPRING VALLEY

The Council approved the request of Amy Craig, on behalf of the Christmas Tree Lighting Committee, to place a tree on the Circuit Court House bandstand on November 12, 2016 and to hold a Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, November 26, 2016. The Council acknowledged that the tree will remain on the bandstand until the first of 2017.

PRIORITY FUNDING AREA DESIGNATION REQUEST-SUICIDE BRIDGE RESTAURANT-PLANNING AND ZONING

The Council approved the request of Ryan Showalter, Attorney, Suicide Bridge Restaurant, to designate the Suicide Bridge Restaurant property (Tax Map 12, Parcel 24, totaling +/- 3.00 acres) as a County Priority Funding Area. The Council acknowledged that this property meets the qualifications for designation as a Priority Funding Area under the Smart Growth Areas Act of 1997, as amended by House Bill 1141, because it is considered an "employment use" and is designated as an S-1 service area in the Dorchester County Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan.

REQUEST TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT-REAL ESTATE VALUATION CONSULTANT-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council approved the request of Susan Banks, Business Development Manager, to contract with W.R. McCain & Associates, which provided the lowest of three quotes, to conduct an appraisal of the Dorchester Regional Technology Park, with the exception of Lot 3, to determine sale prices at a cost not to exceed \$3,450. In response to questions from Councilman Price, Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, said a certified real estate agency must conduct the appraisal and FY17 Economic Development funding will be used to cover this cost.

ADA RAMPS AND STEPS-COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING-EPOXY-GRANT MONITOR

The Council agreed that County staff can select the color of epoxy coatings for the rear entrance ramp and steps for both the vertical and horizontal surfaces.

REQUESTS TO SOLE SOURCE/PURCHASE AND SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARATION REQUESTS-PUBLIC WORKS

Roadside Mower

The Council approved the request of Tom Moore, Public Works Director, to sole source with Deere and Company under the State of Maryland Grounds Maintenance Equipment Contract to purchase a John Deere 5085M tractor with diamond side and rear cutters for a price of \$77,775.94. The Council also approved Mr. Moore's request to declare the two older units, specifically Unit 624, a 1996 Massey Ferguson 399, and Unit 630, a 1996 Massey Ferguson 383 as surplus.

Busher

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to sole source with Deere and Company under the State of Maryland Grounds Maintenance Equipment Contract to purchase a John Deere 6110M Cab tractor with Diamond boom mower for \$123,028.85. The Council also approved Mr. Moore's request to declare two older units, Unit 305, the 1966 Cat Grader with Roanoke cutter, and Unit 651, a 2004 Truck Cat, as surplus.

BID AWARD-PAINTING-PUBLIC WORKS

Based on the recommendation of Mr. Moore, the Council agreed to award a bid for the painting of two areas in the County Office Building and the center stairwell of the Circuit Courthouse to B.A.S. Construction, the lowest bidder, for a total cost of \$7,607.24.

FY17 PAVING CONTRACT-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to sole source and extend the current contract with Russell Paving Co, Inc. for paving for a one year period for shorter length road hot mix overlays (less than 500 tons per day) at \$91.19 per ton for contractor hauling and \$88.16 per ton when hauled by County staff. The Council also approved the paving list he submitted. The Council acknowledged that County staff is still in negotiations regarding longer length roads (greater than 500 tons per day).

AIRPORT SECURITY GATE BID AWARD

Based on the request of Meighan “Chis” Chisholm, Airport Manager, the Council approved an additional cost of \$2,157 for the Airport Security Gate project to reflect updated costs. The Council agreed to award the gates, controllers and safety features to Abel Fence, LLC for \$52,160 and the electrical power to the gate sites to Travers Electric at the cost of \$6,467.

TRAVEL REQUEST-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Anna Sierra, Emergency Services Director, for her and Steve Garvin, Emergency Planner, to attend the Maryland Emergency Management Agency Local Emergency Manager Winter Retreat on November 15 and November 16, 2016 in Hagerstown, Maryland.

