

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2018**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on January 16, 2018 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

The Council held a moment of silence for Everett Young, Sr., a County employee, who recently passed. Councilman Nichols 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- JANUARY 16, 2018

The Council approved the minutes of January 2, 2018.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

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

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$12,368,262.00.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council convened into Regular Session on January 18, 2018 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; pursuant to §3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly relating thereto; and, pursuant to §3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. Present were: 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. Voting in favor of the Closed Session were all of the present Council Members. 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 Session were all of the present Council members.

The Council convened in a Closed Session on January 16, 2018 at 5:01 p.m. to discuss the following items: 1) approved the request of the Director of Corrections to hire individuals as Probationary Correctional Officers by a 5 to 0 vote; 2) approved the request of the Information Technology Director to hire an individual to fill an IT Network Technician II position by a 5 to 0 vote; 3) approved the request of the Planning and Zoning Director to hire an individual to fill a GIS Specialist position by a 5 to 0 vote; and, 4) discussed and obtained legal advice regarding the potential acquisition of property. Present were: 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

COMMENDATIONS-MAPLE MARCHING LIONS BAND

The Council presented Commendations to the members of the Maple Marching Lions, the first marching band and drum line in Maryland, for their hard work, determination and outstanding accomplishments and to congratulate Ray Washington, Jr., for his leadership and direction as well as Renee Hesson, Fine Arts Coordinator, Dorchester County Public School System staff and the parents of the members.

COMMENDATION-RETIREMENT-DANNY AIREY

The Council presented a Commendation to Danny Airey congratulating him on his retirement and recognizing his 32.5 years of service to Dorchester County.

PROCLAMATION-MENTORING MONTH

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring January 2018 Mentoring Month.

NORTH DORCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT UPDATE

Dwayne Abt, Director of Operations, provided an update on the North Dorchester High School project.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE-FARM LEASE-BOBTOWN ROAD

Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, advised that: 1) at its November 21, 2017 meeting, agreed to renew a farm lease with Jeffrey King and Terri Wolf-King, to till four acres of land located on the north side of Bobtown Road, Hurlock, Maryland for one year with an annual rental of \$360; 2) pursuant to State law a public hearing is not required but a notice and an opportunity for public

comment is necessary; 3) an advertisement regarding the proposed execution of the lease was published for three successive weeks; and 4) If someone has an objection or other comment they can speak now. There were no comments. The Council agreed to execute the lease.

LICENSE EXTENSION AGREEMENT

The Council agreed to enter into a License Extension Agreement between Shore Health System, Inc. and Dorchester County, Maryland to extend the use of 2.41 acres of land owned by Shore Health Systems, adjacent to Sailwinds East property, for public recreation at the cost of \$1 per year until December 31, 2019 under the same terms and provisions as set forth in the License Agreement. Councilman Price abstained.

BID AWARDS-TAX SALE PROPERTIES

Mr. Goldman said: 1) the results of the sale of tax lien foreclosure properties under the new process have been provided to Council; 2) structures are located on each property; 3) most were in fair condition and therefore garnered a lot of interest and high bids; 4) attempts will be made in the near future to sell empty lots which may not garner the same interest/high bids; and, 5) using the new process, bids were weighed on certain criteria.

The Council accepted the following bid award recommendations submitted by Cindy Smith, Grants Administrator: 1) 211 Franklin Street, Cambridge, \$16,975, Ruddy Duck, LLC; 2) 215 Franklin Street, Cambridge, \$15,500, Carl and Terri Hughes; 3) 415 Robbins Street, Cambridge, \$7,852, Tysha Marine, Grant Recipient; 4) 219 Hayward Street, Cambridge, \$12,000, 808 Pine Street, LLC; 5) 65 Legion Drive, Cambridge, \$7,000, Lawrence Conway, Grant Recipient; and 6) 307 S. Main Street, Hurlock, lot, \$4,100, Nicole Santoro, Jeremy Trice, Grant Recipient. The Council acknowledged that no bids were received for 325 Cemetery Avenue, Cambridge. Mr. Goldman said pursuant to the new procedures approved by the Council a purchaser who commits to occupying the property for a minimum of three years are "granted" permission to bid as low as 20% of the minimum bid. In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Ms. Smith confirmed that the new process is effective. She said each bidder was vetted through the municipalities in which the property resides and there were no code violations or overdue taxes. She noted that the City of Cambridge staff provided positive feedback on the bidders.

TRAVEL REQUEST-PLANNING AND ZONING

The Council approved the request from Steve Dodd, Planning and Zoning Director, for Brian Soper, Environmental Planner, to travel and attend the Eastern Climate Preparedness Conference in Manchester, New Hampshire from April 30 to May 2, 2018. The Council acknowledged that: 1) the cost for the conference registration, lodging, gas and mileage will be \$1,000 which will be reimbursed back to the County by the grant; and, 2) meal costs will be a maximum of \$60 per day and will be paid from the Planning and Zoning Department budget.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS-JANITORIAL SERVICES-EASTERN SHORE INNOVATION CENTER- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council approved the request of Jeff Trice, Economic Development Director, to advertise a request for proposals for janitorial services for the Eastern Shore Innovation Center.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Council agreed to reappoint the following: 1) Trent Jackson to the Agricultural Land Preservation Board; 2) William Malkus to the Agricultural Reconciliation Committee; 3) Harold Robinson to the Seafood Reconciliation Committee; 4) Jack Brooks to the Seafood Reconciliation Committee; and 5) Patricia Simmons to the Council for Senior Citizens Services as the District 3 representative.

