

**County Council of Dorchester County  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 3, 2015**

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on February 3, 2015 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, 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 State Government Article pursuant to §10-508(A)(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 §10-508(A)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; pursuant to §10-508(A)(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 Travers led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

**CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

The Council agreed to add the following items to the agenda: a request to lease farmland and a request to stay a foreclosure.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES-JANUARY 20, 2015**

The Council approved the minutes of January 20, 2015.

**APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS**

The Council approved the vouchers as presented.

**PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Council recognized its January 20, 2015 decision to withhold the following payments from the vouchers for items relating to the proposed Incubator Facility and for additional information:

Willow Construction, \$34,899.42 and Facility Logix, \$6,058. The Council further recognized that the additional information has been provided and approved the payment authorizations with Councilman Price opposing. Councilman Price cited remaining consistent on his stance about the incubator project as his reason for opposing the payments. Councilman Bradshaw explained that he voted in favor of releasing the payments because they were for services rendered. He noted that had the services not been rendered he would have opposed the motion.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

Councilman Travers reported total cash and investments as \$10,882,302.05.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION SUMMARY**

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in an Executive Session at 4:30 p.m. on February 3, 2015 in a closed session at Room 110, County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland, pursuant to the State Government Article pursuant to §10-508(A)(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 §10-508(A)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; pursuant to §10-508(A)(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.

Action taken at the closed session: 1) approved the request of the Emergency Services Director to hire three individuals to fill vacant 911 Dispatcher positions by a 4 to 0 vote with one vote by written proxy; 2) discussed a request to renew a lease agreement -agreed to discuss in open session; 3) discussed a matter regarding office space in the County Office Building-requested additional information; 4) discussed with legal counsel a request relating to the foreclosure of a property-agreed to discuss in open session; 5) discussed with legal counsel a matter relating to a lease for a County owned property; 6) discussed with legal counsel expressions of interest in leasing County property; 7) discussed with legal counsel a request to abandon a portion of a County road; and 8) discussed a personnel matter relating to the Emergency Services Department.

The above information is being provided to the public pursuant to and in compliance with Section 10-509(b) and (c) of the State Government Article.

#### **REGULAR SESSION**

Councilman Travers said Councilman Nichols will not be present because he is ill.

## **PROCLAMATION-NATIONAL OUTDOOR SHOW MONTH-FEBRUARY 2015**

The Council presented a Proclamation declaring February 2015 as National Outdoor Show Month.

## **PUBLIC HEARING-COUNTY'S SCHEDULE OF FEES**

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney, said this public hearing is being held on a proposed resolution to amend to the County's Schedule of Fees to reflect changes relating to agricultural buildings and poultry fees; to reduce the Highway Division storm water permit issuance fee from 5% to 2.5% of the project cost, with a \$100 minimum fee; and to reflect a higher fee structure for solar projects. There were no public comments. The Council adopted a resolution to amend the County's Schedule of Fees effective on this date.

## **REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT/FUNDING COMMITMENT-STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT-DORCHESTER CITIZENS FOR PLANNED GROWTH**

Beth Ann Lynch, Executive Director, Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth (DCPG), acknowledged that Diana Miller, Restoration Specialist, Environmental Concern, Inc., a partner in this project, is also present. She advised Council that DCPG members are pursuing a stormwater management demonstration project which will be located at Sailwinds Park. She said the actual structure will be 6 x 6 with a green roof and that stormwater will flow into rain barrels and then into rain gardens. Ms. Lynch stated that they also plan to raise the three inlets at the Visitor's Center and install rain gardens on either side so the stormwater can be absorbed by mulch and native plants instead of flowing directly into the river. She explained that the estimated project cost is \$45,000 and that in addition to DCPG's contribution, the following project partners have committed funding: City of Cambridge, \$5,000 and Nanticoke Watershed Alliance, \$7,000. She expressed her understanding that the Council allocated \$10,000 in the FY15 budget for watershed improvement projects.

