

County Council of Dorchester County
Legislative Day No. 8
Open Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2026

The County Council of Dorchester County convened into Open Session on July 7, 2026 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 110 of the County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613. A roll call of the members was conducted. Present in Room 110 were: George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President; Mike Detmer, Vice President; Rob Kramer,, Jr.; William V. Nichols,; and, Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 were: Jerry Jones, County Manager; Charles MacLeod, County Attorney; and, Irene Barnes, Executive Operations Manager. Keith Benton, Deputy County Manager, joined the meeting late.

Upon motion by Councilman Detmer, seconded by Councilman Kramer,, the Council unanimously adjourned into Closed Session at 5:01 p.m., pursuant to the following sections of Title 3 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, §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; §3-305(b)(13) to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter; §3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice; and, §3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. The Written Statement for Closing a Meeting under the Open Meetings Act is attached hereto.

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

The County Council of Dorchester County convened into Open Session on July 7, 2026 at 6:09 p.m., in Room 110 of the County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613. Present in Room 110 were: George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President; Mike Detmer, Vice President; Rob Kramer,, Jr.; William V. Nichols,; and, Ricky C. Travers,. Also present in Room 110 were: Jerry Jones, County Manager; Keith Benton, Deputy County Manager; Charles MacLeod, County Attorney; and, Irene Barnes, Executive Operations Manager.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Detmer, led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

After publication of the agenda, the following changes were made:

- 1) Correction – Consent Agenda– Item J – Correction from Grant Submission Request to Grant Award Request
- 2) Correction – Legislative Session – Item B – Title from Public Works to Planning & Zoning
- 3) Addition – Partnership Agreement Request – Community of Hope Dorchester – Moving Dorchester Forward

Upon motion by Councilman Detmer, seconded by Councilman Kramer,, the Council unanimously approved the amended agenda.

FINANCIAL REPORT – GENERAL FUND – OPERATING CASH ON HAND (ALLOCATED & UNALLOCATED)

Councilman Pfeffer reported total as \$29,520,449.43.

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY

The Council convened into a Closed Session at 5:01 p.m. on July 7, 2026 to discuss the following items pursuant to Title 3 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code §3-305(b)(1), (13), (7) & (3):

1. Notifications of recent personnel changes within the County were provided.
2. Personnel matters relating to specific individuals and positions;
3. Received legal advice from the County Attorney regarding the following:
 - a. A specific matter relating to emergency services
 - b. Processes and procedures relating to the Council's Office
 - c. A specific contract relating to Recreation & Parks
4. Acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Councilman Travers, seconded by Councilman Nichols, the Council unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

- A. County Council Open Session Minutes – June 16, 2026 – June 17, 2026
- B. Accounts Payable Disbursement Report – Week Ending July 2, 2026
 - Councilman Travers, abstained from payments made to Simmons Center Market
- C. Grant Award Request – Governor's Office of Crime Prevention & Policy (GOCPP) – Sex Offender Compliance & Monitoring (SOCM) – Sheriff's Office – Finance
 - Request of Marilyn Williams, Grants Writer, Finance, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, to accept a \$11,156 SOCM grant award, through GOCPP, to partially fund a full-time deputy whose function is to monitor sex offenders, with no match requirement, and a grant period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
- D. Grant Award Request – GOCPP – Domestic Violence Unit Program (DVUP) – Sheriff's Office – Finance
 - Request of Ms. Williams, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, to accept a \$8,720 DVUP grant award, through GOCPP, to fund overtime to enter peace and ex parte orders, and a grant period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
- E. Grant Award Request – GOCPP – Overdose & Drug Awareness Coordinator (ODAC) – Sheriff's Office – Finance
 - Request of Ms. Williams, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, to accept a \$54,851 ODAC grant award, through GOCPP, to provide funding towards controlling drug use and distribution through the partial support of a deputy dedicated to the

program, with no match requirement, and a grant period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027

