

County Council of Dorchester County
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2013

The County Council of Dorchester County met in regular session on March 19, 2013 with the following members present: Jay L. Newcomb, President; William V. Nichols, Vice President; Ricky Travers; Rick Price and Tom Bradshaw. Also present were E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney; 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)(4) to consider a preliminary matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; and 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 Miss Outdoors, Little Miss Outdoors and Little Mr. Outdoors led the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

The Council acknowledged that a school bus monitoring camera proposal was removed from the agenda and approved the following additions to the agenda:

Request to advertise an Information Technology Communications Specialist; to advertise a grant funded Program Administrator position in the Tourism Department; a request to execute a Special Event Agreement with the Dorchester YMCA for the Sheriff's Office to provide public safety services for an event to be held by that organization.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- MARCH 5, 2013

The Council approved the minutes of March 5, 2013.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

The Council approved vouchers as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Councilman Newcomb reported total cash and investments as \$9,594,807.52.

EXECUTIVE SESSION SUMMARY

The County Council of Dorchester County convened in an Executive Session at 4:30 pm on March 19, 2013 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)(4) to consider a preliminary matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; and 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 above.

Councilman Newcomb announced that the Council convened into an Executive Session following a budget work session on March 14, 2013 to discuss personnel items.

He also announced that the Council convened into an Executive Session at 4:30 p.m. on March 19, 2013 to discuss the following items:

- 1- Approved the request of Information Technology Director to fill an Information Technology Specialist position due to an employee resignation by a 5 to 0 vote-*agreed to consider a request to advertise the position in open session*
- 2- Approved the request of the Tourism Director to fill a vacant grant funded Program Administrator position by a 5 to 0 vote-*agreed to consider a request to advertise the position in open session*
- 3- Received information relating to County owned facilities;
- 4- Received an update from staff regarding a matter relating to economic development;
- 5- Discussed with legal counsel a request to lease office space in a County owned building-*agreed to deny request based on lack of available space; and*

6- Discussed a personnel item.

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

COMMENDATION-2013 NATIONAL OUTDOOR SHOW-MISS OUTDOORS, LITTLE MISS OUTDOORS, LITTLE MR. OUTDOORS

The Council presented commendations to Victoria Doyle for being selected Miss Outdoors 2013, to Carrie Hayden for being selected Little Miss Outdoors 2013 and Clay Wilson for being selected as Little Mr. Outdoors 2013.

COMMENDATION-911 CENTER PARTNER PROGRAM AWARD

The Council presented a commendation to the Dorchester County Department of Emergency Services 911 Communications Division for being one of only two agencies in the State of Maryland to receive the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children 9-1-1 Call Center Partner Program Award for its commitment to ensuring the safety of the County's children a priority. The following individuals accepted the commendation: Jeremy Goldman, Emergency Services Director; Kim Browning, 911 Communications Chief; Kari Diefenderfer, 911 Dispatcher; Brian Stevanus, 911 Dispatcher; John Williamson, 911 Dispatcher; Suzanne Short; 911 Dispatcher; Debbie Stewart, 911 Dispatcher.

Per Kim Browning an APCO award was awarded to the County emergency responders for the Race Street fire. Mr. Goldman said they just received notification of this award.

COMMENDATION- NORTH DORCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR CLASS PLAY PARTICIPANTS

The Council presented commendations to the participants of the North Dorchester High School 2013 Senior Class Play entitled "Beauty and the Beast." Stephen Willey, Director, and members of the Senior Class Play accepted the commendation.

PUBLIC HEARING-REDISTRICTING PLAN

The Council agreed to adjourn into a public hearing.

E. Thomas Merryweather, County Attorney said the public hearing is being held on the proposed County Redistricting Plan that was prepared by the Redistricting Commission which was formed pursuant to the County's Charter after the last centennial census.

Pete Macinta, Chair, Redistricting Commission, said the Commission members focused on making the districts compact, substantially equal in population and contiguous to meet charter requirements. He presented an overview of the proposed redistricting plan.

Mike Detmer, a Redistricting Commission member, said the members worked diligently to ensure that all districts were as equal as possible. He thanked Planning and Zoning staff for their assistance.

