

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2018**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on May 15, 2018 with the following members present: Ricky C. Travers, President; Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President; 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 Price led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Jeremy Goldman, County Manager, said the following items were added to the agenda after publication: Request to Apply-City of Cambridge Human Services Grant-Finance and Letters of Support Request-Department of Housing and Community Development Grants-Pine Street-City of Cambridge. The Council approved the amended agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- MAY 1, 2018

The Council approved the minutes of May 1, 2018.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented. Councilman Travers abstained for payments made to Simmons Center Market and Councilman Price abstained for payments made to DGH.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$7,331,775.00.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council convened into Regular Session on May 15, 2018 at 5:45 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.

Present were: Ricky C. Travers, President; Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President; 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 Council convened in a Closed Session on May 15, 2018 at 5:46 p.m. to discuss the following items: 1) approved the requests of the Public Works Director, by a 4 to 0 vote to: a) transfer an individual from the Airport to the Landfill as a Motor Equipment Operator III; b) hire two individuals to fill vacant Motor Equipment Operator II vacancies; and, c) hire two individuals to fill vacant Mechanic positions; 2) approved the request of the Emergency Services Director to hire an individual as an on-call Emergency Medical Technician by a 4 to 0 vote; and, 3) confirmed the hiring by Sheriff James Phillips of an individual to fill a vacant Administrative/Fiscal Assistant position in the Sheriff's Office by a 4 to 0 vote.

Present were: Ricky C. Travers, President; Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President; 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. 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.

REGULAR SESSION

COMMENDATION-RETIREMENT-SHERWOOD WONGUS

The Council presented a Commendation to Sherwood Wongus congratulating him on his retirement and commending him for his 22 years of service to Dorchester County.

PROCLAMATION-MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring May 2018 as Mental Health Month.

PROCLAMATION - EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK-MAY 20-26, 2018

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring May 20 to May 26, 2018 as Emergency Medical Services Week.

DONATION TO THE COUNTY-PHOTOGRAPH-RON BROMWELL

Ron Bromwell, Photographer, presented to the Council a framed picture of the Dorchester County Office Building as a donation. The Council thanked Mr. Bromwell.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

PUBLIC HEARING

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING: 2018-2019 ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said this is the third and final public hearing on the 2018-2019 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance. He said no one signed up to speak. He asked if anyone present wants to speak. Christie Brohawn, resident, said she may speak at the end or not at all.

Councilman Satterfield expressed gratitude to the Finance and Council's Office staff for working diligently to assist the Council in the budget process. Councilmen Bradshaw and Price echoed his appreciation. Councilman Bradshaw thanked those who made comments during the public hearing process. Councilman Price also commended the individuals who spoke as well as those who sent emails, made phone calls and personally contacted him.

The roll call on the enactment of Bill No. 2018-2 was as follows: Bradshaw-aye; Price-aye; Travers-aye; Satterfield-aye; Nichols-absent.

REGULAR SESSION

The Council adjourned into Regular Session.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Donald Hall, Program Director, Dorchester County Addictions Program, provided a brief update on the Health Department's Peer Recovery and Treatment Programs including data collected from January to date regarding overdoses in the County, which totaled 30. He said 21 were opioid and nine were non-opioid. He advised that the Health Department's on call peer service responded to ten overdose calls in collaboration with Emergency Medical Services, law enforcement and the hospital. He said those individuals were verbally referred to treatment and nine follow-ups were conducted. He said another 14 chose not to be transported and they will work with EMS and law enforcement to determine how to reach out to those individuals. He said it is their goal is to respond to every overdose and provide support.

Mr. Hall advised that the Health Department's treatment program was granted a three year accreditation through CARF International on February 23, 2018 and as a result has been renamed Dorchester County Behavioral Health. He said they also sought and received accreditation for a program at the Dorchester County Detention Center. He stated that they continue to operate the outpatient program as a fee for service program as

required by the Behavioral Health Administration, which continues to operate in the black. Mr. Hall advised that they are currently hiring for the following: patient driver, licensed clinical social worker, two addictions counselors, four peer recovery specialists and a community health outreach worker. He explained that they want to strengthen their peer and clinical services and continue to move the program more towards providing substance abuse and mental health services.