- F. Grant Award Request – GOCPP – Gun Violence Reduction Grant (GVRG) – Sheriff's Office – Finance
- Request of Ms. Williams, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, to accept a \$5,250 GVRG grant award, through GOCPP, to fund overtime for gun violence reduction activities, with no match requirement, and a grant period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
- G. Grant Award Request – GOCPP – State Aid for Police Protection (SAPP) – Sheriff's Office – Finance
- Request of Ms. Williams, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, to accept a \$243,302 SAPP grant award, through GOCPP, to provide financial assistance to offset the cost of providing local law enforcement services, with no match requirement, and a grant period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
- H. Grant Award Request – GOCPP – Community Grant Program Fund (CGPF) – Sheriff's Office – Finance
- Request of Ms. Williams, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, to accept a \$16,095 CGPF grant award, through GOCPP, to fund officer overtime hours to attend community events and provide giveaways, with no match requirement, and a grant period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
- I. Grant Award Request – GOCPP – Expansion of Victim Services – State's Attorney's Office (SAO) – Finance
- Request of Ms. Williams, on behalf of the SAO, to accept a \$62,600 Expansion of Victim Services grant award, through GOCPP, to fund a Victim Witness Coordinator for the District Court, with no match requirement, and a grant period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
- J. Grant Award Request – Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – Roots for Resilience – Public Works – Finance
- Request of Ms. Williams, on behalf of Public Works, to accept a \$229,225 Roots for Resilience grant award, through DNR, to fund the design of a shoreline protection structure to reduce wave action and erosion on the southerly side of the Elliott Island Marina, with no match requirement and a grant period of July 1, 2026 through August 2029
- K. Grant Award Request – DNR – Resiliency Through Restoration Initiative (RTRI) – Public Works – Finance
- Request of Ms. Williams, on behalf of Public Works, to accept a \$80,000 RTRI grant award, through DNR, to fund the design of a shoreline protection structure to reduce wave action and erosion to Wharf Road, with no match requirement, and a 24-month grant period
- L. Grant Submission Request – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – FY26 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) – Emergency Management – Finance
- Request of Ms. Williams, on behalf of Emergency Management, to submit a \$135,343.74 EMPG grant application, through FEMA, to support the operational

needs of the department, with a 50% in-kind match requirement and a grant period of October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027

- M. Grant Award Request – Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) – Senior Center Operating Funds (SCOF) – Delmarva Community Services (DCS) – Finance
 - Request of Ms. Williams, on behalf of DCS, to accept a \$20,941 SCOF grant award, through MDOA, to fund activities at the DCS Senior Center, with no match requirement, and a grant period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
- N. Grant Submission Request – Maryland Affordable Housing Trust (MAHT) – Safe & Secure Water Access in Home (SSWAH) – Finance
 - Request of Ms. Williams to submit a \$125,000 SSWAH grant application, through MAHT, to address water security issues in owner-occupied households, with incomes of less than 50% of Statewide or area median, whichever is higher, with a 10% local in-kind match funded, and a grant period of October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2028, which includes a Memorandum of Understanding with Habitat for Humanity Choptank outlining the collaborative roles and legal obligations of both parties to fulfill the scope of the grant
- O. Annual Plan Acceptance Request – Supporting Older Adults with Resources (SOAR) Program – Dorchester County Department of Social Services (DCDSS) – Finance
 - Request of Ms. Williams, on behalf of DCDSS, to accept the SOAR Annual Plan outlining the services that will be provided to support moderately to severely disabled residents over the age of 62 who are at risk of placement in a nursing home

PRESENTATIONS

LEGISLATIVE & BUDGET UPDATES – LOCAL PRIORITIES – MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (MACo)

Michael Sanderson, MACo Executive Director, presented information relating to the Maryland General Assembly 2026 Legislative Session, and discussed local priorities.

In response to Councilman Travers, Mr. Sanderson said, after 31 years of service at MACo, the 2027 Legislative Session will be the most difficult, and it will most certainly take multiple revenue sources and realignment of funds to balance the State budget.

In response to Councilman Detmer, Mr. Sanderson said it is uncomfortable for legislators when counties and municipalities are not collaborating efficiently, recommending that they work together to resolve issues, rather than taking it to the State level.

In response to Councilman Pfeffer, Mr. Sanderson spoke on proposed amendments to grant processes at the Federal level, and said the National Association of Counties is working with other agencies to spearhead the concerns.

Upon motion by Councilman Travers, seconded by Councilman Kramer, the Council unanimously adjourned into Legislative Session.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

INTRODUCTION – FARM BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES – PLANNING & ZONING

Recommendation of Susan Webb, Planning & Zoning Director, to introduce legislation to amend Chapter 155-Zoning and 155.50-Supplementary Use Regulations, of the Dorchester County Code, for the purpose of permitting farm breweries and farm distilleries.

Upon motion by Councilman Detmer, seconded by Councilman Kramer, the Council unanimously agreed to proceed with the publication of a public hearing.

INTRODUCTION –RURAL RESIDENTIAL (RR) DISTRICT – MINIMUM LOT SIZE STANDARDS – PLANNING & ZONING

Recommendation of Ms. Webb to introduce legislation to amend Chapter 155-Zoning and 155.33-Rural Residential District, and applicable district density and bulk regulations of the Dorchester County Code, for the purpose of updating the intent of the RR District and revising minimum lot size standards based on the availability of public community water and sewer services.

