

**County Council of Dorchester County**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**July 7, 2015**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on July 7, 2015 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, Acting County Manager; and Donna Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Council adjourned from a Regular Session and convened in a closed Executive 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; pursuant to §3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; and pursuant to §3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

Voting in favor of the closed Executive Session were all Council members.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Price led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

**CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

The Council approved the following additions to the agenda: lot pricing request for Dorchester Regional Technology Park; a proposed lease for 824 Fairmount Avenue, a County owned property; and a confirmation relating to a legal agreement for the "Hearn" Building.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES- JUNE 16, 2015**

The Council approved the minutes of June 16, 2015.

**APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS**

The Council approved the vouchers as presented.

**FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$7,809,017.36.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION SUMMARY**

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in an Executive Session at 4:30 p.m. on July 7, 2015 in a closed session at Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland, 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; pursuant to §3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; and pursuant to §3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

Motion made, seconded and carried to conduct a closed session pursuant to the above. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative to conduct the closed session for the purposes stated above and to discuss the topics listed below.

Councilman Travers announced that the Council convened into an Executive Session on June 22 and June 30, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. to conduct interviews pursuant to General Provisions Article, Section 3-305(b)(1).

Councilman Travers further announced that the Council convened into an Executive Session at 4:30 p.m. on July 7, 2015 to discuss the following items: 1) deferred a personnel matter relating to a Division in the Public Works Department; 2) discussed a matter relating to a prior County employee; 3) confirmed the hiring by the Sheriff of an individual to fill a vacant Deputy position by a 5 to 0 vote; 4) approved the request of the Public Works Director to hire an individual as a contractual inspector for the construction phase of a landfill capping project by a 5 to 0 vote; 5) approved the reclassification of an existing Deputy to a Corporal by a 5 to 0 vote; 6) approved the request of a Department Head regarding the use of leave by a 5 to 0 vote; 7) discussed matters relating to County owned property acquired via tax sale; 8) discussed the potential assumption of real property; 9) discussed pricing relating to County owned property for sale-agreed to discuss in open session; 10) discussed offers to purchase County property acquired via tax sale; 11) deferred a discussion with legal counsel relating to branding; 12) discussed with legal counsel a proposed lease for a County owned property; and 13) discussed with legal counsel an agreement relating to a tax sale property-agreed to discuss in open session.

The above information is being provided to the public pursuant to and in compliance with Section §3-306(b) and (c) of Title 3 of the General Provisions Article.

## **REGULAR SESSION**

### **CHESAPEAKE CHALLENGE 2015 EVENT REQUEST-NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY-MARYLAND CHAPTER**

Ms. Katie Amos, Senior Development Manager, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Maryland Chapter, advised that this Chapter will hold the Chesapeake Challenge 2015 walk event in Cambridge on Saturday, September 12, 2015 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. which will begin at Sailwinds Park and finish at Great Marsh Park. She explained that they will post route marker signs beginning Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and use chalk on sidewalks along the

route to encourage walkers. The Council approved Ms. Amos request to use the County roads on the designated route and acknowledged that she will seek the City of Cambridge Council's approval for the roads within that municipality and the use of Great Marsh Park.

## **MANAGERS COMMENTS**

### **MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOND ALLOCATION REQUEST**

The Council approved the written request of Amy Shiman, Director, Single Family Housing, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), to transfer Dorchester County's tax-exempt housing bond allocation of \$1,152,276, as set forth in the 2015 bond allocation of the Maryland State Department of Housing and Community Development, to DHCD's Community Development Association (CDA) for the CDA Maryland Mortgage Program.

### **FY16 NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT-MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

The Council approved the written request of Mary Ellen Setting, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Agriculture, to execute a FY16 Noxious Weed Control Cooperative Agreement between the Maryland Department of Agriculture and Dorchester County with no funds being provided by the County or the Maryland Department of Agriculture for the control and eradication of specific noxious weeds (johnsongrass, shattercane, thistles, multiflora rose) for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

### **SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARATION REQUEST**

The Council approved the request of Jeremy Goldman, Acting County Manager, to declare the following items as surplus: a four drawer file cabinet; audio/video rolling car, VCR and a Xenith Television.

### **911 ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENT**

Based on a request from Mr. Goldman, the Council agreed to appoint Rachael Cox, the new EMS Advisory Board Chair, as that Board's appointee on the 911 Advisory Board to replace Ronnie Reynolds. Mr. Goldman advised Council that in the near future he will be providing for its review and consideration a resolution to change the membership of the 911 Advisory Board to remove and add a member and to automatically change the names of appointees for the entities on the Board upon their election/appointment, i.e. Fire Chief's Committee.

### **BOARD REAPPOINTMENT/APPOINTMENT-SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD**

The Council approved the requests of Nicholette Smith-Bligen, Director, Dorchester County Social Services, to reappoint James Pinkett to the Social Services Board and to appoint Chief Daniel Dvorak to replace Glen Payne.