Ms. Lynch said Master Gardeners will assist DCPG in maintaining the rain gardens and that State Highway Administration, which is supportive of this project, will also assist with maintenance. She noted that youth members of the 4H Club have also expressed an interest in providing assistance.

Councilman Bradshaw referenced the offer Drew Koslov, Choptank Riverkeeper, made in a prior Council meeting to provide a two to one match of any funds the Council set aside for watershed improvement projects in the County. Ms. Lynch advised that he is no longer employed in that capacity.

The Council agreed to execute a letter of support for the Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth's application for a matching Maryland Heritage Areas Authority grant for the stormwater demonstration station project. The Council also agreed to provide DCPG \$5,000 of the \$10,000 that is allocated in the General Fund budget for watershed improvement projects.

The Council also agreed to waive landfill tipping fees for any debris collected by volunteers during the April 11, 2015 Project Clean Stream event which will be held in the Town of East New Market. Based on the recommendation of Tom Moore, Public Works Director, the Council requested that the debris be deposited at the Secretary Transfer Station.

## **MANAGERS COMMENTS**

### **RESOLUTION-ACCEPTANCE OF BID-TAX SALE PROPERTY**

The Council agreed to adopt a resolution accepting the bid of \$975 from Lisa Marshall, Member, The Farmers Daughter, LLC, for Property No. #14-006036, which is described as .15 acres, S/S Route 50, 3723 Ocean Gateway, that the County acquired via tax sale.

### **FY16 RURAL LEGACY APPLICATION-PLANNING AND ZONING**

The Council approved the written request of Rodney Banks, Assistant Planning and Zoning Director, to submit applications for the Marshyhope Rural Legacy Focus Area and Nanticoke Rural Legacy Focus Area to the State for FY 2016 Maryland Rural Legacy Program grant funds with the Marshyhope area being the priority application for the year and the Nanticoke Rural Legacy Area being priority two.

### **TOWN OF VIENNA ASSIGNMENT OF FLOODPLAIN ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENT-PLANNING AND ZONING**

The Council approved the request of Steve Dodd, Planning and Zoning Director, to enter into an agreement with the Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Vienna in which the Town officials adopt the County's Floodplain Ordinance and that authorizes the County staff to enforce this ordinance within those Town limits.

In response to an inquiry from Councilman Price, Mr. Dodd explained that Kevin Wagner, the State Coordinator for Floodplain Management, has been in contact with Don Bradley, the Circuit Rider for the Towns of Brookview, Eldorado and Galestown, and offered them the same service the County provides to Vienna. He said some of the larger municipalities, for example the Town of Secretary, have established their own ordinances.

### **REVISED FEE SCHEDULE ADDENDUM-MIDDLE DEPARTMENT INSPECTION AGENCY AGREEMENT-PLANNING AND ZONING**

The Council agreed to enter into an Addendum to the June 29, 2012 agreement between the County and Middle Department Inspection Agency for plan review, inspections and code enforcement in the County to amend the Building Code Fee schedule payable to MDIA to reflect fee changes effective today. The Council acknowledged that the amendment reflects some of the changes that were made earlier when the Council adopted a resolution to amend the County's Schedule of Fees.

**REQUEST TO ADVERTISE FOR PROPOSALS-CHESAPEAKE GROVE  
INTERGENERATIONAL CENTER-DELMARVA COMMUNITY SERVICES-GRANT  
MONITOR**

The Council approved the request of Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, on behalf of Delmarva Community Services (DCS), to advertise for proposals for the Chesapeake Grove Intergenerational Center Infrastructure Phase 2 project, which is partially funded by a FY15 Community Development Block Grant of \$600,000. The Council acknowledged that DCS will place the advertisements which will be funded with CDBG grant funds, with no County commitment, in order to meet CDBG and United States Department of Agriculture advertising requirements.