No public comments.

Councilman Newcomb noted that the Dorchester County Board of Education representatives of District 1 and District 5 were just elected but as a result of proposed redistricting plan these individuals will now be in the same district, District 1. Mr. Merryweather said the Board of Education staff should contact the Attorney General to inquire as to how to proceed if the plan is enacted. He explained that if Council wishes to change the plan a bill to do so can be introduced at the Council's April 2, 2013 meeting and the public hearing on the bill can be held on May 7, 2013 but must be enacted on that day in order to meet the 90 day deadline due to Charter requirements.

The public hearing was concluded.

PUBLIC HEARING-CAMBRIDGE ENTERPRISE ZONE RECERTIFICATION RESOLUTION-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council adjourned into a public hearing.

Mr. Merryweather said a public hearing is being held regarding the City of Cambridge's intention to seek a recertification of the existing Enterprise Zone within City limits from the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED). John Mason, Business Attraction and Expansion Manager, said County staff in conjunction with City staff are in the process of completing an application to submit to DBED for the recertification. Every 10 years Enterprise Zones must be recertified. Areas added – Dorchester Regional Technology Park property.

Councilman Nichols expressed concern about five blocks in the City that are not included in the proposed Enterprise Zone. Ms. Haythe said that area is residential and therefore cannot be included in the Enterprise zone.

In response to a question from Portia Johnson-Ennels, Mr. Merryweather said the area is near the City waterfront area which is residential.

Councilman Newcomb questioned whether the businesses in the Market Square are located on the map. Mr. Mason clarified that no business areas were removed from the Enterprise Zone.

In response to a question from Logan Anderson, Daily Banner editor, Mr. Mason said DBED, County and City staff collaboratively worked together to develop the Enterprise Zone.

Based on an inquiry from Councilman Travers, Ms. Haythe said she will obtain clarification on the businesses located in the Market Square that seem to be excluded on the map. The area can be added to the zone at a later date if needed and allowed.

The Council agreed to execute a resolution consenting to and making application to DBED to recertify the Enterprise Zone within the City of Cambridge.

The public hearing was concluded.

PUBLIC HEARINGS-COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRESS REPORTS

The Council adjourned into a public hearing.

Councilman Newcomb said pursuant to Community Development Block Grant requirements a public hearing is required to be held on all grants prior to the end of the grant period during which the grantee/sub-recipient must provide a progress report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARING

Keasha Haythe, Economic Development Director, introduced the Economic Development Advisory Council; Dr. Henry Wagner, Johnny Shockley, Dick Bernstein. She then introduced Tim George, Principal of Vantage Point.

Mr. George presented the proposed Economic Development Strategic Plan (attached) for Dorchester County that his staff prepared.

Dr. Henry Wagner said he is a member of the Economic Development Advisory Council and is in support of the proposed plan particularly the inclusion of the Dorchester Career and Technology and an acknowledgement that the minority community be engaged.

Council approved the Economic Development Strategic Plan. Thanked the members of the Economic Development Advisory Council for their commitment to the Board and the County.

Councilman Price questioned how Dorchester County can compete with other local jurisdictions. Mr. George said workforce availability, providing incentives to incoming businesses and having available property are keys to competing with other counties. He said the majority of incentives are offered by each individual State. He expressed his belief that the new incubator facility will draw businesses to the County.

Councilman Price questioned if the use of existing vacant buildings is a component in the plan. Mr. George said the majority of the buildings do not meet current business owner's needs due to the size and they are designed with a different retail paradigm i.e.: the strip mall style center. State and Federal funding may be available to assist with cost of demolition of these buildings.

In response to a question from Councilman Price, Mr. George explained that the development review process was considered slow and cumbersome in Dorchester County while taxing was not a big issue with those who were polled.

Based on a question from Councilman Bradshaw, Mr. George said individuals expressed their belief that strict environmental State agency requirements deter business owners from constructing facilities in the State while the local County planning agencies need to speed up their approval processes by implementing a fast track program.