The Council thanked him for the update. Mr. Goldman said a Board of Health meeting on the School Health and Wellness Program will be held at the June 19, 2018 meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING-SCHEDULE OF FEES

Mr. Merryweather said the sign-up sheet does not reflect that anyone signed up to speak on the annual review of the County Schedule of Fees. He noted that there were changes in fees relating to the Airport and Soil Conservation. He acknowledged that Karen Houtman, District Manager, was present and asked if she would like to speak about the Soil Conservation fees.

Ms. Houtman said Soil Conservation fees have not been increased since 2013. She advised that as part of their review process they viewed fees from other counties. She explained that they are seeking an increase in the Standard Plan Fee of \$50 since it does not cover Soil Conservation staff time nor probably Highway Division staff time. She said they have done quite a few poultry plans in the past and are trying to conform this fee to their counterparts. She advised that she is also seeking an increase in the cost for a Full Engineered Plan. She explained that it will offset an increase for the individual who reviews the plans, based on his request. Mr. Goldman said the proposed fees are still below those in surrounding counties. Ms. Houtman explained that she is also seeking a Shoreline Fee for permits because they are doing revetments which involves more reviewing and discussions with engineers and Public Works staff. She noted that there are often multiple changes as well.

The Council adopted the resolution to revise the County Schedule of Fees which will become effective July 1, 2018.

CANNERY PARK UPDATE-EASTERN SHORE LAND CONSERVANCY (ESLC)

Katie Parks, Director of Conservation, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC), presented an update on Cannery Park through a power point presentation which is attached. In response to an inquiry from Rebecca White, Executive Assistant, Ms. Parks confirmed that the area around the amphitheater can accommodate a significant amount of people. Ms. Parks advised that: 1) one of the exercises undertaken during the planning process was to place the footprint of Cannery Park on top of locations on the Eastern Shore and most notable parks on the East Coast; 2) with the trail the property will consist

of approximately nine acres; and, 3) after additional stream restoration work and the clearing of the rail line the property will be move visible to the public.

Councilman Travers inquired about the status of the Packing House. Ms. Parks advised that the Cannery Park concept was presented to and approved by the City of Cambridge Council. She said ESLC staff are actively working on the Packing House and are hoping to close on full financing this summer. She noted that there are a few potential tenants and leases are currently being negotiated. Councilman Travers expressed his understanding that the Packing House will be divided up into several spaces. Ms. Parks said the leasing flyer breaks those spaces out. She said some of the spaces: a shared use office, a shared innovation hub, a kitchen space incubator, a market, an oyster bar, restaurant and event space. The Council thanked her for the update.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF SUPPORT-DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FUNDING-DOWNTOWN CAMBRIDGE

The Council approved the request of Ms. Katie Clendaniel, Executive Director, for letters in support of the requests of Downtown Cambridge, a Main Street organization, for funding from the Department of Housing and Community Development Program, and more specifically: 1) Strategic Demolition Fund funding of \$218,000 for a project titled "Pre-Development 444-448 Race Street" proposed by this organization which will help support necessary pre-development investment to redevelop the two properties; and, 2) Community Legacy funding of \$352,900 for its proposed Building Improvement Fund to support building improvements which will add new viable, leasable space to the downtown area.

BOAT SLIP LEASE RENEWAL RECOMMENDATION-FINANCE

The Council agreed to renew boat slip leases for current lessees for each marina, effective July 1, 2018, based on a list provided by the Finance Department.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC DEMOLITION FUND APPLICATION-FINANCE

Cindy Smith, Grant Administrator, said she is seeking the Council's permission to apply to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for Strategic Demolition Funds to obtain engineering and architectural assessments and designs for the Thomas Holliday Hicks Mansion property located at 315 East Appleby. She noted that as part of the tax lien foreclosure property program they are discovering properties which have a rich history. She explained that, Maryland Historic Trust staff explored the property's historical signature and are very excited about it. She advised that: 1) the house was built in the 1700s; 2) there are indications of it being built in that time period

in the house; and, 3) brick ovens which were used for cooking then are located in the basement. She thanked the Council for its support, noting that the goal is to revert the five apartment building into a single home. She said the County's match is the ownership of the home as well as foreclosure costs and weatherization.

LICENSE EXTENSION-PURDY GROUP LLC-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council approved the recommendation of Jeff Trice, Economic Development Director, to extend the License Agreement for Suites #12 and #13 at the Eastern Shore Innovation Center between Purdy Group LLC and the County for another year at \$533 per month, commencing on May 31, 2018 and ending on May 31, 2019. Mr. Trice said this will be their third and final year and that the company is still growing.