AMENDMENT TO COUNTY RULES AND REGULATIONS-SOCIAL MEDIA-HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. Goldman stated that: 1) at its January 2, 2018 meeting, Council was advised that Kevin Karpinski, the County's labor counsel, reviewed the proposed language he was provided; 2) Mr. Karpinski does not recommend any changes to the draft amendment to the County Rules and Regulations to establish a Social Media Policy; and, 3) since two members were not present on January 2nd Council deferred consideration of the amendment.

Councilman Travers expressed concern about the policy as written. Mr. Goldman explained that if a situation would arise only limited action can be taken based on the wording "conduct unbecoming" in the County's Rules. He noted that the court system has ruled that this wording is so broad it is difficult to enforce. In response to a question from Councilman Travers, Mr. Goldman said social media will not be constantly monitored. He noted that if Department Heads recognize there may be an issue they will proceed according to the policy and/or County Rules and Regulations.

Councilman Satterfield expressed his desire to ensure boundaries are in place to protect employees from those who may misuse information placed on social media. Mr. Goldman confirmed that the Council can amend the policy if necessary.

Councilman Bradshaw referenced the posting of signage in the private sector prohibiting the posting of recordings or pictures by cell phone or cameras on social media. He said he believes there should be a policy in place in case there is an incident that needs to be addressed. Mr. Goldman noted that there have been some minor incidents that have been dealt with, primarily in Emergency Services.

Councilman Satterfield made a motion to accept the policy which was seconded by Councilman Bradshaw. Councilmen Price and Nichols opposed.

Councilman Travers said while he believes there should be a social media policy he is concerned about the policy as written. Mr. Goldman explained that it was modeled after the policy of a New

York fire department. E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, noted his understanding that the language has already been tested in a court of law.

Councilman Nichols said he has concerns about some of the language, noting that to one person a comment may be derogatory while another does not feel the same way. Councilman Travers expressed his concern that the policy also covers postings employees make on their own time. Councilman Travers voted in favor of adopting the policy, which passed by a three to two vote. He advised that if necessary he will seek changes. Pursuant to an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Mr. Goldman confirmed that the policy can also be rescinded.

POLL CONFIRMATIONS

The Council, confirmed its following decisions in the interim between meetings, by means of a poll: to 1) expend FY18 Capital Budget funds in the amount of \$65,000 for the repair of the roof of the Circuit Court and contract with Peninsula Roofing, Inc. for this work by a 4 to 1 (no answer) vote; and, 2) agreed to accept the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention BJAG grant award of \$32,900 for the Sheriff's Office for an Overtime Initiative Program to reduce existing gaps in services and foster collaboration and cooperation among partner agencies and stakeholders through Maryland and that "premium overtime" will be paid to the Deputies who work under this program by a 4 to 1 (no answer) vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bill Windsor, resident, referenced the County's past usage of snow fencing. He commended the County and/or State for bringing in additional snow removal equipment during the recent weather event. He expressed concern about plows banking up snow when there are high winds which can result in material blowing back onto a roadway. Mr. Windsor suggested that local farmers be utilized to clear driveways during snow events since often snow is pushed back into driveways cleared by residents. He noted that there was a large piece of equipment that was used that was very efficient. Ryan White, Public Works Director, said the State has purchased a piece of that equipment for each district. Pursuant to an inquiry from Mr. Windsor, Mr. White said staff is currently in the process of replacing snow stakes along County roadways.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Satterfield thanked County employees who had to perform duties during the recent inclement weather, including law enforcement and emergency responders. He referenced the recent 100th birthday of Anne Brooks, who along with her husband, once ran the Woolford store.

Councilman Price also thanked everyone who cleared snow during and after the storm on County roads and other surfaces including Public Works and public safety employees as well as community members who assisted other residents. He recognized the loss of Frank Bittner, who was involved in government, the community and the historical society. He noted that in 2013 Mr. Bittner sponsored an Anna Ella Carroll event in the County. He said his thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones and those close to him. Councilman Price acknowledged and

commended the Secretary Volunteer Fire Company for 80 years of service to County residents. He noted that Mike Larrimore, Sr. has served 35 years with the company.

Councilman Bradshaw said he has also had contact with Mr. Bittner particularly during his involvement with the historical society. He referred the recent weather event and asked Mr. White to thank County employees for their hard work in plowing snow. He referenced an article on Delmarvanow.com regarding a lawsuit that has been filled against Somerset County regarding a solar project. He stated that he has spoken to farmers and constituents regarding solar projects being pursued in the State. He opined that landowner's rights should be preserved. He recognized that solar will be addressed in the update of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Councilman Price advised Mr. White that there were several signs on Skeet Club Road that came down during the storm. Mr. White said he will have staff follow up on this matter.

Councilman Travers advised that some conversations have been held regarding broadband access in the rural part of the County. Based on his motion the Council agreed that Mr. Goldman can prepare a request for proposals. He expressed his sorrow for the loss of Mr. Young who was a very committed employee and will be missed. He advised that the viewing will be held on Friday at the Refuge Temple and the funeral will be held on Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Cambridge South Dorchester High School Auditorium. He said he would like to thank staff for their response to the incident involving Mr. Young as well as Mr. Goldman, fire company members and the ambulance crew who rendered assistance at the scene and during the ride to Peninsula Regional Medical Center. Councilman Travers said the next Council meeting will be held on February 6, 2018.

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

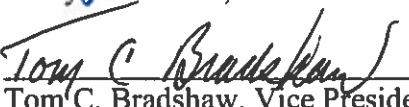


Jeremy Goldman
County Manager

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:



Ricky C. Travers, President



Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President



William V. Nichols



Rick M. Price



Don B. Satterfield

Approved the 6th day of February, 2018.