Johnny Shockley, resident, Hoopers Island Aquaculture Company and member of the Economic Development Advisory Council, said he was recognized as one of the top three entrepreneurs in the State recently. He said the seafood industry is a vital natural resource and that he believes that industry needs to be enhanced to meet current and future needs to support the local economy. Dorchester is different than Easton and Salisbury and we need to focus our efforts redeveloping that natural resource which is our seafood industry.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Nancy Shockley, Dorchester Community Partnership for Children and Families Director, provided a progress report on the use of CDBG funds for the Boys and Girls Club. In 2008 funding was applied for to start up the Boys and Girls Club, \$80,000 was received from the DHCD's CDBG program. It was successfully started in conjunction with Souls Harbor Church of God, In 2009 we received additional funds of \$50,000 for a total of \$130,000. The Club served 150 at-risk youth in County. In January 2012 the club had to close due to lack of funding. Challenges that faced club were the inability to secure long term sustainable funding, competition for capital funds and the downturn in the economic climate. Some of the at-risk kids have been enrolled in other programs. Mrs. Shockley believes eventually we may be able to secure funding to open another Boys and Girls Club. DHCD has recently closed out this grant through audit process with the requirement that we conduct this last meeting.

ALLEN FAMILY FOODS

Ms. Haythe provided a progress report on the use of CDBG funds provided to Allen Family foods for business expansion. Allen expanded, received 1.7 million in grant funding, hired 200 additional people for a total of 1,000 employees. Allen Foods filed for bankruptcy in 2012 and sold the facility in Hurlock to Amick Farms, LLC. Amick continues to employ 1,000 individuals. DHCD recently audited the grant and we are conducting this meeting as part of the requirement for the CDBG funding.

The public hearing was concluded.

DISCUSSION WITH BOARD OF EDUCATION-EDUCATION IN DORCHESTER COUNTY

Dr. Henry Wagner, Superintendent of Schools, and the Dorchester County Board of Education members joined the meeting. Councilman Newcomb said based on residents concerns the Council asked Dr. Wagner and the Board of Education to attend this meeting to discuss

education in Dorchester County including how the Council and the Board of Education members and staff can collaboratively work together to strategically implement initiatives to ensure student success in Dorchester County.

Dr. Wagner introduced board members and staff present; Lorraine Henry, Phil Bramble, Phil Rice, Glen Payne and Gary McCabe, Dr. Lorenzo Hughes and Tim Brooke. The Council was provided with a binder of information prior to the meeting as an overview of the school system statistics and performance data.

Dr. Wagner guided the Council through each page of the binder (available in Council's Office) explaining each data point and Dorchester County's ranking.

Lorraine Henry, Dorchester County Board of Education President, assured Council that her time on the board has been well spent working with them. She said the working relationship between the Board and the Council has substantially improved since 2001. She asked Council to contact her with any questions they have regarding education and the local public school system and thanked Council for their support.

Councilman Nichols expressed disappointment that they did not receive the information from the Board of Education until this afternoon. He asked Dr. Wagner "how did we get here?" He questioned why Dorchester County was last in the State rankings relating to education based on an email he had received from the State Board of Education. Dr. Lorenzo Hughes, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, said a new measure was implemented to score local public schools in the State of Maryland called the School Performance Index (SPI) which only looks at the growth of students from one year to next and that Dorchester County ranks five on that scale. Dr. Wagner said "The MSDE does not rank each county". Councilman Nichols stated he would get the email to Dr. Wagner.

Councilman Nichols then questioned how much funding is needed to reduce class sizes to 16 in elementary schools. Dr. Wagner said reducing class sizes to 16 is not reasonable and that they are considering targeting the high teens. He noted that there are 20-23 students in elementary and mid 20s in middle schools. Gary McCabe, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, said proposed in budget is to add 5 elementary teacher positions to get in 22 to 23 range in elementary schools in lieu of 29 based on anticipated student enrollment for the next school year. Councilman Nichols expressed concern that the basics, including mathematics are not being consistently taught in school and instead the focus is on testing. Dr. Wagner said the BOE staff and members are willing to continue to meet with the Council to discuss education in Dorchester County at a great length. Councilman Nichols said some residents also expressed to him their concern that the Dorchester County Board of Education meetings are held during the day. He asked the Board members to consider changing the schedule to allow working parents to attend those meetings. Ms. Henry said they have tried to accommodate working parents and changed the times but had no substantial increase in attendance and at 3 pm is a good time to have students attend the meetings. She expressed that parents are sent memos and board members remind them. In response to a question from Councilman Nichols, Ms. Henry said Board meetings are held at 3 p.m. Mrs. Henry said they have moved the meetings to different schools. She said she is available to meet with parents. Mr. Hughes expressed his belief that universal all