JANITORIAL SERVICE-EASTERN SHORE INNOVATION CENTER-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Trice advised that: 1) a request for proposals for janitorial services was previously advertised; 2) only one response was received; 3) staff contacted six other companies; and, 4) only two companies provided a bid, one of which then pulled their bid. The Council approved Mr. Trice's request to sole source and contract with Greene's Janitorial Service at the cost of \$180 weekly.

SURPLUS PROPERTY DECLARATION REQUEST-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Ryan White, Public Works Director, to declare the following items as surplus property, which will be either be auctioned at Foxwell Auctions or on Govdeals.com:

- Unit 637, 1984 Roller
- Unit 634, 1999 John Deere Grass Cutter (small yard mower)
- Unit 832 and 833, 2007 Hardee Grass Cutters
- Unit 02, 2005 Chevy Blazer, VIN# 1GNDT13XX5K101296
- Unit 125, 2002 Chevy Pick, VIN# 1GCEC14W32Z276902
- Unit 127, 2002 Chevy Pickup, VIN# 1GCEC14W22Z276812
- Unit 297, 1995 International 10 Wheel Dump Truck
VIN# 1HTGGADTXSH675317
- Unit 431, Athey Wheel Loader
- Old Shop Air Compressor Pile Driver for a crane
- 2 Concrete Buckets for a crane Old Flail Mower Deck
- Batwing Mower that used to belong to the Airport

RELOCATION-REFLECTIONS ON PINE MURAL-TOURISM

Mr. Goldman stated that the City of Cambridge is seeking the relocation of the "Reflections on Pine" mural from the side of a privately owned building to an easel to be built on the City owned gateway property. He said Sailwinds Park, Inc. is seeking

Community Legacy funding for the mural relocation. The Council agreed to the execution of correspondence giving permission and confirming the County's support as owner of the mural.

REQUEST TO SOLE SOURCE INSTALLATION OF TUBMAN BYWAY MARKERS-TOURISM

The Council approved the request of Ms. Fenstermaker to sole source with Allied Signage to install Harriett Tubman Byway markers at the total cost of \$25,546. The Council acknowledged that the majority of this cost will be paid with grant funds with the remainder from the FY18 budget.

TRAVEL REQUESTS-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved Ms. Sierra's request for Lt. K.J. Marval and Ashlie Dyott, Administrative Assistant, to attend the OperativeIQ Conference in Atlanta, GA which provides in-depth training on supply and fleet maintenance programs used by Emergency Services. The Council acknowledged that: 1) these individuals will oversee these programs; 2) the conference will offer training that is not available in Maryland; 3) the conference cost will be covered by FY18 and FY19 budget funds; and, 4) no additional funding will be required. Ms. Sierra noted that over the past couple of years due to these tracking programs a significant amount of savings has been achieved. She said these programs will also assist in managing central supplies for the volunteer fire companies.

The Council also approved the request of Anna Sierra, Emergency Services Director, for Kim Vickers, 911 Communications Chief, and Lt. Sonya Burton to travel to Montgomery County to take the Communications Unit Leader course, which teaches communications experts how to plan for and manage communications during emergency. The Council acknowledged that the course is free and lodging and meals of approximately \$1,400 will be covered by existing budget funds. Councilman Satterfield asked whether there are additional employees that need this training. Ms. Sierra said due to the schedule and vacancies in the 911 Center only two were selected to take this course.

LEASE-GLASGOW TENNIS COURTS-BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Goldman advised that: 1) in 1993 the County entered into a lease with the Board of Education (BOE) for the Glasgow Street Tennis Court property which expires December 31, 2018; 2) since then Program Open Space (POS) funding has been used by the County for improvements to this facility; 3) in order to ensure compliance with POS requirements it is our understanding that the lease needs to be renewed; and, 4) the lease has been approved and executed by the BOE. The Council agreed to enter into the lease.