Upon motion by Councilman Detmer, seconded by Councilman Nichols, the Council unanimously agreed to proceed with the publication of a public hearing.

Upon motion by Councilman Travers, seconded by Councilman Nichols, the Council unanimously adjourned into Open Session.

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

RESOLUTIONS

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS – POLICY AMENDMENTS

Upon motion by Councilman Detmer, seconded by Councilman Kramer, the Council unanimously approved the recommendation of Kristin Budd, Human Resources Director, to post the following resolutions within County departments for 10-days to obtain employee comments on policy amendments prior to consideration at the July 21, 2026 Council meeting:

1. Code of Conduct: To amend and readopt a personnel directive policy regarding promoting ethical, respectful conduct to support efficient County operations and quality service
2. Safety: To amend and readopt a standard operating procedure regarding work-related accidents, injuries and illnesses
3. Social Media: To establish a personnel directive regarding the personal use of social media
4. Substance Abuse & Drug Testing: To amend and readopt a personnel directive regarding maintaining a safe, secure, and drug-free workplace

5. Uniform & Dress Code: To establish a standard operating procedure regarding consistent, safety-conscious standards for employee dress, grooming, and uniforms

ACTION ITEMS

BID AWARD RECOMMENDATION – PICKLEBALL COURT CONSTRUCTION PLANS – RECREATION & PARKS

Upon motion by Councilman Travers, seconded by Councilman Kramer, the Council unanimously approved the recommendation of Duc Trieu, Recreation & Parks Director, to award Bid No. 2026-8 to the lowest bidder, Lane Engineering, at the cost of \$18,480.00 to provide engineering services for the design and preparation of construction-ready plans for six dedicated pickleball courts, funded by the Local Parks & Playground Infrastructure Program.

POLL CONFIRMATIONS

Upon motion by Councilman Detmer, seconded by Councilman Kramer, the Council unanimously confirmed its decision in the interim of meetings, via poll, to:

1. Approved the request of the Dorchester County Health Department, submitted on June 23, 2026, to approve the FY27 Core Funding Agreement, by a 5 to 0 vote, acknowledging the deadline for submission to the Maryland Department of Health by June 30, 2026
2. Approved the request of the Temporary Shelter, submitted on June 25, 2026, to extend the Community Reinvestment & Repair Fund performance period from June 30, 2026 to March 31, 2027, by a 5 to 0 vote, acknowledging the deadline to expend the funds by June 30, 2026

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT REQUEST – COMMUNITY OF HOPE DORCHESTER – MOVING DORCHESTER FORWARD (MDF)

Upon motion by Councilman Detmer, seconded by Councilman Kramer, the Council unanimously approved the request of Moving Dorchester Forward to enter into a Community of Hope Dorchester Partnership Agreement to affirm shared intention to continue and expand collective efforts in support of the FY27 ENOUGH Grant Application to eliminate childhood poverty and advance economic opportunities across the County.

COUNTY MANAGER COMMENTS

No comments

DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER COMMENTS

No comments

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Upon motion by Councilman Detmer, seconded by Councilman Kramer, the Council unanimously agreed to submit an intent to intervene relating to a Gypsy Hill solar project to stay informed on the project.

Councilman Detmer spoke on the Brookview Bridge weight restriction and highlighted the inconvenience to farmers harvesting crops.

Councilman Pfeffer thanked Susan Banks, Economic Development Director, for coordinating a Fire Risk and Alliance facility tour, which will create over 200 jobs over the next several years.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

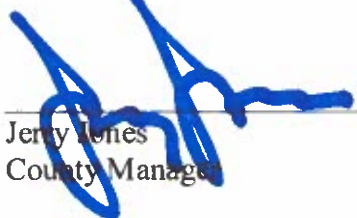
Norma Bukowski, resident, thanked the Council for its support of repairing the Elliott Island marina, and asked for assistance in securing local, state or federal grant funding to repair the roadway as well.

Andrew Bukowski, resident, said he believes grant funding may be available, per Cynthia Rider, and noted that Elliott Island has become known for its beautiful landscapes and poor roadways.