day pre-k may assist in preparing youth for kindergarten. He credited Mr. James Bell, Supervisor of Student Services for aggressively pursuing grants and the BOE now has grant funds for mental health services for the students. He said education is changing with the impact the trending upward with MSA and push to have people college and career ready, algebraic concepts introduced as early as 3rd grade. While demands on the schools have increased the capacity at the central office has not.

Ms. Johnson-Ennels offered the BOE staff and members the opportunity to meet with parents at the Empowerment Center, citing her belief that they should reach out to parents within the community outside of the BOE facilities. Dr. Wagner said three times a year a Superintendent Community forum is held and explained that notices are sent to every parent with a school age child regarding that meeting.

Les Simering, resident, said it is his understanding that math and reading scores in Dorchester County were second to the last in the State of Maryland pursuant to a recent news report on a local TV station. He encouraged the BOE staff and members to focus on these areas of study. Glenn Payne, BOE member, expressed his belief that the BOE staff and members are cognizant of the need to provide school aged parents access to information regarding public education initiatives within the County. Mr. Payne discussed the problem with disruptive students and the programs they are using funded by grants to help these students.

Dr. Hughes stated that in addition the Superintendents meetings we have had 6 meeting this year, 3 up north and 3 down south to discuss the curriculum change and had very low attendance. He discussed the IDA – Individuals with Disabilities Act requirement to educate children with these issues.

Dr. Wagner offered again to spend time to discuss section 5 of the binder which details the curriculum requirements. 2 of 3 of the families in Dorchester County are eligible for Free and Reduced Meals (FARM) Program. We have reached out to the business community through advisory council. There are five ways they can contribute; Teach, Tutor, Confer, Mentor, Council. Junior Achievement, Maryland Business Round Table for Education, Character Counts and Dorchester Tutoring Consortium are coming in to assist getting the kids college and career ready.

Councilman Travers discussed the suspension of students – Dr. Wagner you spoke of a higher authority bringing pressure to not suspend students, where is that mandate coming from? – Dr. Wagner stated there is a statewide conversation which started with State BOE re: the philosophy of student behavior management. The COMAR currently states “the intent of student behavior management programs is to maintain a safe and orderly environment”. State BOE proposed a change in the wording change to a rehabilitative approach to students. The 24 superintendents opposed this change and it has been called back and a more thoughtful discussion is being had. There is pressure from the State and National level to lower suspension rates.

Councilman Newcomb said a resident expressed their understanding that the Sheriff’s Office was called to Cambridge South Dorchester High School three times in one day. Dr. Wagner said not

to his knowledge, noting that there is school resource officer at that facility and to have citizens call the board first so we can address their concerns.

Councilman Travers questioned whether the Board of Education disciplinary actions can be enhanced to ensure public safety of the youth in the local public schools. Dr. Hughes noted that measures are being taken to enhance school safety and that suspension procedures will be instituted if necessary. Care teams and Student support teams exist to assist with IDA students. Faculty Councils have been implemented in each school teachers can bring forward issues each month with administration.

Dr. Wagner stated that there are 2 laws at the National level the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). These are reauthorized each year and recently renamed No Child Left Behind. Race to the Top was been issued by Executive Branch due to congress gridlock. He offered to have council meet to discuss in detail these laws and the implications to the local governments and students.

Councilman Price said he has also been approached by residents regarding their concerns that basic subjects, like math and reading are not being focused on, especially lower, younger classes. Parents are struggling to assist children. Dr. Wagner stated he hopes that parents came to the math nights that they were invited to through the school messenger and also in writing. Refer to Section 5 of binder bullet 3 states - Race to the Top deliverables are the "common core state standards" phased in over next few years. Teachers undergoing training for common core standards. BOE overview Thursday, March 21 open session at Noon.