REQUEST TO APPLY-CITY OF CAMBRIDGE HUMAN SERVICES GRANT-FINANCE

The Council approved the request of Cindy Smith, Grant Administrator, to apply through the City of Cambridge for FY19 Human Services Grant for funding of \$6,000 to supplement the cost of roof and other repairs on three homes: 607 High Street, 721 Hughlett Street and 415 Robbins Street. The Council acknowledged that: 1) the property owners, who recently purchased these properties from the County, need some assistance for repairs; and, there is no County match.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT REQUEST-DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS-PINE STREET-CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Council approved the written request of Brandon Hesson, Associate Director, Economic and Community Development, City of Cambridge, to send letters of support for its' applications to the Department of Housing and Community Development for funding for the following: community green space and a park located at the corner of Muir and High Street, \$100,000, also known as a "pocket" park, and for Pine Street sidewalks and streetscape, \$116,000. The Council acknowledged that the letters state that the County is unable to provide funding. Councilman Travers requested that the plans for this project be provided to the Council.

REQUESTS FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT-EASTERN SHORE LAND CONSERVANCY

Ms. Parks said the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) is submitting two applications to the Department of Housing and Community Development Strategic Demolition Fund, one of which is for \$400,000 toward roof replacement for the Packing House project. She stated that they have received funding through this program for this project for the previous two fiscal years. She advised that the second project they are seeking funding for is 505-507 Race Street. She explained that ESLC has those properties under contract and is working with Novo Properties as a development partner. She said they are currently looking at a concept to restore 505 Race Street and for a partial demolition with stabilization and façade restoration of 507 Race Street. She said the application specifically focuses on the work for 507 and they will seek \$209,000 for this project based on recent estimates. The Council agreed to send letters of support for both applications.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ed Conley, on behalf of Cambridge Rotary Club, provided an overview of the Flags for Heroes Program, which is in its third year. He said there will be 200 flags placed at the amphitheater at the Visitor's Center. Councilman Travers thanked Mr. Conley and the other Rotary members for this commitment to the community.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Satterfield thanked Emergency Medical Services for their service. He also expressed appreciation to Mr. Hall for the update and his and his staff's efforts to assist residents in need. He referenced his prior service and support for Flags for Heroes. He noted that it is Police Officers' Week and recognized that they place their lives on the line for citizens. He also applauded the teachers in the public school system as well as Dr. Diana Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools. He said revenue this year decreased by \$1.3 million; however, due to the collaborative effort between the Council members, they found ways to put funds to good use. Based on his motion, the Council agreed to use Capital Contingency funds from this year's budget to purchase an additional vehicle for staff at Emergency Services not to exceed \$55,000.

Councilman Price said even though he voted for the budget he has mixed feelings. He recognized and echoed citizens' concerns about public safety and security in the educational system. He cited the downturn of the economy and housing in the mid-2000s as well as the loss of highway user revenues that has reduced the availability of funds to maintain infrastructure. He expressed his hope that the additional highway user revenue to be provided to local governments, due to the passage of legislation during the 2018 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session, will assist in a continued rebound. He stressed his continued opposition to tax increases, noting he opposes the one in the FY19 budget, since many homeowners on fixed incomes, such as senior citizens, and those who work multiple jobs, struggle to pay bills. Councilman Price stated that the last property tax increase was in the FY12 budget. He said he remains committed to holding the line on taxes and supporting responsible management of government spending.

Councilman Price thanked the Rotary for the Flags for Heroes event. He advised that a group of retired Veterans will place flags at the Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery on May 24th for which volunteers are being sought. He referred to the Vietnam Traveling Wall which is coming to Easton later in the month, noting they also need volunteers to read names. He expressed his hope the public will recognize those who lost their lives while serving the country's armed forces on Memorial Day. He noted that East New Market's annual Community Day will be held Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Town Park. He explained that the Department of Social Services is conducting an outreach at the old Hurlock Library building on May 25th at which information will be provided to the public on programs for assistance. He congratulated those high school and college students who will graduate this month and wished them well in their future endeavors.

Councilman Bradshaw said he always dislikes something in the budget. He stated that the Council members did the best they could with available resources. He voiced his appreciation for the assistance of Finance and County staff during the FY19 budget process. He said the budget process has improved substantially since he was first elected into office and work sessions are shorter. He expressed his understanding that the Council members are good stewards of County citizens through tax revenues. He said the budget has been flat for several years but good things are happening in the County.

Councilman Bradshaw thanked the teachers and those who voiced their opinion about the proposed budget by attending the budget hearings, email or personal contact.