**HOUSING STUDY-PROPOSED CORRESPONDENCE-PRESS RELEASE-GRANT  
MONITOR**

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith for the placement of a letter on County letterhead advising residents that Dr. Marvin Tossey and his team from the Salisbury University Center for Family and Community Life, are conducting a survey of the houses in the County to determine housing needs; to allow Dr. Tossey to notify all local law enforcement agencies of the survey dates; to issue a press release; and to discuss the project with other media outlets regarding the commencement of the housing study in February 2015 so the community is aware of the project.

**REQUEST FOR AUDIT FINDINGS CORRESPONDENCE-GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION-GRANT MONITOR**

The Council approved the request of Ms. Smith to authorize Councilman Travers, as President, to execute a letter to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) which is required pursuant to the GOCCP grant application process, of the audit findings as of and for the year ended June 30, 2014.

**TRAVEL REQUEST-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

A motion to approve the request of Keasha Haythe, Economic Development Director, for Susan Banks, Business Development Manager, and herself to exhibit and attend the 2015 SelectUSA Investment Summit to be held near Washington, DC on March 23 and March 24, 2015 failed with Councilmen Price and Bradshaw opposing. The Council instructed staff to phone poll Councilman Nichols on this request.

**LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST-HOUSE BILL 83-AMBULANCE DIRECT  
REIMBURSEMENT-EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Jeremy Goldman, Emergency Services Director and Acting County Manager, advised Council that in 2012 House Bill 83 entitled "Ambulance Direct Reimbursement" which requires all Maryland insurance companies to make payment directly to the provider of services, rather than the patient, was signed into law. He said it included a sunset provision and that the law will

terminate in June 2016. He expressed his understanding that legislation to remove this provision will be introduced during the 2015 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session. The Council approved Mr. Goldman's request to send a letter of support to remove the sunset provision once the legislation is introduced.

#### REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS TO MODIFY BRIDGE POSTINGS-ELLIOTT ISLAND-DRAWBRIDGE-PW

The Council approved the request of Tom Moore, Public Works Director, and authorized Greg LeBlanc, Engineer, to submit requests on behalf of the Council to change the load rating of two bridges as follows: 1) to raise the rating on Drawbridge Road Bridge from 48,000 lbs for a single unit and 60,000 lbs for a combination of vehicles to provide unrestricted access to all legal vehicles; and 2) to raise the rating on the Elliott's' Island Bridge from 24,000 lbs for a single unit vehicle and 24,000 lbs for a combination vehicle to 56,000 lbs for a single unit vehicle and 80,000 lbs for a combination vehicle. The Council acknowledged that the Jim Duffy, Bridge Inspector, Northeast Engineering, who inspects the bridges in the County, recommended these changes after conducting inspections and reviewing prior inspection reports for both bridges. The Council acknowledged that bridge inspections will now be performed annually on both bridges, which are paid for by the State Highway Administration through the federal bridge program, which is one of the requirements in changing these bridge ratings.

#### CLEAN CHESAPEAKE COALITION-FY2015 SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRIBUTION

The Council acknowledged its June 17, 2014 decision to pay \$25,000 towards the FY15 Clean Chesapeake Coalition budget and a supplemental contribution which at that time was projected to be \$12,500. The Council recognized that Harford County and Queen Anne's County have joined the coalition; therefore, the supplemental contribution has been reduced to \$6,250 and agreed to pay that amount.

#### DISCUSSION-CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE-PROPOSAL FOR APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

Councilman Travers advised Council that he met with Dr. Barbara Viniar, President, Chesapeake College, and Vaughn Evans and Don Bradley, Board of Trustee members, last week, regarding the appointment of members to this Board. He referenced the Council's prior decision to pursue legislation to change this process to allow the support counties the opportunity to submit nominations for the Board for their respective jurisdictions. He noted that although the legislation was introduced during the last couple of Maryland General Assembly Legislative Sessions it was not adopted. He said Dr. Viniar has provided a proposal for the implementation of new procedures to address the Council's concerns, which he summarized.