Councilman Bradshaw said it is his understanding that the State will not allow home schooled students to have access to DCTC and expressed his belief that they should be able to take career and technology programs at that facility. He stated AYP data of 2007, 9 met AYP and 2 did not 2008/2009, 7 met 4 didn't, trend towards more not meeting. Target rising until 2014 must be 100%. Councilman Bradshaw questioned the need to reduce class sizes, particularly since in the past class sizes equaled 40 or more students. Dr. Wagner – we live in a very different world now. Cited Census data from 2010 Census, single parent houses, lack of married couples as head of households. Every phase of our community must be involved in their success. It is our responsibility to assist them to change their life scripts.

Logan Anderson, is it the county's policy to write off students as you see fit? Councilman Bradshaw, stated no but there are some that do not want their life scripts change.

Councilman Travers stated we are the ones that have to solve this problem.

Gail Dean, Dorchester Star Editor, said when she was in school there were 30 students per class.

Glenn Payne, addressed Councilman Bradshaw's concern on DCTC participation for homeschooled kids that it is a state law and nothing the local BOE can change. Also, the state is raising the age that students can quit school.

Dr. Wagner encouraged everyone to please visit our website to view all of the positive things that are happening. Many students are getting scholarships and remember that most of our kids do finish school and don't get suspended or even come close to getting in trouble. He asked that the Council please send constituents to BOE when they have concerns. There are liaisons that they can talk to if they don't want to or don't trust a BOE employee. All of the contact information is on the website.

Ms. Haythe stressed the importance of the link between education and economic development – noted Dr. Wagner participates on the Economic Development Advisory Council. The children are our future workforce. EDO is working with BOE to solve problems that affect both.

William Jones, State's Attorney, said the focus should be on balancing public safety in local schools with the educational needs of students. We have to look at what we are giving the BOE to work with. We have kids that are damaged, no heat, no water, no way to cook, nobody who cares at home.

Mr. Simering expressed his belief that parents should be involved in their children's' education.

Councilman Bradshaw stated we are dealing with a lot of problems that come from the large cities because we have too much subsidized housing.

Reverend George Ames, resident, said students can rise above their home situations.

Councilman Newcomb encouraged the BOE to meet with Jeremy Goldman, Emergency Services Director, regarding their need to enhance their current radio system, with the possibility of connecting to the County system.

The Council thanked the Dr. Wagner and the other Board of Education members and staff in attendance for providing information regarding education in the County.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Council adjourned into Legislative Session.

CLARIFICATION

BILL NO. 2013-1 - AN ACT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY MARYLAND, ACTING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 25A, CHARTERED COUNTIES, SECTION 5T, BUILDING ORDINANCES, OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, AND TITLE 12, OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, TO ADMEND SECTION 65-6 (A) TO ARTICLE IV OF CHAPTER 65 OF THE DORCHESTER COUNTY CODE IS HEREBY AMENDED AND REPLACED WITH THE NEW § 65-6 A OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE FOR ONE AND TWO FAMILY DWELLINGS.

Mr. Merryweather noted that at its March 5, 2013 meeting, the Council deferred consideration of Bill No. 2013-1 and requested clarification regarding the placement of the anchors straps on prefabricated buildings. He said the Council also closed the public hearing on this proposed legislation but agreed to continue to accept comments. He said the draft bill has been amended based on Council's concerns and clarified that the public hearing does not need to be re-advertised.

Steve Dodd, Planning and Zoning Director, explained that Bill No. 2013-1 provides for regulations for accessory structures from 300 square feet up to 500 square feet including foundation requirements. He introduced Michael Savage, Chief Inspector, Delmarva Region, Middle Department Inspection Agency and the County's Codes Official. Mr. Savage noted that he amended the bill to include the use of specific anchor kits, which can be used to anchor a building to the ground or a concrete slab.

