

**County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 30, 2019**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on April 30, 2019 with the following members present: William V. Nichols, President; Jay L. Newcomb, Vice President; Libby Handley Nagel; George L. Pfeffer, Jr. and Ricky C. Travers. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney; Keith Adkins, County Manager, and Donna F. Lane, Executive Administrative Specialist.

REGULAR SESSION

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Nichols led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- APRIL 16, 2019

The Council approved the minutes of April 16, 2019.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved the vouchers as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Nichols reported total cash and investments as \$3,337,582.64.

REGULAR SESSION

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Councilman Nichols said this is the first of two public hearings on the proposed FY2020 budget. E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, noted that two individuals signed up to speak.

Clifford Coppersmith, President, Chesapeake College, expressed appreciation for the County's prior and current support. He said the following are the College's priorities for the FY20 budget: 1) continuing a focus on enrollment growth; 2) restoring the focus on the traditional mission of workforce development and as a transfer institution; and, 3) substantial improvements physically and from an information technology security standpoint; and 4) keeping classes affordable. He explained that there is a proposed less than 2% tuition increase next year which represents 35% of the College's revenue for the operating budget. He noted that they are seeking authorization to reallocate of \$300,000 internally to support requests. He said in the past eight months there has been progress in improving trades programs including welding, a marine trades program, credit programming and revising core programs to revive interest in adding qualified workers to the labor force. President Coppersmith advised that HVAC and electric instruction will be provided at the Wye Mills Campus for which the Caroline County school district will purchase equipment. He advised that they are also implementing a short term "Workplace Excellence"

series to train both workers interim workers and permanent workers for the workplace. He said dual enrollment has been expanded across the five counties, student retention figures have increased and more students are attending the Cambridge Center. He explained that the College's budget request includes a 2% increase across all of the support counties to keep salaries and benefits competitive with the market. He thanked the Council for its consideration of the College's budget and use of fund balance requests.

Melissa Dennis, Mayor of Secretary, educator and mother, expressed her concerns about security in the public school system in light of recent events involving her family and across the County as well as the lack of leadership. She said some residents have advised that they are leaving the County due to safety and other concerns relating to the public school system which will have a negative impact on County revenues.

Mr. Merryweather asked if anyone present, who did not sign up to speak, would like to make any comments. There was no response.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Nichols announced that: 1) the next Council meeting will be held on May 7, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. during which the second public hearing on the proposed FY 2020 will be held; and, 2) the Budget Legislative Hearing/Adoption will be held at the Council's May 21, 2019 meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

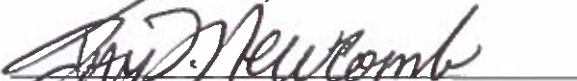


Keith Adkins
County Manager

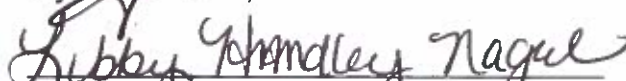
THE COUNTY COUNCIL
OF DORCHESTER COUNTY:



William V. Nichols, President



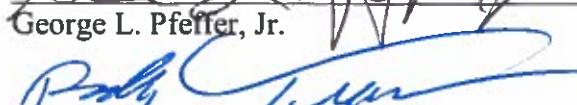
Jay L. Newcomb, Vice President



Libby Handley Nagel



George L. Pfeffer, Jr.



Ricky C. Travers

Approved the 7th day of May, 2019.