The Council expressed its support of the implementation of the following procedures for the appointment of members to the College's Board of Trustees: 1) the president of the college will notify the president of the county commission(s) or council(s) of a renewal or vacancy in the fall preceding the expiration of the current board member's term; 2) the president will provide a list of current board members and their areas of expertise, identify priority areas to add to the board,

provide a breakdown by race, ethnicity and gender and identify gaps; and 3) by January of the year in which the new member's term will begin, the president, a board member from the county and the county council and/or commission president or designee will meet to review and select recommendations to forward to the Governor's Appointments Secretary.

The Council also agreed to join Chesapeake College in sending a letter of recommendation to James A. Fielder, Secretary of Appointments, Office of Governor, in support of Governor Lawrence Hogan's reappointment of Mr. Evans as one of Dorchester County's members on the College's Board of Trustees. It is the Council's understanding that although Mr. Evans' term expired in June 2014 he is continuing to serve.

Councilman Travers said Mr. Bradley, who has three years left of his term, has advised that he is not interested in being reappointed.

#### **COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE-MID SHORE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Council approved the request of Holly R. Ireland, Executive Director, Mid Shore Mental Health System, to reappoint Carol Masden as the Dorchester County representative on the Mid-Shore Mental Health System's Regional Behavioral Health Advisory Committee for a second term which will expire on April 30, 2018.

#### **REQUEST TO RENEW LEASE-BOBTOWN ROAD**

The Council agreed to renew a farm lease with Terry Wolf King and Jeff King for approximately 4 acres of the County owned property located on Bobtown Road for the purpose of farming for a one year period at the rate of \$90 per acre for a total of \$360.

#### **REQUEST TO STAY FORECLOSURE-OLD MACES LANE HIGH SCHOOL-BOND SERVANTS**

The Council approved the request of Joseph Kelly, Executive Director, Bond Servants for a six month stay on the foreclosure of the property known as the Old Maces Lane High School and to ask him to provide copy of the Phase I Environmental Report upon completion.

#### **LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**BILL NO. 2015-2 AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE, TITLE 4 SUBTITLE 1 OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND AND PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 25A, SECTION 5(S) OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND TO REPEAL AND REENACT CHAPTER 100 OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE ENTITLED "GRADING, EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL" PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION, MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY AND**

**GENERAL WELFARE BY ESTABLISHING MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES TO CONTROL THE ADVERSE IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH ACCELERATED SOIL EROSION AND THE RESULTANT SEDIMENTATION.**

Mr. Merryweather said a public hearing is being held on Bill No. 2015-2 to repeal and re-enact Chapter 100 of the Dorchester County Code entitled "Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control" to establish minimum requirements and procedures to control the adverse impacts associated with accelerated soil erosion and the resultant sedimentation.

Greg LeBlanc, Engineer, advised that the legislation reflects updates and changes made by the Maryland Department of Environment. He noted that one of the revisions is to as to change the grading permit expiration date from one year to two years from date of issuance to mimic the expiration date of the the sediment control permit which is issued by Soil Conservation. He said other changes include an increase in the maximum fine that can be issued for a violation from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and the removal of the bonding requirements because storm water management includes sediment control which requires a bond.

Mr. Merryweather said the effective date of this legislation will be July 1, 2015.

There was no public comment.

The roll call on the enactment of Bill No. 2015-2 was as follows: Bradshaw-aye; Price-aye; Travers-aye; Satterfield-aye.