Robert Macdonald, who resides at 309 South Harrison St. in Easton and owns property at 5227 Mount Holly Road in ENM, noted that the proposed legislation references "anchor straps" and that the straps should encompass the entire width of the pre-fabricated building. In response to a question from Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Savage said anchors can be used to secure a building instead of straps.

The Council voted to proceed with Bill No. 2013-1 as amended with the following roll call: Newcomb-aye; Bradshaw-aye; Nichols-aye; Travers-aye; Price-aye.

REGULAR SESSION

Council agreed that Michael Spears, Finance Director can attest documents signed by the Council President in lieu of the County Manager and Executive Administrative Specialist who are out on leave.

MANAGERS COMMENTS

OTHER

DORCHESTER COUNTY 2013 HIGHWAY PRIORITIES LETTER - STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION--PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Tom Moore, Public Works Director, to revise the Council's 2012 request for potential transportation improvements along State Highways in the County for future State of Maryland funding consideration to Darrell B. Mobley, Maryland Department of Transportation Acting Secretary, by adding the resurfacing of the Brookview Bridge deck and the installation of sidewalk along Maryland Route 50, eastbound side, from Woods Road to Route 16 South.

The Council also approved the request of Mr. Moore to remove the following projects which have been completed: resurface Hooper Island Road-state maintenance to mile point 3.65 and structure 9013 to structure 9012; resurface Golden Hill Road - South of structure 9018 over

Birch Dam Creek to MD 16; and repaving of MD 16 in Church Creek from Brannock's Neck Road to Golden Hill Road.

Additionally, the Council agreed to include the following topics as requested by the City of Cambridge Council: 1) the addition of a deceleration lane on Route 50 after traveling over the Frederick C. Malkus bridge into the City of Cambridge; 2) the City of Cambridge's Welcome Gateway project; 3) Sailwinds wharf replacement project.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE/ACCEPT INSURANCE PAYMENT-SAILWINDS WALKWAY REPLACEMENT-PUBLIC WORKS

The Council approved the request of Mr. Moore to advertise for proposals for the reconstruction of the walkway at Sailwinds Park, which was damaged during Hurricane Sandy, utilizing the original design. The Council also approved the request of Mr. Moore to accept the offer of Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT), the County's Insurer, of \$20,554.12. The Council acknowledged that LGIT subtracted depreciation of 10% and applied an insurance deductible of \$25,000. Additionally, the Council recognized that the estimated cost of the project is \$48,996.45 and that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will pay 75% of the deductible and depreciation of approximately \$22,546 as well as 75% of administrative costs related to certain aspects of project.

MID SHORE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION/CHOPTANK ELECTRIC TRUST GRANTS-EMS BODY ARMOR-EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Council approved the request of Cindy Smith, Grant Monitor, on behalf of Jeremy Goldman, Emergency Services Director, to submit an application to the Mid Shore Community Foundation for \$30,000 and to Choptank Electric for \$10,000 to purchase 55 body armor vests to be used by County first responders. The Council acknowledged that funds of approximately \$9,000 are available in the Emergency Medical Services Division budget which can be used as a match for these grants and that the vests will not be purchased if the grant funds are not awarded.

REQUEST TO AWARD BID-DESIGN & EXECUTION OF MURAL-MICHENER CHESAPEAKE COUNTRY SCENIC BYWAY-TOURISM

The Council approved the request of Amanda Fenstermaker, Tourism Director, to award the bid for the design and execution of a heritage-related mural along the Michener Chesapeake Country Scenic Byway for the caboose at the City of Cambridge's former railroad station on 200 Trenton Street to Michael Rosato, the only bidder, at the cost of \$9,580. The Council acknowledged that the project is funded through a FY2006 grant from the National Scenic Byways Program titled "Chesapeake Country's Roadside Museum: A Heritage Mural Corridor" that was transferred to Dorchester County in September 2012.

REQUEST TO SUBMIT FY2014 MARYLAND HERITAGE AREA AUTHORITY MANAGEMENT GRANT APPLICATION-TOURISM

The Council approved the request of Ms. Fenstermaker to submit an FY2014 Maryland Heritage Area Authority Management Grant application in the amount of \$100,000 for operating assistance to support management and activities of the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area. The Council acknowledged that the Maryland Heritage Area Authority grant will be matched through a cash match from anticipated FY 2014 Tourism Operating Budget funds (\$65,000); from the private sector (\$10,000); and in in-kind services (\$25,000). The Council also agreed to execute a letter of support for this application.

