

County Council of Dorchester County
Legislative Day No. 9
Open Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2026

The County Council of Dorchester County convened into Open Session on July 21, 2026 at 6:00 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.; and, Ricky C. Travers. Also present in Room 110 were: Jerry Jones, County Manager; and, Irene Barnes, Executive Operations Manager. William V. Nichols, Keith Benton, Deputy County Manager; and, Charles MacLeod, County Attorney, were absent.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Pfeffer led the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

After publication of the agenda, the following items were added:

- 1) Grant Submission Request – 2027 Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (BJAG) – Sheriff’s Office – Finance
- 2) Grant Submission Request – FY27 Court Security Officer Support Grant Program – Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts – Finance – Sheriff’s Office
- 3) Expansion Request – Third Amendment to Agreement – Sanitary District No. 4

Upon motion by Councilman Detmer, seconded by Councilman Kramer, the Council, by a 4 to 0 vote, Councilman Nichols absent, approved the amended agenda.

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

Councilman Pfeffer reported total as \$27,350,046.78.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon motion by Councilman Travers, seconded by Councilman Kramer, the Council, by a 4 to 0 vote, Councilman Nichols absent, approved the Consent Agenda.

- County Council Open Session Minutes – July 7, 2026
- Accounts Payable Disbursement Report – Week Ending July 17, 2026
- Colocation & Facility Access Agreement Request – Choptank Fiber – 911 Communications Division
 - Request of the Robbie Larimer, Sergeant, Sheriff’s Office, to enter into a Colocation & Facility Access Agreement with Choptank Fiber to establish the terms under which County will provide Choptank with access to space within the communications shelter located at the 911 Center
- Event Request – Paws in the Pool – Recreation & Parks

- Request of Duc Trieu, Recreation & Parks Director, to host the fourth annual "Paws in the Pool" event at the County pool on August 23, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., to benefit Baywater Animal Rescue
- Event Request – Cambridge Creek Music Festival – County Office Building – Radio Chesapeake
 - Request of Amanda Tilghman, WHCP Station Manager, Radio Chesapeake to use the parking lot and lawn at the County Office Building for its Cambridge Creek Music Festival on May 15, 2027, including a live band performing on the Nathan of Dorchester Skipjack, vendors, contingent on approvals of the City of Cambridge and the Department of Natural Resources

Upon motion by Councilman Travers, seconded by Councilman Detmer, the Council, by a 4 to 0 vote, Councilman Nichols absent, adjourned into Legislative Session.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PUBLIC HEARING – BILL NO. 2026-6 – CRITICAL AREA MAP

Ms. Barnes said a public hearing is being conducted to provide an opportunity for public comments, prior to consideration of Bill No. 2026-6 to amend the Dorchester County Critical Area Program and its associated Official Zoning Maps, as required by the State of Maryland Critical Area Commission every 10-years to maintain compliance with current laws and regulations.

Councilman Pfeffer asked for public comments, hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

Upon motion by Councilman Travers, seconded by Councilman Detmer, the Council adopted Bill No. 2026-6, the roll call was: Pfeffer – aye; Detmer – aye; Kramer – aye; Nichols – absent; and, Travers – aye.

PUBLIC HEARING – BILL NO. 2026-7 – CRITICAL AREA DEFINITIONS

Ms. Barnes said a public hearing is being conducted to provide an opportunity for public comments prior to consideration of Bill No. 2026-7 to amend Chapter 68 (Chesapeake Bay Critical Area) of the Dorchester County Code by amending the definition of “Critical Area” for consistency with Maryland Code Annotated, Natural Resources §8-1807, which the current definition is based on 1972 wetland maps.

Karen Tolley, Church Creek Mayor, said the amendments were adopted by Church Creek.

Councilman Pfeffer asked for additional public comments, hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

Upon motion by Councilman Travers, seconded by Councilman Detmer, the Council adopted Bill No. 2026-7, the roll call was: Pfeffer – aye; Detmer – aye; Kramer – aye; Nichols – absent; and, Travers – aye.

Upon motion by Councilman Travers, seconded by Councilman Detmer, the Council, by a 4 to 0 vote, Councilman Nichols absent, adjourned into Open Session.

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

RESOLUTIONS

The Council acknowledged that Resolution No. 704-Social Media and Resolution No. 706-Uniform & Dress Code were not included on the agenda to allow additional time to review employee feedback and make necessary adjustments prior to consideration.

RESOLUTION NO. 702 – CODE OF CONDUCT

Ms. Barnes said for consideration is Resolution No. 702 to amend and readopt a personnel directive policy regarding promoting ethical, respectful conduct to support efficient County operations and quality service.

The Council acknowledged that the Human Resources Department confirmed that the resolution was posted within all County departments for 10 calendar days, and no employee comments were received.