**INTRODUCTION**

**AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY MARYLAND TO AMEND CHAPTER 155, ENTITLED ZONING ORDINANCE, SECTION 155-50, NN, SUPPLEMENTARY USE REGULATIONS, SECTION 155-13, TERMS DEFINED, AND SECTION 155 ATTACHMENT 1, TABLE OF PERMITTED USES OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE TO ADD RETREAT CENTER OR CAMP AS A SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE IN THE AC, AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION, RC, RESOURCE CONSERVATION, AND AC-RCA, AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION – RESOURCE CONSERVATION AREA DISTRICTS, ADD THE DEFINITION OF RETREAT CENTER OR CAMP, AND INCLUDE SUPPLEMENTARY USE REGULATIONS FOR A RETREAT CENTER OR CAMP.**

Mr. Merryweather said the legislation scheduled for introduction is to amend the Chapter 155, the County's Zoning Ordinance, to add a retreat center or camp as a special exception use in the Agricultural Conservation (AC), Resource Conservation (RC), and the Agricultural Conservation-Resource Conservation (AC-RCA) area districts, to add the definition of a retreat center or camp and to include supplementary use regulations.

Mr. Dodd stated that the legislation was drafted by Ryan Showalter, Attorney, on behalf of his client Young Life, a religious based organization, which operates youth camps. He explained that this entity is in negotiations with Tudor Farms to obtain some or all of its holdings with

some of the property being used for a youth camp. He explained that after reviewing the County's Zoning Ordinance it was determined that it did not include any language to support this type of use. He further explained that this is the first step in allowing Young Life to purchase the property. He said this is enabling legislation which creates a use category for a retreat center or camp. In response to a question from Mr. Merryweather, Mr. Dodd said the Planning Commission supports this text amendment.

In response to a question from Libby Nagel, resident, Mr. Dodd said if the legislation is adopted any retreat center or camp is eligible to apply to the Board of Zoning Appeals for this use provided they meet certain conditions and qualifications.

The Council agreed to proceed with publication of a public hearing on this matter.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

In response to a question from Les Simering, resident, Councilman Bradshaw advised that the Council allocated funds in the FY15 budget for watershed improvement projects.

Mr. Simering questioned whether seized drug money is accumulated on a year to year basis and if there are any requirements that those funds must be used within a certain time frame. Councilman Bradshaw said it is his understanding that any seized items are auctioned off and any funds from that sale are provided to the law enforcement agencies who participated in the seizure. He also expressed his understanding that these funds can be used to purchase equipment, guns and vehicles but not for salaries.

Mr. Simering referenced comments made at prior meetings about the Sheriff's Office being over budget. He also referenced Council's decision that any overtures in capital expenditures for the purchase of vehicles for this office will be covered by seized drug assets. He questioned whether taking this action will result in the depletion of seizure funds. Councilman Travers expressed his understanding that certain agencies in conjunction with the State's Attorney's approve the use of these monies. In response to a question from Mr. Simering, Councilman Travers said Sheriff James Phillips sent a memorandum to the Council noting that the agencies are amicable to using those funds to offset the cost of vehicles.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Simering, Councilmen Price and Travers said the Town of Secretary is the entity that should be contacted regarding dredging at the boat ramp in that area.

Mr. Simering expressed his belief that Sheriff Phillips should attend Council meetings and that the charter interferes that his presence is necessary.

Based on a question posed by Wendell Foxwell, a Dorchester County resident, Councilman Travers confirmed that Mr. Goldman is serving as Acting County Manager and Emergency Services Director. Councilman Travers explained that Emergency Services staff are assisting him with items relating to that department.

Mr. Foxwell questioned whether Sheriff Phillips must submit a request to the Council if he wishes to expend capital funds over the budgeted amount. He expressed concern that in the past the Sheriff's Office budget has been overspent. Councilman Travers confirmed that Sheriff Phillips must ask the Council for additional funding if his purchase will exceed the amount in his budget.

Mr. Foxwell referenced a newspaper article in which it was noted that the Sheriff did not respond to certain County emails and expressed concern that he was non-responsive. He questioned what, if any, corrective action Council will take to ensure that it does not happen in future budget years.