TRAVEL REQUEST-DETENTION CENTER

The Council approved the request of Steve Mills, Warden, for senior staff and himself to attend the Maryland Correctional Administrator's Association Conference (MCAA) in Ocean City from June 2 through June 4, 2013 at the cost of \$750 (\$150 per person, 5 individuals), which will be paid from the Detention Center budget under the mileage and conference line item. Council acknowledged that the registration fees cover the Awards Banquet honoring Correctional Officer of the year from each facility, training workshops and a dinner.

STATE EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION-ATM-LEASE RENEWAL REQUEST

The Council approved the request of Dana Ridgeway, State Employee Credit Union ATM Network Specialist, to renew the lease agreement for the credit union's ATM located at the Dorchester County Health Department for one year beginning on March 30, 2013 and ending on March 29, 2014 at the monthly lease rate of \$250.

DREDGING REQUEST-LETTER TO FEDERAL LEGISLATORS-TAR BAY CHANNEL

The Council agreed to send a letter to Steve Brown, Chief of Navigation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requesting that maintenance dredging of the Tar Bay Channel be conducted with copies to Governor Martin O'Malley, Senator Barbara Mikulski, Senator Benjamin Cardin and Congressman Andy Harris, John R. Griffin, Department of Natural Resources Secretary, Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industries Association, Dorchester County Watermen's Association and Tom Moore, Public Works Director.

LETTER TO SUPPORT COUNTIES-CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE-FY14 BUDGET REQUEST

The Council agreed to send a letter to the support counties of Chesapeake College asking them to join them in their decision to provide funding to the College for FY2014 at the same level as FY2013. The Council recognized that Dr. Barbara Viniar, President, on behalf of the Chesapeake College is requesting a \$150,000 increase in the College's annual maintenance and repair budget and a one-time approval of \$1.2 million to fund the repairs to the Economic Development Center and Todd Performing Arts facility which was not included in the FY2014 budget request.

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION-WEST VIENNA SIGNAGE

The Council approved the Traffic Committee members' recommendation that the request of Mr. Jerome Harris for the County to install two subdivision identification signs along Old Ocean Gateway Road to designate the area known as "West Vienna" be deferred and considered in any subdivision identification as part of a future decision on implementing a County wide program to be able to establish standards and fairness for placement of signage and assess the long term costs of installing and maintaining these type of signs. The Council acknowledged that the County does not presently post subdivision, village or neighborhood identification signs in the County. The Council also recognized that during the Traffic Safety Committee meeting, which was held on March 15, 2013, a concern was also expressed that unlike a municipality, the boundaries of a subdivision, village or neighborhood are not always well defined and the location of the sign maybe confusing to the public by implying a boundary.

DORCHESTER GENERAL HOSPITAL FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION

Councilman Price left the meeting due to a potential conflict.

Councilman Travers stated that the Council has discussed with Shore Health System (SHS) representatives concerns regarding the continuation of health care service at DGH, including the loss of colonoscopy procedures at the facility, and the retention of that hospital. Council sent numerous letters expressing concern and discussed being an Interested Party in hearings in Annapolis. SHS representatives finally agreed to meet in closed session. The Council agreed to request Shore Health System representatives to meet with Council every six months to provide updates and allow council to monitor the situation.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Council agreed to defer making appointments.

TELEPHONE POLL CONFIRMATIONS

Councilman Newcomb announced that in the interim between meetings Council, by means of a poll, agreed to hold a dinner meeting with the City of Cambridge Council, by a 4 to 0 vote with one abstention.

RESOLUTION-REDESIGNATION-CAMBRIDGE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council approved the request from John Mason, Business Attraction and Expansion Manager, to execute a resolution supporting the City of Cambridge's application to the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development to redesignate the newly expanded Cambridge Arts and Entertainment District.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST

The Council approved the request of Don Keyes, Information Technology Director, to advertise an Information Technology Specialist position that will become vacant due to an employee resignation.