## REQUEST TO CHANGE BOY SCOUTS CUBMOBILE EVENT DATE

Mr. Goldman referenced the Council's June 2, 2015 decision to approve the request of Michael O'Connor, Chair, Cubmobile Committee, to use the parking lot at the County Office Building on Court Lane for parking, registration, and concessions; electrical outlets and to place two bleachers on the sidewalk in front of the building on September 27, 2015 for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Del-Mar-Va Council Cubmobile Derby. The Council approved Mr. O'Connor's request to modify this decision to reflect the new date of the Cubmobile Derby of September 20, 2015. The Council acknowledged that this date change was at the request of City of Cambridge representatives due to a conflict with the Dorchester Showcase.

## GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION GRANT AWARDS-SHERIFF'S OFFICE

### Sexual Offender & Compliance Enforcement

The Council agreed to accept a FY16 grant award for the Sheriff's Office from the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP) under the Sex Offender Compliance and Enforcement in Maryland Program entitled "Monitoring Support" in the amount of \$7,130 to offset the salary of the Deputy assigned to sex offender monitoring. The Council acknowledged that there is no cash or in-kind match and the grant period is July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

### Body Armor

The Council agreed to accept a FY16 grant award for the Sheriff's Office from GOCCP under the Body Armor for Local Law Enforcement Program, project title "New/Replacement Body Armor" in the amount of \$3,042 with a 50% cash match, which is covered by a United States Department of Justice Body Armor Partnership Grant, to purchase four new vests and five replacement vests for sworn officers. The Council acknowledged that the grant period is July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT SUB RECIPIENT AGREEMENT-CHESAPEAKE GROVE-DELMARVA COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, to execute a sub-recipient agreement with Delmarva Community Services (DCS) to sub grant to this non-profit organization \$600,000 of a FY15 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) award, under which Dorchester County is the grantee and Delmarva Community Services is the implementing agency, for phase two of the infrastructure portion of the Chesapeake Grove Center project.

## STRATEGIC DEMOLITION & SMART GROWTH IMPACT FUND GRANT APPLICATION REQUEST-RESOLUTION-GRANT MONITOR

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith to execute a resolution to support the submission of an application to the Department of Housing and Community Development under the Maryland Neighborhood Revitalization Program for funds in the amount of

\$105,000, with no County match, to support the strategic demolition of County owned houses in the City of Cambridge. In response to questions from Councilman Travers, Mr. Smith said: 1) the \$105,000 she is seeking is for the demolition of approximately eight properties; 2) she is in the process of identifying specific properties; and 3) she is unsure how many properties may be selected. Pursuant to an inquiry from Councilman Price, Ms. Smith explained that Strategic Demolition & Smart Growth and Impact Fund Grant funds can be used to demolish properties in sustainable communities in the County, which include the City of Cambridge and the Town of Hurlock.

#### STORM WATER MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS APPROVAL REQUESTS- PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Gregory LeBlanc, Engineer, to execute Storm Water Management Agreements for the following: 1) poultry house construction at David Bramble Farm on Hynson Road; 2) poultry house construction at James Phillips farm on Eldorado-Federalburg Road; 3) Valley Proteins plant improvements at 5420 Linkwood Road; and, 4) Hurlock Police Headquarters at 200 Neilson Street.

#### GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION SAFE STREETS GRANT AWARD-LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Council approved the written request of Nancy Shockley, Local Management Board Director and Safe Streets Coordinator, to accept a FY16 Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention Safe Streets Grant Award in the amount of \$133,920, with no local match, to be used to support the following: 1) Safe Streets Coordinator, \$10,000; 2) contract with Cambridge Police Department (CPD) for Crime Analyst, \$5,000; 3) contract with State's Attorney's Office for prosecutor, \$60,000; and 4) law enforcement overtime, \$58,920, which is allocated contractually to CPD, the Sheriff's Office, the Hurlock Police Department and the Maryland State Police as determined by the Safe Streets leadership team. The Council acknowledged that the overtime for hours expended by the Sheriff's Office are exempt from the County's overtime policy.

#### TRAVEL REQUEST-2015 MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES SUMMER CONFERENCE-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council approved the request of Keasha Haythe, Economic Development Director, for authorization for herself and Susan Banks, Business Development Manager, to attend the 2015 Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference in Ocean City, Maryland from August 12 to August 15, 2015 at the estimated cost of \$2,778, which includes lodging for three nights for each of them, \$2,634 and mileage, \$144. The Council acknowledged that: 1) Economic Development budget funds will be utilized to cover these costs; 2) this Department's staff will partner with Dorchester County Tourism staff for a booth which includes five registrations at no cost; and 3) Ms. Haythe has been asked to speak on the General Session Panel entitled "Maryland's Next Frontier in Economic Development" along with Mike Gill, Secretary, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development.

#### **RESOLUTION-MARYLAND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LOAN-EASTERN SHORE INNOVATION CENTER-ECON DEVELOPMENT**

The Council approved the request of Ms. Haythe for the execution of a resolution authorizing a loan in the amount of \$1,000,000 from the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) to Dorchester County to use for the purpose of constructing the Eastern Shore Innovation Center on Lot No. 3 of the Dorchester Regional Technology Park. Councilmen Price and Bradshaw opposed.

