

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2017

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on May 9, 2017 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 Bradshaw led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

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

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$3,095,557.12.

ADDITION-WELCOME LETTER REQUEST

The Council agreed to add a request to the agenda. The Council approved the request of William Jarmon for a Welcome Letter for participants who will attend the 2017 "On the Edge of Freedom: Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad in the Borderlands" Conference. The Council acknowledged that this conference is being co-hosted by the National Park Service, the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Conference in honor of the opening of the Harriet Tubman Underground Visitor Center in Church Creek.

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said this is the second public hearing to be held on the 2017-2018 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance.

John Plaskon, Executive Director, Crossroads Community, Inc. (Crossroads), said he is attending this hearing to reinforce their budget request for \$2,000 to offset costs for a dental program for adults. He acknowledged that Dr. Jared Nave, who is present, provides services for this program. He explained that Medical Assistance does not cover dental care; therefore, Crossroads continues to identify ways to defray costs for citizens.

Dr. Nave said he is one of the dentists who work with the program. He stated that he has provided his services for a few years, noting it has been a rewarding experience. He referenced the recent restoration of a young man's teeth who, after attending a rehabilitation program, is taking courses to become a social worker to work with those with his same background.

Mr. Merryweather said the legislative public hearing/adoption for the FY18 budget will be held at the Council's May 16, 2017 regular session meeting. The Council concluded the public hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Bradshaw stated that water quality has improved and the restricted area for oyster harvesting was moved from Jamaica Point to Green Point. He explained that watermen with a bottom lease in that area are now able to work their oyster bed.

Councilman Price acknowledged the loss of two Hurlock community leaders, Norma Todd who served four terms on that Town's Council and Dr. Kay McElvey, who was involved with the youth. He said both ladies were advocates for more recreational activities for youth in Hurlock. He referenced Councilman Bradshaw's comment regarding moving the restricted oyster harvesting area noting that there are still sanctuaries in the Choptank River near Secretary. He stated that the legislative delegation was working towards altering those sanctuaries during the past legislative session.

Councilman Travers noted that any discussion regarding proposed changes to the draft FY18 budget must occur before the next meeting. He recognized that the Cruise ship which is in the Harbor with 161 passenger is on its inaugural journey. He explained that it was built in Salisbury and work was performed on the ship for a month before it left port. In response to an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Paul Clipper said it left port on Saturday and this is the third or fourth stop. He stated that passengers will visit the Harriet Tubman Visitor Center, take a walking tour of the lighthouse and downtown.

Councilman Travers commended law enforcement on the recent grand jury indictments relating to distribution of drugs, including those laced with fentanyl.

Councilman Bradshaw advised that he will not be at the May 15, 2017 Board of License Commissioners meeting because he will be attending the Maryland Oyster Advisory Commission meeting regarding the selection of the last two sanctuaries. He referenced the Council's correspondence in opposition to the potential creation of additional sanctuaries in or around the County. Councilman Bradshaw said at the next meeting he will provide an update.

Councilman Travers announced that: 1) the next County Council meeting will be held on May 16, 2017 at 6 p.m. during which there will be a legislative budget public hearing/adoption on the proposed FY 2018 budget; and, 2) the Council reserves the right to meet in closed session prior to its regular session on this date.


With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

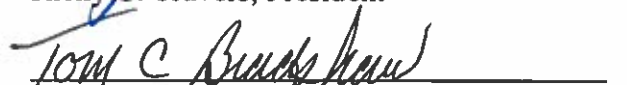


Jeremy Goldman
County Manager

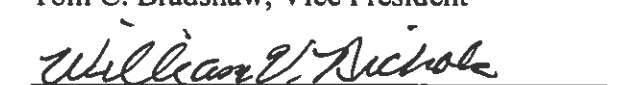
DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:



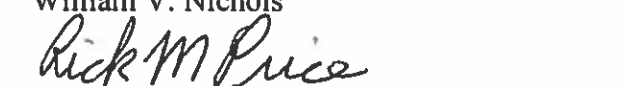
Ricky C. Travers, President



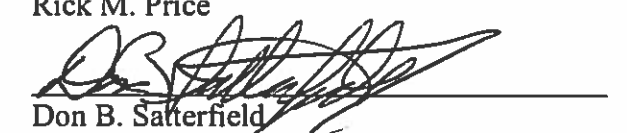
Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President



William V. Nichols



Rick M. Price



Don B. Satterfield

Approved the 16th day of May, 2017.