Upon motion by Councilman Detmer, seconded by Councilman Kramer, the Council, by a 4 to 0 vote, Councilman Nichols absent, adopted Resolution No. 702

RESOLUTION NO. 703 – SAFETY

Ms. Barnes said for consideration is Resolution No. 703 to amend and readopt a standard operating procedure regarding work-related accidents, injuries and illnesses.

The Council acknowledged that the Human Resources Department confirmed that the resolution was posted within all County departments for 10 calendar days, and no employee comments were received.

Upon motion by Councilman Detmer, seconded by Councilman Kramer, the Council, by a 4 to 0 vote, Councilman Nichols absent, adopted Resolution No. 703

RESOLUTION NO. 705 – SUBSTANCE ABUSE & DRUG TESTING

Ms. Barnes said for consideration is Resolution No. 705 to amend and readopt a personnel directive regarding maintaining a safe, secure, and drug-free workplace.

The Council acknowledged that the Human Resources Department confirmed that the resolution was posted within all County departments for 10 calendar days, and no employee comments were received.

Upon motion by Councilman Detmer, seconded by Councilman Kramer, the Council, by a 4 to 0 vote, Councilman Nichols absent, adopted Resolution No. 705

ACTION ITEMS

REQUEST TO PIGGYBACK – SOURCEWELL CONTRACT – SKID STEER PURCHASE – PUBLIC WORKS

Upon motion by Councilman Detmer, seconded by Councilman Kramer, the Council, by a 4 to 0 vote, Councilman Nichols absent, approved a request of Matt Ozman, Public Works Director, to piggyback on a Sourcewell Contract to purchase a skid steer from Burke Equipment for \$95,117.17, funded by the FY27 Capital Budget: Skid Steer.

REQUEST TO PIGGYBACK – SOURCEWELL CONTRACT – TRAILER PURCHASE – PUBLIC WORKS

Upon motion by Councilman Kramer, seconded by Councilman Detmer, the Council, by a 4 to 0 vote, Councilman Nichols absent, approved a request of Mr. Ozman to piggyback on a Sourcewell contract to purchase a trailer from Hale Trailer for \$47,301.87, funded by the FY27 Capital Budget: 25-ton Equipment Trailer.

REQUEST TO PIGGYBACK – SOURCEWELL CONTRACT – MULCHER ATTACHMENT PURCHASE – PUBLIC WORKS

Upon motion by Councilman Detmer, seconded by Councilman Kramer, the Council, by a 4 to 0 vote, Councilman Nichols absent, approved a request of Mr. Ozman to piggyback on a Sourcewell contract to purchase a HM210 Mulcher Attachment for the Cat 308 mini excavator from Carter Machinery Company, Inc. for \$29,113.00, funded by the FY27 Capital Budget: Forestry Mulching Head for Excavator.

REQUEST TO CONFIRM – TRANSPORTATION VAN PRE-ORDER – CORRECTIONS

Upon motion by Councilman Kramer, seconded by Councilman Detmer, the Council, by a 4 to 0 vote, Councilman Nichols absent, approved a request of Don Satterfield, Warden, to confirm the pre-order of a 2027 Ford Transit, through the most responsive bidder, Hertrich Fleet Services at \$58,205.00, which secured production of the replacement of a 2003 transportation van, with a 12-week delivery period, funded by the FY27 Capital Budget: Replacement Passenger Van.

BID AWARD RECOMMENDATION – LOBBYING REPRESENTATION SERVICES – COUNCIL'S OFFICE

After a discussion, and upon motion by Councilman Travers, seconded by Councilman Kramer, the Council, by a 4 to 0 vote, Councilman Nichols absent, approved a recommendation of the Council's Office to award Bid No. 2026-7 to the most responsive bidder, R&R Complete Solutions, LLC, at the cost of \$65,000.00, to provide professional lobbying services to represent Dorchester County, funded by the FY27 Contingency Fund.

COUNTY COUNCIL COMPENSATION DISCUSSION

After a discussion, and upon motion by Councilman Detmer, seconded by Councilman Travers, the Council, by a 3 to 0 vote, Councilman Pfeffer abstained and Councilman Nichols absent, approved the recommendation of the Council's Office to draft legislation to amend the Council's salary from \$16,000 to \$21,000 for members, and \$17,000 to \$22,000 for the President, with remaining compensation unchanged.

The Council acknowledged the proposed introduction date of August 4, 2026, and proposed public hearing date of September 1, 2026.