#### **FY16 SENIOR CARE PLAN-SOCIAL SERVICES**

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith-Bligen, to continue the Senior Care Program for Dorchester County with Maryland Department of Aging funding of \$100,000 for the period of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 with no local match. The Council acknowledged that the Dorchester County Department of Social Services is the lead agency for this program and is partnering with the Maryland Department of Aging, the Dorchester County Health Department, and the Council. The Council also acknowledged that funding will be used to provide services for individuals over sixty-five years of age who are moderately to severely disabled and may be at risk of nursing home placement.

#### **DORCHESTER REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY PARK LOT PRICING-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Council approved the recommendation of Keasha Haythe, Economic Development Director, to set a starting price of \$65,000 per acre for lots in the Dorchester Regional Technology Park.

#### **LEASE-824 FAIRMOUNT AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE**

The Council agreed to enter into a lease with Shore Up, Inc. for 824 Fairmount Avenue, Cambridge, for a ten year period for \$1 with an option to renew after ten years.

#### **HEARN BUILDING**

The Council confirmed its decision, by poll, to enter into Memorandum of Understanding with RU, LLC for the Hearn Building in the 500 block of Race Street in Cambridge, Maryland.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Terry Wheatley, resident, expressed her understanding that the Council recently conducted interviews for the County Manager position. In response to a question from Ms. Wheatley, Councilman Travers said the Council will be conducting second interviews.

#### **COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Bradshaw noted that the American Farm Bureau lost its appeal on the the decision by a U.S. District Court Judge to uphold the Clean Water Act established by the

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the Chesapeake Bay which included pollution limits. Councilman Bradshaw expressed his understanding that American Farm Bureau representatives are contemplating whether to file an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court. He advised that he will be on WBOC TV this evening regarding this issue. He expressed dismay that: 1) the efforts by local farmers to curb pollution, including removing property from production to create buffers, are not being recognized; and 2) no consideration is being given to curbing the pollution from Pennsylvania, the Conowingo Dam and the Susquehanna River. He also expressed concern about the potential loss of poultry producers in the County due to the financial impact EPA pollution limits may have farmers. Councilman Bradshaw referenced a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision against EPA rules for coal fire plants in which it was noted that this entity needs to prepare cost estimates before establishing and implementing new regulations.

Councilman Price asked for an update on the housing study and questioned whether workforce housing availability is being considered. Ms. Smith said it should be completed soon, noting she will provide the study results to the Council at a future meeting. Ms. Smith explained that the study consists of a drive through inspection of single family homes, which are scored based on certain criteria, the compilation of data, the production of a map and interviews with residents of the housing units that obtain a certain score. Ms. Smith further explained that the study identifies needs in the community whereas workforce housing is ensuring there are homes available for emergency responders, nurses, etc.

Councilman Price said he has been receiving calls from Town of East New Market representatives regarding certain properties which failed to sell at the County's tax sale. He advised that Town is incurring expenses because staff is currently mowing these properties.

Upon clarification from Councilman Nichols that lawn maintenance responsibilities cannot be assumed for these properties until they are acquired by the County, Councilman Price withdrew a motion for to seek the cost for County staff to perform these duties. Mr. Goldman said once ownership has been obtained he and Mr. Moore will provide the Council with the cost to add those properties to the list of those currently being mowed by County staff. He said he will obtain the timeline for the foreclosure process and provide that to the Council.

Councilman Price attributed the following two recent events to the leadership of Governor Larry Hogan: 1) the halting of the "red line" Metro project which will free up approximately \$1 million for roads and bridges; and, 2) the lowering of the tolls on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge from \$6 to \$4, effective July 1, 2015 which provides County residents monetary relief. Councilman Satterfield said the \$1.50 Easy Pass program cost was also eliminated.

Councilman Satterfield reminded motorists to be mindful of their speed, particularly since school is out. He thanked law enforcement personnel and emergency responders for providing assistance to residents over the holidays.

Councilman Travers said he received positive comments on the City of Cambridge's fireworks display, noting that the County provides funding assistance for this event. He asked residents to keep Governor Hogan in their prayers, noting the opportunity for them to sign documents wishing him well which are located throughout the County, including at Simmons Center Market.

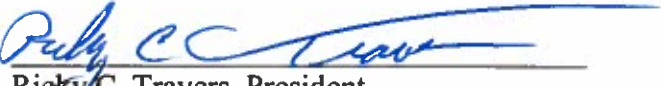
Councilman Travers announced that the next County Council meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2015 and that the Council reserves the right to meet in executive session prior to regular session.

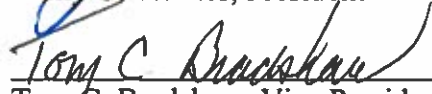
With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

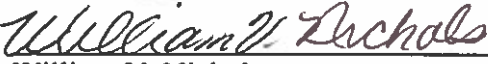
ATTEST:

  
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Jeremy Goldman  
Acting County Manager


DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:

  
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Ricky C. Travers, President

  
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Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President

  
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William V. Nichols

  
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Rick M. Price

  
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Don B. Satterfield

Approved the 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2015.