Ms. Nagel stated that the Board of Appeals will be meeting tomorrow regarding solar panel farms. She referenced the legislation the Council passed in 2011 which added utility scale solar energy systems as a special exception in certain zoning districts on property 25 acres or larger. She questioned whether local farmers were asked to provide their input on this legislation before it was introduced and adopted. She noted that agriculture is currently the number one industry in the County and expressed concern that several of these facilities will be constructed on farm land. Ms. Nagel said it is her understanding that there are two solar farms currently being pursued, including one on 25 acres in Bucktown for which the energy will be sold on the grid to the Baltimore Aquarium and another one on 85 acres in Linkwood with Pennsylvania and New Jersey being the recipients of the energy generated from that facility. She also expressed her understanding that another property owner is planning to apply for a special exemption to build a utility scale solar energy system on 132 acres of property known as the Hawkeye farm. Ms. Nagel suggested the Council consider placing utility scale solar systems on the farm land the County acquired from Roland Webster, resident, which is currently being rented to a farmer or in the Dorchester Regional Technology Park to generate income. She stressed that she is not against green energy, however, she feels that solar systems should be placed on commercial or industrial land and not productive agricultural land and residents should benefit from the solar energy.

Councilman Travers advised Ms. Nagel that the Council did consider the placement of a solar system on County land, including land at the Landfill and Airport, without success. He noted that the Council recently referred to the Planning Commission for investigation and recommendation the amendment of Chapter 155, entitled "Zoning Ordinance," Section 155-50, LL Supplemental Use Regulations, and/or Section 155 Attachment 1 of the Dorchester County Code to require that utility scale solar energy systems only be allowed on commercial and industrial properties within the County.

Donald Gray, resident referenced the Council's prior decision to raise the ratings on the Elliott's Island Bridge. He noted that there are several individuals interested in utilizing the bridge to transport oyster shells to Elliott's Island and questioned whether there are any plans to make any repairs to that structure. Mr. Moore explained the bridge passed inspection, noting that inspections on the bridge and the Drawbridge Bridge will now be conducted annually. Mr. Moore said accommodations were made during the recent oyster season to allow a company to utilize the bridge to transport oysters. Mr. Gray expressed his understanding that one side of the blacktop is cracking. Mr. Moore noted that it is a timber bridge and the overlay will move as the

bridge flexes. In response to a question from Mr. Gray, Councilman Bradshaw said once the ratings have been increased individuals will be able to travel over the bridge in a tandem dump truck, which is approximately 56,000 pounds or an 18 wheeler truck vehicle, which is approximately 80,000 pounds.

Marley Garrison introduced herself, noting that she moved from Wilmington, Delaware to Cambridge. She said she is a member of the League of Women Voters and has been involved in city and county government for over 30 years. She explained that she is also a member of the Dorchester Career and Technology Center (DCTC) Advisory Board. Ms. Garrison advised that she is also a business owner who teaches law related education to youth. She said her goal is to enlighten students on what career choices are available to them and encourage them to remain in the County. Ms. Garrison explained that she is planning an event on the third weekend in September 2015 entitled the "Harriet Tubman Gold Classic Weekend" with the goal of expanding it to a week and will provide the Council with information closer to that event.

Councilman Bradshaw noted that despite attempts by the Dorchester County Volunteer Firemen's Association and the Council for the continuation of a Fire Fighter-Emergency Medical Technician Program at the DCTC, the Board of Education discontinued that class. Ms. Garrison said she will address the possibility of reinstating that program at the next DCTC Advisory Board meeting.

Terry Wheatley, a resident, asked for an update on County Manager position and whether the Council has made a decision to review the applications received after the first two advertisement deadlines had passed. Councilman Travers said the position is currently being advertised and that Council has made no decision on how to conduct the application review process.

In response to a question from Donna Hooper, a Dorchester County resident, Councilman Travers confirmed that Mr. Goldman is serving the County as the Emergency Services Director and the Acting County Manager.