REQUEST TO ADVERTISE-GRANT FUNDED POSITION-PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR-TOURISM

The Council approved the request of Ms. Fenstermaker to advertise a grant funded Program Administrator position in the Tourism Department due to an employee resignation.

SPECIAL EVENTS AGREEMENT-CRAB RUN 5K/HALF MARATHON

The Council agreed to execute a Special Events Contract between the Dorchester County YMCA, the County Council and the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office to provide public safety services for a Crab Run 5k/Half Marathon to be held on Saturday, April 6, 2013. Pursuant to the agreement, public safety services will be provided by the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office to include six Sheriff's Office vehicles and six deputies.

The Council acknowledged that, based on information provided by Finance staff, the fee for services is calculated at an overtime rate on the average deputy salary and agreed to pay the Sheriff's Office deputies who volunteer for these events at an overtime rate regardless of whether a deputy reaches the 171 hour/28 day overtime threshold.

The Council recognized that pursuant to this agreement the Dorchester County YMCA will provide a Certificate of Insurance naming Dorchester County as the Certificate Holder for the event.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Roberta Wongus, resident, founder of Charles W. Wongus, Sr. Museum of Negro African American Agricultural & Eastern Shore Maryland Small Community History, Inc. took the podium and presented the council with copies of her letter which she read. (copy of letter attached). At the next meeting she plans to make a full presentation of what the project entails. Her request is to purchase this property. Councilman Newcomb directed her to talk to Finance staff about the cost of the property that was acquired at tax sale. Cindy Smith was directed to provide Ms. Wongus' name and contact information to Finance staff so they can contact her.

Mr. Simering expressed concern that a consultant was hired to present the Dorchester County Economic Development Strategic Plan. Mr. Mason said funds for the preparation and presentation of the plan were paid through a Community Development Block Grant. He said the total cost was \$50,000 and that the County's contribution was \$10,000.

COUNCIL'S COMMENTS/ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Price noted that Delegate Eckardt spoke to him regarding House Bill 667 which may play a part in County's budget. The Bill synopsis states:

the purpose of requiring public school employers in all jurisdictions of the State to negotiate with certain employee organizations designated as the exclusive representatives for the public school employees a requirement of a certain service or representation fee to be charged to nonmembers; providing a certain exception and requirement for noncertificated employees whose religious beliefs are opposed to joining or financially supporting a collective bargaining organization; requiring the exclusive representative to establish and maintain a certain procedure; requiring the public school employer to deduct a certain fee from the earnings of nonmember employees in accordance with a certain schedule; excluding certain negotiated fees from certain requirements and further negotiations; making conforming changes; and generally relating to representation fees for public school employees. Motion to send letter of opposition-Council approved.

Councilman Nichols noted that Jeff Powell, Realtor, who has been hired as a contractual Incubator Manager and is a previous member of the County Council is present. Mr. Powell said he looks forward to working with the County's Economic Development staff and the Council to promote the proposed Dorchester County incubator facility.

Councilman Newcomb noted that residents expressed concern about Egypt Road potholes from City line to Maple school and historical High Street condition so rough and bumpy. Council agreed to send letter to City of Cambridge asking that those roads be repaired.

Councilman Newcomb noted that a budget work session will be held on March 28, 2013 and that the next regularly scheduled meeting is on April 2, 2013.

Councilman Bradshaw noted that the members of the Bay Cabinet will be present at the Council's April 2nd meeting.

Council agreed to send sympathy card for passing of Larry Simms, MD waterman's association.

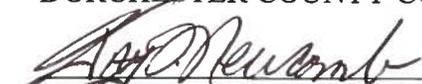
With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned.

ATTEST:


Jane Baynard, County Manager

Mike Spears
Director of Finance

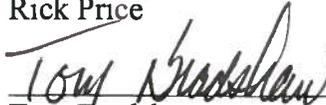
DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL:


Jay L. Newcomb, President


William V. Nichols, Vice President


Ricky Travers


Rick Price


Tom Bradshaw

Approved the 2nd day of April, 2013.