POLL CONFIRMATIONS

Upon motion by Councilman Detmer, seconded by Councilman Kramer, the Council, by a 4 to 0 vote, Councilman Nichols absent, confirmed its decision in the interim of meetings, via poll, to:

1. Approved a request of the Richardson Maritime Museum, on the evening of July 7, 2026, to provide a letter of support for its From Hidden Collections to Public Discovery: Phase II Mini Grant application, through the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, acknowledging the deadline of July 10, 2026, by a 3 to 0 vote
2. Withdrew a prior approval at its July 7, 2026 to submit a letter of opposition to the Federal Government regarding proposed changes to its grant processes and regulations, by a 5 to 0 vote

GRANT SUBMISSION REQUEST – 2027 EDWARD J. BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (BJAG) – SHERIFF'S OFFICE – FINANCE

After discussion, and upon motion by Councilman Travers seconded by Councilman Kramer the Council, by a 4 to 0 vote, Councilman Nichols absent, approved a request of Marilyn Williams, Grant Writer, Finance, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, to submit a \$67,909 BJAG program grant application, through the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention & Policy, to purchase four surveillance cameras, and software to redact juveniles from videos produced by existing cameras, with no match requirement, and a grant period of October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027.

GRANT SUBMISSION REQUEST – FY27 COURT SECURITY OFFICER SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM – MARYLAND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS – FINANCE – SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Upon motion by Councilman Detmer, seconded by Councilman Kramer, the Council, by a 4 to 0 vote, Councilman Nichols absent, approved a request Ms. Williams, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, to submit a \$284,057.28 FY27 Court Security Officer Support Grant Program application, through the Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts, to fund overtime to increase the number of Court Security Officers during court proceedings to meet the minimum standards, with no match requirement, and a grant period of September 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

EXPANSION REQUEST – THIRD AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT – SANITARY DISTRICT NO. 4

Upon motion by Councilman Travers, seconded by Councilman Kramer, the Council, by a 4 to 0 vote, Councilman Nichols absent, approved a recommendation to transmit a Third Amendment to Agreement to the City governing body to expand Sanitary District No. 4 to include 3240 Ocean Gateway, owned by Two Farms, Inc., for the purpose of accommodating a proposed Royal Farms convenience store and gas station, with City and County Managers and Economic Development officials copied.

COUNTY MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Jones said the Council's Office completed a draft public pack and is working towards standardization of requests, and Directors will begin presenting departmental updates at Council meetings to increase public awareness.

Mr. Ozman provided a presentation regarding the status of work orders within Public Works.

Mr. Jones highlighted a meeting with Mr. Ozman, Councilman Kramer and residents of Elliott Island to discuss infrastructure concerns. He said repairs will be a long-term project, which Councilman Kramer has presented insightful ways to address the matters, and additional meetings are scheduled to continue working together.

DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Benton was absent.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Detmer said: 1) he supports the public Council meeting pack, and director presentations, then commended Mr. Ozman for the level of performance to reduce work orders; 3) he has received constituent concerns regarding mosquitos; and, 4) the Brookview Bridge weight restriction has been lifted, however commercial vehicles are limited to 25 mph when crossing.

After a discussion regarding data centers, Mr. Jones said he will review surrounding county processes in implementing a moratorium, determine if a task force is needed and work with staff to provide additional information by the August 4, 2026 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tawes Harper, Jr., resident, spoke in opposition of increased housing developments.

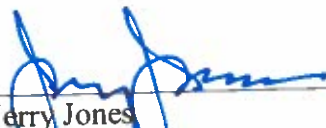
Don Satterfield, resident, spoke in favor of increasing the Council's salary.

David Beverley, resident, spoke in favor of implementing a data center moratorium.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, and upon motion by Councilman Travers, seconded by Councilman Kramer, the Council, by a 4 to 0 vote, Councilman Nichols absent, adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

ATTEST:



Jerry Jones
County Manager

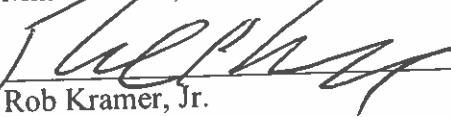
THE COUNTY COUNCIL
OF DORCHESTER COUNTY:



George L. Pfeffer, Jr., President



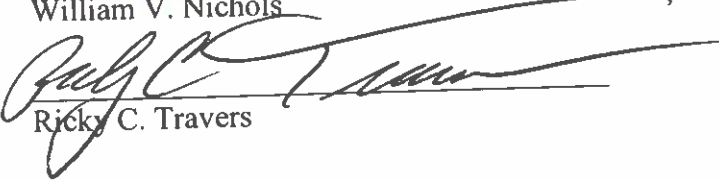
Mike Detmer, Vice President



Rob Kramer, Jr.



Absent
William V. Nichols



Ricky C. Travers

Approved the 4 day of Aug, 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: 4:30 p.m.; Location: 501 Court Lane, Room 110,
Cambridge, MD 21613; Motion to close meeting made by: Kramer Seconded by: Nichols
Members in favor: Detmer, Kramer, Nichols, Travers
Opposed: _____ Abstaining: Pfeffer Absent: Pfeffer

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) ☒ "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) _____ "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) _____ "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) ☒ "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 hold a personnel hearing	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

4. This statement is made by Mike DeAnna, 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: _____