Councilman Bradshaw referenced comments made by Mr. Simering about charter requirements at the Council's January 20, 2015 meeting that the Sheriff must appear before the Council monthly. He explained that those requirements are outlined in the County Code and are not valid because the Sheriff is no longer responsible for the jail.

In response to Councilman Bradshaw's inquiry, Michael Spears, Finance Director, said the fees collected by Sheriff's Office personnel are collected in that office and then provided to the Finance Department.

Based on comments Mr. Simering previously made at a prior meeting, Councilman Bradshaw clarified that he works for a contractor as a school bus driver and not for the Board of Education.

Mr. Simering expressed his belief that the charter should be revised to remove any invalid requirements or references. He said the Council members had the opportunity to revise the Charter, noting that they did not accept any of the recommendation of the Charter Review Committee.

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

Councilman Price said the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) members have established the following as FY2015 legislative initiatives: 1) local transportation funding restoration; 2) cooperation and investment in education; 3) identifying broad tools to tackle the drug crisis, including address law enforcement liability as it relates to the administration of Narcan (Naloxone Hydrochloride); and 4) to urge the State to adopt effective measures to improve pre-trial services in District Courts without passing down to local jurisdictions unfunded mandates, such as the requirement that attorney representation is necessary at initial appearances before a District Court Commissioner.

He advised that Warren Deschenaux, Director of Policy Analysis, Department of Legislative Services, spoke at the January 28, 2015 MACO Legislative Committee meeting regarding the State's FY16 budget. Councilman Price said he referenced Governor Lawrence Hogan's proposal to reduce funding to State agencies by 2%; the fact that the proposed budget does not include tax relief; and that one of the Governor's goals for the following year is the restoration of highway user funds.

Councilman Price referenced continued efforts to seek legislative relief to allow watermen to harvest areas that have been placed into sanctuaries by the State.

Councilman Bradshaw said the Clean Chesapeake Coalition members' legislative initiative for FY2015 is to pursue oyster restoration through power dredging, hand tonging and other methods used in the past which clear silt from oyster beds. He said the coalition's legal team is in discussions with Senator Adelaide Eckardt and other Eastern Shore Legislators regarding this initiative.

Councilman Price said after the MACo meeting, county officials from across the State attended a legislator's night at O'Briens Steakhouse Restaurant in Annapolis during which he spoke to Jeannie Haddaway, Intergovernmental Affairs Officer, and Delegates Christopher Adams and Sherise Sample-Hughes about transportation and environmental issues.

Councilman Satterfield referenced his December 16, 2014 motion to re-designate Room 110 in the Council Office Building as the M. Jane Baynard County Meeting Room. He said based on the comments Council has received about the contributions past Commissioners and Council Members have made to the County, he amended that motion to place a plaque commemorating Ms. Baynard's service to the County and its citizens in Room 108, the Council's Office. The Council approved that amended motion.

Councilman Price commended public safety workers for their efforts during a recent accident involving two overturned vehicles, including a petroleum truck, on Route 50 in Linkwood.

The Council reappointed Patricia Simmons to the Senior Council and Leonard Greenhawk to the Sanitary Commission.

Based on a motion made Councilman Travers, the Council agreed to seek Governor Hogan's assistance in meeting the unfunded State mandate that new voting machines and equipment must be purchased which will also significantly increase storage and transportation costs.

Portia Johnson Ennals, resident, said sat on the Charter Review Commission Mr. Simering referenced earlier. She acknowledged that the members may have overlooked certain items that need to be addressed, stressing that it was first time the Commission has met since the passage of the County Charter. She noted that those individuals who have made comments about the Charter did not attend the Commission meetings although they were open to the public.

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeremy Goldman  
Acting County Manager

DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ricky C. Travers, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom C. Bradshaw, Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William V. Nichols

  
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Rick M. Price

  
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Don B. Satterfield

Approved the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2015.