TELEPHONE POLL CONFIRMATION

The Council confirmed its decision in the interim between meetings, by means of a poll, based on the request of Meighan “Chis” Chisholm, Airport Manager, to approve Change Order Number 4 for modifications to the rain gardens to mitigate standing water which are part of the Airport Apron Expansion Project at the approximate cost of \$3,060 from the FY15 budget by a 4 to 1 vote (one no answer).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Donald Gray, resident, said it is his recollection that the area at the foot of the Elliott’s Island Bridge, which is sinking, was to be repaved this year. He advised that he spoke to Mr. Moore several months ago who said there was funding available for this purpose. Mr. Gray referred to a conversation he had recently with Mr. Goldman about ditching on Elliott’s Island. He told Mr. Goldman he had the contact information for a resident who is willing to accept the dirt from County projects in the area. Mr. Goldman thanked him and explained that Miss Utility will not site the utilities if water is present in the ditch.

In response to an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Mr. Moore said generally, as with the current budget, additional funding is available to do wedges throughout the County. He explained that areas must be identified and prioritized. Mr. Moore stated that he

viewed this area recently and the section of road Mr. Gray references is not as low as other areas, including sections that are near areas wedged last year.

Pete Macinta, on behalf of the Association of Evangelistic Pastors, invited the Council to a community Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 20, 2016 at the Jubilee Christian Fellowship. He said an offering will be received at that service with proceeds being provided to the cold weather shelter in the County.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Nichols recognized the recent loss of Elaine Stafford recently, who was responsible for bringing the Housing Authority to Cambridge.

Councilman Satterfield thanked Public Works staff for the work they have performed recently and law enforcement for their service. He stressed the need to clean ditches and recognized that water must subside before work can commence.

Based on a motion made by Councilman Satterfield, the Council appointed Lin Spicer to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Councilman Price said a series of public hearings have recently been held by the Public Service Commission (PSC) on the proposed rate increase for Delmarva Power. He noted that he attended the hearing held at Chesapeake College at which Senator Adelaide Eckardt, Delegate Johnny Mautz and Delegate Stephen Hershey were present. He said most residents in attendance were from Talbot and Caroline counties. He noted that all were in opposition to the increase. He said the deadline for written comments was last night. He advised that a decision by the PSC may be made in January.

Councilman Price commended the organizations who held Halloween activities and public safety for additional patrols this weekend. He encouraged the public to vote on Election Day, November 8, 2016, and to recognize Veterans on Friday, November 11, 2016.

Councilman Bradshaw thanked the Council members for their decision to send correspondence to Governor Lawrence "Larry" Hogan" for his support of the pursuit of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for the issuance of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit to dredge and utilize oyster shell from the Man-O-War Shoal. He said he had the opportunity to attend the Oyster Future Symposium in St. Michaels on October 23, 2016. He advised that at this meeting individuals from the State of Washington and Delaware and Jim Wesson, who is the head of Virginia's oyster program, expressed their belief that oyster restoration is not feasible without shell. Councilman Bradshaw said it is his understanding that bills to institute a moratorium on harvesting oysters, similar to the rock fish ban, are being drafted for introduction during the 2017 Maryland General Assembly legislative session. He expressed his belief such a moratorium will be detrimental to the economy. Councilman Bradshaw said it also his understanding that there is discussion regarding designating additional bottom as


sanctuaries. He said one individual from New Jersey, Delaware Bay, said enforcement and not sanctuaries is the key to ensuring a healthy oyster population.


Councilman Travers advised that early voting numbers are already exceeding last years. He announced that the next meeting will be held on November 15, 2016 and the Council reserves the right to meet in closed session prior to regular session.


With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.


ATTEST: 


Jeremy Goldman
County Manager

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:


Ricky C. Travers, President


Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President


William V. Nichols


Rick M. Price


Don B. Satterfield

Approved the 15th day of November 2016.