Councilman Bradshaw referenced a May 4th article in The Star Democrat titled "Hogan calls for Conowingo Dam cleanup." He noted that the Council started with the Clean Chesapeake Coalition (CCC) seven years ago. He showed a letter from the President of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) to then Governor Martin O'Malley seeking the stoppage of the County from forming this organization. He said then the belief of other individuals/organizations was that the Conowingo Dam was no threat to the Chesapeake Bay until Tropical Storm Lee in 2011. He noted that as of at least a month ago CBF's website still included a press release referring to the Conowingo Dam as a red herring and claiming that local pollution is from local sources. He advised that pursuant to the article Governor Hogan is holding Exelon Generation Company (Exelon) accountable with a water quality certification form which includes provisions to reduce water pollution from the dam.

Pursuant to an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Councilman Bradshaw said seven counties are members of CCC. He explained that a meeting CCC scheduled with Exelon representatives tomorrow is being rescheduled at the company's request. He advised that CCC would like to assist Exelon in conducting effective projects to address issues behind the dam. He said from 1972 to the present the health of the Chesapeake Bay has substantially improved. He noted that the environmental practices that have been implemented since then include cover crops, Conservation Reserve Enhancement program area adjacent to rivers and streams to prevent runoff as well as improved storm water management. He said there were two large flow events, noting that the Lower Susquehanna Fishermen's Association posted a video on their Facebook page of the first flow. He explained that the water could not be seen due to trees, bark and other debris. He noted that the flow traveled as far as the Tilghman Island area. He advised that while CBF has finally acknowledged it is a threat, they do not agree with dredging behind the dam to gather trapping capacity.

Councilman Travers thanked Mr. Goldman, Department Heads and staff for their assistance during the budget process. He explained that this process normally begins in September or October. He said a proposed budget is extensively reviewed prior to identifying wants and then needs. He advised that a few of the items for which funding is included in the FY19 budget are for: work at the Airport, new vehicles for the Sheriff's Office, a replacement ambulance, dump trucks, softball lights at Hurlock and Visitor's Center improvements. He noted that \$400,00 is in the budget for Tar Bay Gap dredging. He said the Council is responsible for all of the Departments in the County and the FY19 budget is slightly under \$60 million. He noted that as of last week the Council included in this budget \$100,000 for public safety for schools. He stated that the budget process has improved substantially in the last three or four years. He explained that staff vets problems in the budget which is then presented to the Council for its review and consideration. He thanked Michael Spears, Finance Director, and Robert Willey, Assistant Finance Director, for their assistance during the budget process. He advised that the FY19 budget also includes an increase for County employees. Councilman

Travers noted that the Vietnam Traveling Wall will be in Easton beginning May 31st. He said the organizers of this event are displaying flags in that Town honoring those from Talbot County who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. He referenced Councilman Satterfield motion, which the Council approved at a prior meeting to purchase flags for the five individuals from Dorchester County who served in this War to display along Maryland Avenue upon receipt.

Councilman Satterfield referred to the recent substantial loss of seasonal workers for the seafood industry in the County due to the recent H-2B visa lottery and delays in processing permits. He said he has spoken to many individuals from packing houses and watermen who have expressed concern about how this will affect them. He noted that in the past the Council has sent letters of support. He made a motion to send a letter to motivate local and State representatives to support the release of additional H-2B visas in order to meet the needs of small seasonal businesses. Councilman Bradshaw seconded the motion. Councilman Travers stressed that the correspondence should reference the hardship the loss of these workers is having on the businesses in the County. He noted that the seafood processors contribute to the local economy as they purchase fuel, packing material, etc. Councilman Bradshaw said this loss particularly affects watermen who had a rough oyster season due to three weeks of frozen water. The Council agreed to send the letter.

Councilman Travers announced that: 1) The next Council meeting will be held on June 5, 2018 at 6 p.m.; and 2) Members of the Dorchester County Council will attend the Celebrate Dorchester event on Tuesday, June 5th in Cambridge, Maryland.

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

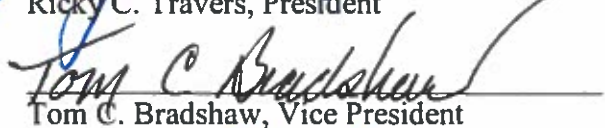


Jeremy Goldman
County Manager

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:



Ricky C. Travers, President



Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President



William V. Nichols



Rick M. Price

Don B. Satterfield

Approved the 5th day of June, 2018.