ADJOURNMENT

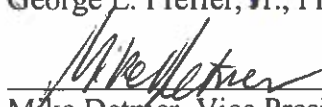
With no further business to discuss, and upon motion by Councilman Travers, seconded by Councilman Kramer, the Council unanimously adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

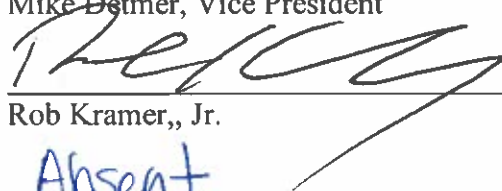
ATTEST:


Jerry Jones
County Manager

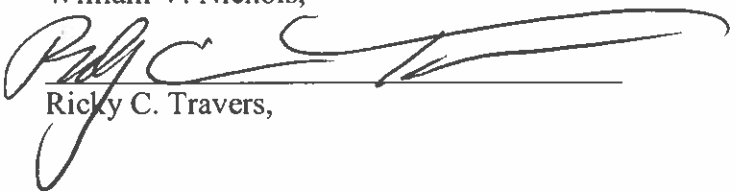
THE COUNTY COUNCIL
OF DORCHESTER COUNTY:


George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President


Mike Detmer, Vice President


Rob Kramer, Jr.


William V. Nichols,


Ricky C. Travers,

Approved the 21st day of July, 2026.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING
("CLOSING STATEMENT") UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT (General
Provisions Article § 3-305)

This form has two sides. *Complete items 1 – 4 before closing the meeting.*

1. Recorded vote to close the meeting:

Date: 7/7/24; Time: 5:00 p.m.; Location: 501 Court Lane, Room 110,
Cambridge, MD 21613; Motion to close meeting made by: Detmer Seconded by: Kramer
Members in favor: Pfeffer, Detmer, Kramer, Nichols, Travers
Opposed: _____ Abstaining: _____ Absent: _____

2. Statutory authority to close session (check all provisions that apply).

This meeting will be closed under General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b) only:

(1) x "To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals"; (2) _____ "To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business"; (3) x "To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto"; (4) _____ "To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State"; (5) _____ "To consider the investment of public funds"; (6) _____ "To consider the marketing of public securities"; (7) x "To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice"; (8) _____ "To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation"; (9) _____ "To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations"; (10) _____ "To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans"; (11) _____ "To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination"; (12) _____ "To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct"; (13) x "To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter"; (14) _____ "Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process." (15) _____ "To discuss cybersecurity, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to: (i) security assessments or deployments relating to information resources technology; (ii) network security information . . . or (iii) deployments or implementation of security personnel, critical infrastructure, or security devices."

Continued →

3. For each provision checked above, disclosure of the topic to be discussed and the public body's reason for discussing that topic in closed session.

Citation (insert # from above)	Topic	Reason for closed-session discussion of topic
§3-305(b)(1)	To discuss the following, • Personnel changes within the County • Personnel matters relating to specific employees and positions	Public Discussion of applicant's names and job info could discourage people from applying for County jobs
§3-305(b)(13)	Same topic as above	Public Information Act, GP Section 4-310 and 311 requires us to shield recommendation letters and job applications
§3-305(b)(7)	To receive legal advice from the County Attorney regarding the following: • A specific matter relating to emergency services • Processes and procedures relating to the Council's Office • A specific contract relating to Recreation & Parks	Council does not want to waive the attorney-client privilege. See page 101, August 17, 2021, OMCB ruling (15 OMCB 99)
§3-305(b)(3)	To discuss the acquisition of real property	To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto

4. This statement is made by , Presiding Officer.

WORKSHEET FOR OPTIONAL USE IN CLOSED SESSION: INFORMATION FOR SUMMARY TO BE DISCLOSED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT OPEN MEETING. (See also template for summary.)

➤ **For a meeting closed under the statutory authority cited above:**

Time of closed session: _____

Place: _____

Purpose(s): _____

Members who voted to meet in closed session: _____

Persons attending closed session: _____

Authority under § 3-305 for the closed session: _____

Topics actually discussed: _____

Actions taken: _____

Each recorded vote: _____

➤ **For a meeting recessed to perform an administrative function (§ 3-104):** Time: _____

Place: _____

Persons present: _____

Subjects discussed: _____

CLOSED SESSION SUMMARY
JULY 7, 2026

The Council convened into a Closed Session at 5:01 p.m. on July 7, 2026 to discuss the following items pursuant to Title 3 of the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Annotated Code §3-305(b)(1), (13), (7) & (3):

1. Notifications of recent personnel changes within the County were provided.
2. Personnel matters relating to specific individuals and positions;
3. Received legal advice from the County Attorney regarding the following:
 - a. A specific matter relating to emergency services
 - b. Processes and procedures relating to the Council's Office
 - c. A specific contract relating to Recreation & Parks
4. Acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto