



Deposition of:
Talbot County Council Meeting

June 23, 2020

In the Matter of:
Talbot County Council Meeting

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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

June 23, 2020; 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Corey W. Pack

Chuck F. Callahan

Frank Divilio

Pete Leshner

Laura E. Price

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Thank you, all, for being with</p> <p>4 us. If you wouldn't mind standing with us.</p> <p>5 Councilman Leshner is going to start us with an</p> <p>6 opening prayer followed by the Pledge of</p> <p>7 Allegiance.</p> <p>8 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>9 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Leshner, for that</p> <p>10 wonderful prayer.</p> <p>11 And thank you, everyone, for joining us</p> <p>12 here inside the gallery. Welcome back to the</p> <p>13 Bradley Meeting Room. This is the Council's</p> <p>14 first time back in this setting in two months.</p> <p>15 As you know, we have been meeting remotely at</p> <p>16 the Wye Oak Room at the Community Center as</p> <p>17 this Council wanted to observe social</p> <p>18 distancing around the coronavirus outbreak. We</p> <p>19 wanted to make sure we were keeping each other</p> <p>20 safe as well as keeping you safe.</p> <p>21 So we thank you for bearing with us as we</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>1 for us technology wise. We're able to do a lot</p> <p>2 of things here that we were not able to do up</p> <p>3 at the Community Center.</p> <p>4 So we want to thank Preston Peper, our</p> <p>5 Parks & Recs director, for hosting us there for</p> <p>6 the last two months. I know he's probably</p> <p>7 relieved that we're not there with him, but we</p> <p>8 want to thank him nonetheless for his endurance</p> <p>9 and his patience while we were there with him.</p> <p>10 So this is not the cone of silence, if any</p> <p>11 of you remember the old Get Smart episodes. So</p> <p>12 this is just to keep us safe so we could be</p> <p>13 able to meet with you face to face.</p> <p>14 There are a number of things on the</p> <p>15 agenda. Before we go into the agenda, I just</p> <p>16 want to pass on to you. As I said before,</p> <p>17 seating here at the Bradley Meeting Room will</p> <p>18 be held at 28 persons. We have accounted for</p> <p>19 the media that's with us tonight. They are</p> <p>20 counted within that 28 limit. So we do</p> <p>21 apologize for any persons who may show up late.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>1 had to go through a separation from being with</p> <p>2 you face to face.</p> <p>3 We do have limited seating. I don't know</p> <p>4 whether the cameras have captured the room, but</p> <p>5 we have seating for about 28 people in the</p> <p>6 Bradley Room. This will be the format for the</p> <p>7 near foreseeable future. Again, as we try to</p> <p>8 keep you safe at social distance, while at the</p> <p>9 same time trying to maintain a level of contact</p> <p>10 with you face to face. We want to always try</p> <p>11 to deal with you face to face when possible and</p> <p>12 when safe to do so.</p> <p>13 You may notice some changes up here. We</p> <p>14 have these plastic dividers between Council</p> <p>15 members so we can also keep each other safe</p> <p>16 when we are speaking. We want to thank Brian</p> <p>17 Moore and his very capable staff, Buildings and</p> <p>18 Grounds Department, for coming up with this</p> <p>19 ingenious way of keeping us safe and allowing</p> <p>20 us to come back to the Bradley Meeting Room,</p> <p>21 where it's just better, a better meeting place</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 I do see one, two, maybe four or five spots</p> <p>2 still available.</p> <p>3 The Sheriff's Department will be</p> <p>4 instructing people accordingly if there is</p> <p>5 seating available. So please adhere to their</p> <p>6 instructions as you're coming into the Bradley</p> <p>7 Meeting Room.</p> <p>8 Public is also strongly encouraged to</p> <p>9 communicate with us in writing at</p> <p>10 publiccomment@talbotcountymd.gov. Again,</p> <p>11 because of the limited seating, we still want</p> <p>12 to be able to hear from you. So you're able to</p> <p>13 send in your written responses to us via that</p> <p>14 site.</p> <p>15 Also, should you want to listen in, you</p> <p>16 can also use a toll-free number at</p> <p>17 855-797-9485. That is toll free. I'll give</p> <p>18 you the other number just in case you want to</p> <p>19 use that, which is 415-655-0002. So either one</p> <p>20 of those numbers will give you access to us.</p> <p>21 There is an access code, and I'll give that to</p> |

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| <p>1 you now, which is 1608354785.</p> <p>2 The last bit of instruction is for the</p> <p>3 Webex. For those of you who may want to watch</p> <p>4 us via Webex, we have gone to another medium to</p> <p>5 stay in contact with you. We want to thank</p> <p>6 Parker Durham for setting this up for us and</p> <p>7 coming up with this new Webex format for us.</p> <p>8 So it's Webex Events. You want to go onto that</p> <p>9 talbotcounty.webex.com. And you want to enter</p> <p>10 the event number, and I'll give that to you as</p> <p>11 well, which is 1608354785. And that meeting</p> <p>12 password is 062320. So again, you can also</p> <p>13 follow us via Webex.</p> <p>14 So I just want to say that upfront just to</p> <p>15 let the public know that we're trying to</p> <p>16 maintain our access with the public through a</p> <p>17 variety of media, as you just heard me announce</p> <p>18 to you, either by calling in, by writing in, or</p> <p>19 by going in through social media through Webex.</p> <p>20 Again, thank you to Parker Durham, our IT</p> <p>21 director, for setting that up for us. Also</p> | <p>1 we've had in the past. And I feel like I would</p> <p>2 be more comfortable discussing it.</p> <p>3 MR. HOLLIS: So, Council, I think it was</p> <p>4 added late today to Granicus. So you should</p> <p>5 now be able to pull it up.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHHER: It's the second item under</p> <p>7 closed session, second attachment.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: Is this for merely discussion</p> <p>9 purposes only? Is this something we can do at</p> <p>10 another time?</p> <p>11 MR. DIVILIO: No. It is timely dealing</p> <p>12 with the statue and I would like to discuss it</p> <p>13 tonight.</p> <p>14 MR. LESHHER: Third item.</p> <p>15 MS. PRICE: Oh.</p> <p>16 MR. LESHHER: I'll second the motion to</p> <p>17 amend the agenda.</p> <p>18 MR. DIVILIO: I've asked Tony to print a</p> <p>19 copy as well.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: There was a . . .</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Motion and a second.</p> |
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| <p>1 want to thank Jessica Morris at the County</p> <p>2 Manager's Office for working with Parker and</p> <p>3 getting all of this together for Council.</p> <p>4 So Council, those are my opening comments.</p> <p>5 We have an agenda. The chair would ask if</p> <p>6 there's any additions, deletions, or</p> <p>7 corrections to that agenda?</p> <p>8 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Pack, I would like to</p> <p>9 add one more item to our packed agenda for an</p> <p>10 administrative resolution on the Talbot Boys</p> <p>11 Statue that I would like to just bring up for</p> <p>12 discussion tonight.</p> <p>13 MR. PACK: Have we seen that at all?</p> <p>14 MR. DIVILIO: It is in Granicus. Yeah, it</p> <p>15 is available for everyone.</p> <p>16 And unfortunately, I didn't have time to</p> <p>17 get this out certainly to everybody last week,</p> <p>18 as much as I wanted to. I just ran out of time</p> <p>19 with the artist that I was working with.</p> <p>20 And to be honest, I didn't want to run</p> <p>21 into any of the closed meeting problems that</p> | <p>1 MR. PACK: Motion and a second. This</p> <p>2 doesn't appear -- this is the resolution</p> <p>3 that -- okay. All right.</p> <p>4 There's a motion and second to add this to</p> <p>5 the agenda for the evening for discussion</p> <p>6 purposes only.</p> <p>7 Madam Secretary, call your roll.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>9 MR. PACK: No.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>11 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>15 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.</p> <p>17 MR. LESHHER: Aye.</p> <p>18 MR. PACK: Okay. Madam Secretary, where</p> <p>19 should we add this on your. . .</p> <p>20 MR. HOLLIS: I apologize. Is it an</p> <p>21 administrative resolution or a numbered</p> |

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1 resolution?

2 MR. DIVILIO: It's an administrative

3 resolution. So we can add it as D.

4 MS. PRICE: So the only hesitation. I

5 voted to have it for discussion but not for

6 introduction this evening because it's too new.

7 I mean I actually had an idea, too, but I

8 opted not to do that because it was too last

9 minute.

10 So I think you should be able to present

11 it but not necessarily introduce it as an

12 actual resolution. That would be more

13 comfortable for me.

14 MR. DIVILIO: Okay. That's fine.

15 MR. PACK: So we'll take this up after the

16 two other administrative resolutions that we do

17 have already on the agenda that Council has had

18 a chance to review at some length.

19 MR. HOLLIS: So it would not be for

20 introduction, it would be for discussion?

21 MR. DIVILIO: Correct.

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1 MR. PACK: If it's on the agenda as an

2 administrative resolution, it is allowed to be

3 acted on.

4 MR. DIVILIO: It is allowed, but I will

5 not ask for a vote.

6 MR. PACK: That's why I'm asking why are

7 we even putting it on the agenda?

8 MR. DIVILIO: Because I want us to be able

9 to discuss it tonight because it pertains to

10 the other items on the agenda.

11 MS. PRICE: So let me make a suggestion.

12 I have a discussion item as number seven,

13 discussion on county-wide poll.

14 Why don't we do it right after that since

15 it's a discussion item only?

16 MR. DIVILIO: Since I already have it

17 written up as an administrative resolution, I

18 assumed it would be better under the. . .

19 MS. PRICE: But it's only discussion this

20 evening.

21 SECRETARY: It can be a new number six and

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1 then introduction of numbered resolutions would

2 be number seven and so on.

3 MR. PACK: If it's --

4 MR. DIVILIO: Just keep it as

5 administrative resolution.

6 MR. PACK: That's the way it was motioned,

7 that's the way it was carried as an

8 administrative resolution, that's the way it

9 has to be entered into the agenda.

10 MR. DIVILIO: So it should be D.

11 MR. PACK: You can't change things

12 midstream. So put it on after the two that we

13 have there, Madam Secretary. And we'll pick it

14 up from there.

15 Any other additions, deletions, or

16 corrections to the agenda? Hearing none, the

17 agenda is accepted with unanimous consent.

18 Moving on, we have minutes from our

19 May 21st meeting. We had a chance to look at

20 those minutes I believe. Are there any

21 additions, deletions, or corrections to those

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1 minutes? Hearing none, the chair would also

2 move that they be accepted with unanimous

3 consent.

4 We have disbursements from June 16th and

5 June 23rd. We had a chance to review those and

6 to go over those with the County Manager's

7 Office. Any additions, deletions, or

8 corrections to those disbursements? Hearing

9 none, the chair would also move that they be

10 accepted with unanimous consent.

11 Now moving into our administrative

12 resolutions, we do have several items.

13 I'm sorry. Before we do that -- no. I do

14 apologize.

15 The first matter before Council is a

16 declaration ending the State of Emergency here

17 in Talbot County. I'm going to ask county

18 emergency services director, Mr. Stamp, if he

19 wouldn't mind joining us at the table and

20 anyone else he wants to call up with him.

21 MR. STAMP: Good evening.

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1 MR. PACK: Good evening.
 2 MR. STAMP: Good to be back in the Bradley
 3 Room. Thank you.
 4 I know you have an administrative
 5 resolution before you. We're currently under a
 6 State of Emergency, and it's set to expire at
 7 the end of this month. And the decision is
 8 yours whether you want to extend it for another
 9 30 days.
 10 Dr. Wadley couldn't join us tonight, but
 11 I've spoken to her. So I carry her
 12 recommendation, along with me, when asked from
 13 you to us whether you should extend it for
 14 another 30 days, the short answer is we don't
 15 think we need to extend it at this point.
 16 The State of Emergency was put in place
 17 for a few reasons.
 18 Number one, it's an instrument that calls
 19 attention to an emerging crisis situation at
 20 any given time, whether it be a hurricane or a
 21 flood or, in this case, what turned out to be a

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1 pandemic. Number one.
 2 Number two, it allows for the Council to
 3 pass emergency legislation to help mitigate the
 4 crisis. In which case you used this instrument
 5 to do that with short-term rentals and bed and
 6 breakfasts to try to limit the number of
 7 individuals coming from other jurisdictions
 8 that could bring the disease into the area.
 9 And then finally, to allow us to make
 10 emergency procurements.
 11 So in early March when we opened the
 12 Emergency Operations Center to really wrap
 13 around and support the public health sector and
 14 the business community which was going to be
 15 hit hard by this, at that point in time we did
 16 not have adequate testing, we did not have
 17 contact tracing, we didn't have adequate
 18 supplies of personal protective equipment, we
 19 didn't have the ability or infrastructure in
 20 place to facilitate broad coordination around
 21 issues, all of which now we do.

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1 We peaked. We watched the virus play out
 2 all around us. I don't need to go back and
 3 share those experiences.
 4 The Emergency Operations Center as of
 5 today has been open for 103 days, but operating
 6 under the State of Emergency, that instrument,
 7 we don't need that at this point any longer.
 8 We now have the capacity to do those
 9 things that I mentioned. And if you choose to
 10 allow the State of Emergency to lapse, the
 11 Emergency Operations Center still would be
 12 active, we will still be holding our weekly
 13 call with our operations coordination group, we
 14 will still be having our Tuesday calls with the
 15 business sector, and we have plenty of work to
 16 do in the recovery side.
 17 We have the Maryland Strong Roadmap to
 18 Recovery, which all counties in Maryland now
 19 are working with the governor who put this plan
 20 together. It's a good plan. It's not a
 21 perfect plan. As much as people would like

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1 clarity and black and white with regard to how
 2 we get back to open and normal, it's not going
 3 to be clear. It's going to be a bumpy, rough
 4 road.
 5 But we do have a plan. We do have a
 6 process to coordinate moving down that road.
 7 And the relaxation of the State of Emergency in
 8 Talbot County will not hinder our ability to do
 9 that.
 10 I would like to also, while I have the
 11 floor, recognize Geneva Schaffle. Geneva, if
 12 you could stand up for a minute, say hi, give a
 13 wave.
 14 Geneva, in the movie The Wizard of Oz,
 15 there was something behind a curtain pulling
 16 the levers. Well, that's Geneva. 103 days in
 17 the Emergency Operations Center. She's been
 18 the glue to help keep the whole thing going.
 19 So I just wanted to recognize and thank her
 20 publicly. That's number one.
 21 Number two, as we migrate from that

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1 response phase into a recovery phase and the
 2 continuing monitoring phase, we're going to
 3 bring on a recovery coordinator. That recovery
 4 coordinator is going to continue the work of
 5 coordination calls to work with our efforts to
 6 provide grants to individuals and businesses.
 7 And there's a variety of things that need to
 8 continue to maintain that steady state level so
 9 that if we have to react and spin it up again,
 10 we can. And that's Nancy Andrew.
 11 I want to introduce Nancy to you. She's
 12 no stranger to Talbot County. Her father used
 13 to sit up there, I believe. And she used to
 14 run around the room when she was a little girl
 15 maybe. And she ran the Habitat for Humanity
 16 for a while, did great work. She's well
 17 respected in the community, knows the
 18 community, and knows the people that are in the
 19 recovery business. So we welcome Nancy on
 20 board.
 21 And then finally, I just would like to say

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1 in the past 103 days, being an emergency
 2 manager for a long time, this has been an
 3 amazing experience. There's going to be new
 4 books written on emergency management and
 5 public health after this is over. There are
 6 great things that have been learned and great
 7 things that have been accomplished in this
 8 county in particular.
 9 Today on a call, Cassandra asked me what
 10 is the take-away that you take from the last
 11 103 days. And what I said, it reaffirms my
 12 faith in people and in Talbot County
 13 specifically. Good people with good intent can
 14 do amazing things. And in the last 103 days, I
 15 have seen individuals do incredible things.
 16 So when we found out the schools were
 17 going to close and that unemployment started
 18 becoming an issue and people that were living
 19 on the edge no longer had the ability to obtain
 20 food to eat, we have food pantries spread
 21 across the county that they do good work every

Page 20

1 day. But they needed help. We coordinated,
 2 planned with the Maryland Food Bank, Knight's
 3 Creamery, a variety of individuals. We boosted
 4 their capacity, we fed people. Marilyn and
 5 Childlene and all these individuals, amazing
 6 work.
 7 We knew that if we hit a spike like we saw
 8 in New York City, we did not have the medical
 9 capacity to manage those patients. Partnering
 10 with Shore Region Health, Anne Arundel Medical
 11 Center, we made sure that the capacity was
 12 expanded so that if we needed that capacity, we
 13 would have it. And that capacity exists today
 14 and will continue throughout the year in case
 15 we see a spike.
 16 I could go on and on and on, but there
 17 have been amazing things done in this county
 18 that we love and live in. It's just I'm proud
 19 to be a part of the community.
 20 So again, just to recap and finish up, I
 21 do not believe that it's necessary to extend

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1 the State of Emergency as an instrument past
 2 its expiration at the end of this month.
 3 We will maintain our steady state. We
 4 will stay on it, take the pulse of what's going
 5 on, recognizing the virus has not gone
 6 anywhere. And we have to find that balance
 7 between being responsible but opening up. And
 8 we'll continue to do that.
 9 And if necessary, I can always come back
 10 to the County Council and ask you to reinstate
 11 a State of Emergency if it becomes necessary.
 12 And let's hope that it doesn't.
 13 So there is a resolution, Mr. President.
 14 Thank you for your leadership, sir. I
 15 could pull out this and say words of the day;
 16 watchful, optimism, focus, stability, habit,
 17 balance, concurrent, preparation, steady,
 18 vigilance. And you probably have the rest of
 19 this.
 20 MR. PACK: I do, I do.
 21 MR. STAMP: Words we used on our

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1 coordination calls just to keep people up and
 2 moving so that we would do the right thing for
 3 the people in Talbot County.
 4 MR. PACK: Thank you very much for doing
 5 that, Clay. We certainly appreciate your
 6 leadership as well.
 7 Yeah. Those words of the day were just
 8 inspirational tidbits that we were offering to
 9 our team as we kept moving forward through this
 10 ordeal.
 11 And we're going to now transition
 12 hopefully this evening with the ending of this
 13 State of Emergency into this recovery period.
 14 Again, as Mr. Stamp laid out, we're still
 15 going to keep our eye on the ball. We're still
 16 going to make sure that we are addressing the
 17 health and safety of this community.
 18 In that effort, we're turning to Nancy to
 19 guide the rest of this period.
 20 So before we read the declaration into the
 21 record or I ask for a motion to do so, Nancy,

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1 do you have a few words that you want to say as
 2 our recovery coordinator here in Talbot County?
 3 MS. ANDREW: Ut-oh. Well, it's just been
 4 very clear in a couple of weeks of starting to
 5 get acquainted with this that clearly in this
 6 county there's been a spirit of taking care of
 7 one another, of being guided by a plan, and of
 8 adding value to the process for everyone who
 9 has been involved.
 10 So I'm sorry that we're here as a
 11 community and as a world, but this is where we
 12 are. And I will certainly work very hard to
 13 continue in this spirit that's been set. So
 14 thank you.
 15 MR. PACK: Thank you. And Geneva, I
 16 didn't forget you as well. Kudos to you.
 17 I remember the first time meeting Geneva.
 18 She was like a little mouse. She didn't want
 19 to say much. But watching her in operation
 20 down at the EOC over these past months,
 21 certainly capable and certainly knows how to

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1 take the reins when she needs to during
 2 difficult times.
 3 So thank you very much for your hard work
 4 as well.
 5 Madam Secretary, I'm going to turn now to
 6 you for the reading --
 7 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Pack, could I just say
 8 one thing?
 9 MR. PACK: You can, yes.
 10 MR. DIVILIO: I would just like to thank
 11 you. I didn't realize all the benefit or how
 12 difficult it was and as much work as it is for
 13 the Council president just normally. And then
 14 when you go into a State of Emergency and all
 15 the different phone calls and coordination and
 16 you keeping us in the loop.
 17 I believe the first probably week of this,
 18 I stepped on every one of your toes. I wanted
 19 to make sure we were reaching out to every
 20 department and who was doing what and who
 21 needed what. And you said trust the system, I

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1 got it. And you did.
 2 And I want to apologize for that in the
 3 beginning, but thank you.
 4 MR. PACK: No need.
 5 MR. DIVILIO: For doing a great job of
 6 leading this Council.
 7 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Divilio. I
 8 certainly appreciate that. And thank you all
 9 for all that you all were doing just to -- I
 10 know many of you sat in on phone calls or
 11 stayed in contact with Mr. Stamp during those
 12 situations to see where you could lend a hand
 13 and help out. So I know he appreciates your
 14 support and also your willingness to help him
 15 through this ordeal.
 16 And we're not out of it yet. And I want
 17 to stress that you see Council members in
 18 masks. We all came in here wearing our masks.
 19 And we're asking the public to wear masks in
 20 the building because we are by no means out of
 21 this yet.

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1 This is just a transition, bringing Nancy
 2 on board to kind of guide us through the rest
 3 of the way. As Mr. Stamp said, we hope, we're
 4 prayful that we don't have a bounce back and we
 5 don't have to call Geneva and gear this thing
 6 back up again to where it was several months
 7 ago.

8 So we're not there yet. This is just a
 9 moving to another stage here in Talbot County.
 10 We're in stage two across the state. We're now
 11 incorporating our own, if you would, mini
 12 recovery stage.

13 As the governor laid out in his roadmap to
 14 recovery, this is Talbot County's version of
 15 that here in the county.

16 But please follow those health
 17 instructions from the CDC that are laid out,
 18 wear your mask, wash your hands thoroughly,
 19 maintain your social distancing.

20 And as I said on the onset of my
 21 statement, my address, we will have to have 28

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1 people in this gallery for the near foreseeable
 2 future. And that's just the way it has to be.

3 So thank you very much, Mr. Divilio.

4 Madam Secretary, would you please read the
 5 declaration.

6 SECRETARY: Declaration ending the State
 7 of Emergency in Talbot County. Declaring the
 8 State of Emergency in Talbot County due to
 9 COVID-19 terminated and ended, providing for
 10 the Talbot County Emergency Operations Center
 11 to move into the recovery phase with continued
 12 monitoring and coordination in support of the
 13 Talbot County Health Department and other
 14 stakeholders, and superseding and replacing the
 15 Fourth Amended Emergency Declaration of May 26,
 16 2020.

17 Whereas, on March 5, 2020, the governor of
 18 Maryland declared a State of Emergency in
 19 response to COVID-19, a respiratory disease
 20 that spreads easily from person to person and
 21 can result in serious injury or death.

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1 And whereas, on March 13, 2020, the
 2 president of the United States issued a
 3 proclamation on declaring a national emergency
 4 concerning the novel coronavirus disease,
 5 COVID-19, outbreak.

6 And whereas on March 16, 2020, the Talbot
 7 County Council adopted an Emergency Declaration
 8 declaring a State of Emergency in the county
 9 for a period of 30 days and ordering the
 10 temporary closure of certain buildings and the
 11 suspension of certain meetings in order to
 12 prevent the spread of COVID-19, which State of
 13 Emergency has been extended through June 30,
 14 2020, by the Council's Fourth Amended Emergency
 15 Declaration dated May 26, 2020.

16 And whereas, on or about April 24, 2020,
 17 the governor of Maryland released a state-wide
 18 recovery plan titled Maryland's Strong Roadmap
 19 to Recovery, which identifies four building
 20 blocks for recovery, expanded testing capacity,
 21 increased hospital surge capacity, supply of

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1 personal protective equipment, and contact
 2 tracing, and breaks recovery from COVID-19 down
 3 into three gradual and distinct stages.

4 And whereas, on June 10, 2020, according
 5 to the governor's office with key state-wide
 6 health metrics continuing to trend in a
 7 positive direction, the governor announced
 8 additional safe and phased reopenings through
 9 stage two of the Maryland Strong Roadmap to
 10 Recovery.

11 And whereas, on June 18, 2020, according
 12 to the governor's social media, Maryland's key
 13 COVID-19 health metrics continued to trend in a
 14 positive direction with the state-wide
 15 positivity rate dropping to 5.3 percent, ICU
 16 beds falling to their lowest levels since
 17 April 5th, and the State reporting its lowest
 18 number of new cases since March 31st.

19 And whereas, the COVID-19 trends in Talbot
 20 County are consistent with or better than those
 21 at the State level announced, and significant

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| <p>1 progress has been made locally to sustain the</p> <p>2 four building blocks identified in the</p> <p>3 governor's Roadmap to Recovery.</p> <p>4 And whereas, although Talbot County must</p> <p>5 remain vigilant and continue a high-level</p> <p>6 response to COVID-19, the county can transition</p> <p>7 from a State of Emergency posture to the</p> <p>8 recovery phase in terms of emergency response.</p> <p>9 Now, therefore, be it ordered, proclaimed,</p> <p>10 and declared by the County Council of Talbot</p> <p>11 County, Maryland, that in accordance with the</p> <p>12 authority granted by the charter and laws of</p> <p>13 Talbot County, Maryland, and pursuant to any</p> <p>14 and all authority vested to the Council by the</p> <p>15 Maryland Constitution and the laws of Maryland,</p> <p>16 including but not limited to section 14-111 of</p> <p>17 the Public Safety Article of the Annotated Code</p> <p>18 of Maryland and section 3502 of the Health</p> <p>19 General Article, one, local state of emergency</p> <p>20 ended.</p> <p>21 Effective immediately, the local State of</p> | <p>1 and in accordance with all applicable State and</p> <p>2 local emergency plans.</p> <p>3 Four, reopening of public buildings.</p> <p>4 Effective June 17, 2020, all Talbot County</p> <p>5 government buildings and facilities were</p> <p>6 reopened to the general public. Subject,</p> <p>7 however, to certain COVID-19 protocols as</p> <p>8 adopted and amended from time to time,</p> <p>9 including without limitation, those issued by</p> <p>10 the county manager prior to the reopening of</p> <p>11 government buildings on June 17, 2020. A copy</p> <p>12 of which are attached hereto as Exhibit A and</p> <p>13 incorporated by reference herein. The general</p> <p>14 public shall abide by all such protocols when</p> <p>15 accessing Talbot County government buildings.</p> <p>16 Five, extension of licenses. The</p> <p>17 expiration date of any licenses, permits,</p> <p>18 registration, and professional licenses issued</p> <p>19 by Talbot County that expired by the later of,</p> <p>20 one, April 30, 2020, or two, otherwise during</p> <p>21 the county State of Emergency and where</p> |
| Page 31 | Page 33 |
| <p>1 Emergency first declared by the County Council</p> <p>2 on March 16, 2020, and extended through</p> <p>3 June 30, 2020, pursuant to the Council's Fourth</p> <p>4 Amended Emergency Declaration dated May 26,</p> <p>5 2020, shall be and is hereby terminated and</p> <p>6 ended.</p> <p>7 Two, transition to recovery phase. The</p> <p>8 Talbot County Emergency Operations Center team</p> <p>9 shall transition to the recovery phase with</p> <p>10 continued monitoring and coordination in</p> <p>11 support of the Talbot County Health Department</p> <p>12 and other stakeholders to maintain a state of</p> <p>13 readiness in the event recovery trends reverse.</p> <p>14 Three, federal and State aid.</p> <p>15 Notwithstanding the end of a local State of</p> <p>16 Emergency, the county may continue to seek and</p> <p>17 accept all available federal and State aid,</p> <p>18 resources, and assistance to protect the public</p> <p>19 health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of</p> <p>20 Talbot County pursuant to Title 14 of the</p> <p>21 Public Safety Article, Maryland Code Annotated,</p> | <p>1 otherwise renewable in accordance with</p> <p>2 applicable law is hereby extended to July 31,</p> <p>3 2020.</p> <p>4 Six, supersedes inconsistent local law</p> <p>5 severability. This declaration shall supersede</p> <p>6 and replace the Fourth Amended Emergency</p> <p>7 Declaration issued by the Talbot County Council</p> <p>8 on May 26, 2020, and shall supersede any</p> <p>9 inconsistent or conflicting local law, rule, or</p> <p>10 regulation. If any provision of this</p> <p>11 declaration is held invalid in a court of</p> <p>12 competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not</p> <p>13 affect other provisions or any other</p> <p>14 application of this declaration, which can be</p> <p>15 given effect without the invalid provision or</p> <p>16 application. And for this purpose, the</p> <p>17 provisions of this declaration are declared</p> <p>18 severable.</p> <p>19 Seven, further amendments. This</p> <p>20 declaration may be revised or amended from time</p> <p>21 to time as needed in the discretion of the</p> |

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1 County Council.
 2 This declaration is hereby effective this
 3 23rd day of June in 2020.
 4 Given under our hands in the great seal of
 5 Talbot County this 23rd of June in the year
 6 2020.
 7 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Madam
 8 Secretary, for that reading of the declaration.
 9 The chair would entertain any comments to
 10 the declaration at this time.
 11 Hearing none, this is an administrative
 12 resolution. It is eligible for vote this
 13 evening. I would entertain a motion to move
 14 this over to second reader at this time.
 15 MS. PRICE: So moved.
 16 MR. PACK: Moved by Ms. Price.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Second.
 18 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Callahan. Any
 19 discussion on the motion to move it forward to
 20 second reader at this time?
 21 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, call your

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1 roll to move to second reader.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 3 MR. PACK: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 5 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 8 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 9 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.
 11 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 12 MR. PACK: Madam Secretary, dare I say
 13 please read the resolution.
 14 MS. PRICE: How much do you love me?
 15 SECRETARY: Declaration ending the State
 16 of Emergency --
 17 MS. PRICE: I ask that so much be
 18 considered a reading.
 19 MR. PACK: Any objection to Ms. Price's
 20 motion? Hearing none, the matter is now before
 21 Council for vote.

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1 Any other comment prior to taking vote at
 2 this time?
 3 Mr. Stamp, I want to thank you and
 4 Dr. Wadley in her absence. I know you all have
 5 put much forethought into this and this
 6 decision did not come to either one of you
 7 lightly.
 8 We certainly appreciate your
 9 professionalism in bringing this to the
 10 Council's attention to end the State of
 11 Emergency and move to our recovery phase now,
 12 keeping all those objectives and goals still in
 13 place to keep the citizens of Talbot County
 14 safe.
 15 So I know this didn't come as any rush
 16 decision or light decision on your part or her
 17 part. I'm sure it came after much
 18 consideration. So we want to thank you all for
 19 your due diligence in weighing through the pros
 20 and cons, contacting your other State partners
 21 just to make sure that we were reading the data

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1 appropriately for the citizens here in Talbot
 2 County. Thank you very much for that.
 3 Council, you now have the matter before
 4 you for final vote.
 5 Madam Secretary, please call the vote.
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 7 MR. PACK: Aye.
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 9 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 12 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 13 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.
 15 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 16 MR. PACK: Thank you very much. Nancy,
 17 good to see you again and welcome aboard.
 18 MS. ANDREW: Thank you.
 19 MR. PACK: Council, you now have a second
 20 matter before you as an administrative
 21 resolution.

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1 Madam Secretary, I'll turn to you to read
 2 the resolution.
 3 SECRETARY: An administrative resolution
 4 of the County Council for Talbot County,
 5 Maryland, requiring the development of a Talbot
 6 County Diversity Statement, providing for the
 7 inclusion of such statement in the county
 8 employee handbook and requiring a written
 9 acknowledgement from each county employee that
 10 they have received, read, and understand the
 11 Diversity Statement.
 12 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Madam
 13 Secretary. That's fine. The title will
 14 suffice.
 15 This is a resolution that I put forth to
 16 Council to consider. Sometimes you have to say
 17 what you mean. And if this Council is one that
 18 embraces diversity, there comes a point in time
 19 when you actually have to say it and put it
 20 down on paper for people to read it and
 21 understand what you stand for as a county.

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1 We never had a Diversity Statement before.
 2 I know we have through our practices always
 3 practiced diversity in the way we treat persons
 4 of different backgrounds and races and
 5 cultures.
 6 But I felt at this juncture of time that
 7 we're all in, creating a Diversity Statement
 8 would be something that we could stand on,
 9 something that we could show people who come to
 10 us, either visitors or doing business with us
 11 or persons who are being hired by this county,
 12 to understand that this is something that this
 13 county really believes in.
 14 So this Diversity Statement would be under
 15 the direction of this Council. Doesn't mean
 16 that each one of us has to put pen to paper.
 17 We could certainly put forth a task force that
 18 would actually write the declaration for us or
 19 the statement for us for our approval at a
 20 given time.
 21 So that is the -- and to make sure -- let

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1 me go one step further in the resolution. And
 2 to make sure that county staff also reads and
 3 understand what the Diversity Statement is so
 4 it's something that they are familiar with.
 5 Oftentimes in business you have mission
 6 statements that companies stand by, this is
 7 their mission, this is their goal, this is what
 8 they believe in. And those mission statements
 9 are written down so that anyone in that company
 10 understands what that mission statement is and
 11 what it stands for.
 12 Likewise with this Diversity Statement, I
 13 would also ask that employees of the county
 14 also would have to be made aware of the
 15 Diversity Statement and sign to the effect that
 16 they've read the statement and they understand
 17 what the Diversity Statement means and what it
 18 stands for.
 19 So that is the premise behind the
 20 resolution and why I asked that the resolution
 21 be entered in today so that we can say what we

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1 mean. If we are a diverse county, we believe
 2 in diversity, and we're working towards that
 3 each and every day, why not put it in a
 4 statement that we can show people as we move
 5 along.
 6 So that's my explanation I will give the
 7 Council for your consideration at this time.
 8 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Pack, and this may be
 9 covered in here, would this -- could we extend
 10 this or does it include boards and committees?
 11 MR. PACK: It may certainly very well
 12 include for their reading and understanding.
 13 It could very well. I would not be adverse to
 14 that, Mr. Divilio. I think yes.
 15 I mean if we're asking our employees to
 16 know the Diversity Statement and to sign that
 17 they have read it, we can likewise ask for the
 18 committees to do likewise, to be aware of it.
 19 I have no problem with that as well.
 20 MS. PRICE: I'm not sure that we need to
 21 go this far as to make it an administrative

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1 resolution.

2 We have updated the employee handbook from

3 time to time. And I think that it's not

4 necessary to go through a whole work session

5 and put together a committee and all of that.

6 If it's something that the Council feels

7 we want to include in the employee handbook,

8 then certainly I believe that those statements

9 probably exist elsewhere that certainly our

10 county manager, along with our HR, Kim Ferullo,

11 could certainly find something and just present

12 it to Council and keep it much more simplistic

13 than having to adopt an entire administrative

14 resolution with all of that.

15 I'm not thrilled with some of the language

16 that's throughout this whole thing.

17 It shouldn't be based on everything that's

18 going on right now. Again, you're going to

19 probably hear this from me a lot tonight,

20 reacting emotionally.

21 I think it's appropriate to have it along

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1 with all of the other statements. We are

2 already, when we advertise, an equal

3 opportunity employer.

4 I would say that we do not have a problem

5 here with this. Other places, maybe so.

6 I believe wholly in our county manager and

7 our department heads, of which the County

8 Council always has the final say over the top

9 level, all the department heads that we vote on

10 those, we meet them, we interview them.

11 I asked if we ever had a complaint on

12 racism. And county manager told me not in

13 decades. I mean long before I was here.

14 So this is not a problem here in the

15 county as far as our employees. So I don't

16 know that we need to make a huge deal out of

17 this and go so far as to this.

18 I certainly think it's perfectly fine to

19 find a statement that we put in the next

20 employee handbook as part of all of the other

21 things that an employee has to agree to to work

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1 for the county.

2 But I believe that we've done a really

3 good job with everybody we've hired. We

4 haven't had any complaints, no lawsuits. And I

5 don't necessarily think that we have to create

6 a problem that thank God does not exist in

7 Talbot County government.

8 So I would like to simplify this much more

9 and put our trust in the county manager and

10 Ms. Ferullo to find a couple of statements and

11 let the County Council adopt that in the near

12 future.

13 MR. PACK: This is not a solution looking

14 for a problem.

15 Again, this is a way for this county to

16 say what it stands for.

17 Again, we have had lawsuits. We've had

18 lawsuits in the past and --

19 MS. PRICE: Not on this issue.

20 MR. PACK: -- saying that you are a county

21 that believes in diversity does not mean that

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1 you have to have racial complaints filed

2 against you. So I don't accept that premise

3 for having a Diversity Statement in your

4 employee handbook and making sure that your

5 employees are aware of that statement, what it

6 stands for and what it means.

7 I certainly have my support in Mr. Hollis

8 but as great as he is, he's not going to be

9 here always --

10 MS. PRICE: I didn't object to having it,

11 Mr. Pack.

12 MR. PACK: There's going to come a day

13 when he's going to leave.

14 MS. PRICE: I didn't object to having it.

15 I just think we don't have to go to this --

16 MR. PACK: I understand.

17 MS. PRICE: -- of that. That I trust that

18 we can find a statement between he and the HR

19 director and bring it to us at a future meeting

20 rather than going through all of this and

21 creating a --

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1 MR. PACK: This is the vehicle by which,
 2 the Office of Law was consulted, this is the
 3 vehicle by which you do that. This is the
 4 vehicle by which you do that, is that you have
 5 an administrative resolution which directs the
 6 HR Department to make sure it's in the
 7 handbook, to make sure that employees that are
 8 hired are given a copy of it. This is the
 9 vehicle by which you do that.
 10 You just don't hope and pray that they're
 11 going to do the right thing.
 12 MS. PRICE: No.
 13 MR. PACK: This is how you do it.
 14 MS. PRICE: We have updated the employee
 15 handbook on multiple occasions over the last
 16 ten years and we haven't done an administrative
 17 resolution. So I just didn't know that we
 18 needed to do this when we've added things about
 19 various, sleeveless clothing, which I happen to
 20 be wearing tonight. We've updated things
 21 without going through this.

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1 MR. PACK: Those were updates. You're
 2 correct. We've updated.
 3 This would actually be something new.
 4 Those were updates.
 5 And as to Mr. Divilio's point, if this was
 6 entered in and we wanted to update it in the
 7 future to include boards and committees, that
 8 would be an update or as an amendment this
 9 evening.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, I understand where
 11 you're going with this, Mr. President.
 12 So Andy, do you feel like what he's
 13 proposing will be beneficial to some of what's
 14 not in there now?
 15 Because I sort of feel like I don't want
 16 to feel like we're stepping on your toes and
 17 Kim's toes on this stuff.
 18 If we feel like we can better assist them,
 19 I'm all for that.
 20 MR. HOLLIS: So I don't take this proposed
 21 administrative resolution as criticism at all.

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1 I think that in today's time and place, you're
 2 going to see the inclusion of a Diversity
 3 Statement or component in the majority, if not
 4 almost all, employee handbooks.
 5 The vehicle through which the Council
 6 decides to accomplish that is up to you.
 7 I do want to make sure that I'm on record
 8 speaking --
 9 MR. DIVILIO: Talk into the mike.
 10 MR. HOLLIS: Sorry. I do want to make
 11 sure that I'm on record for my administration
 12 telling you that we need to strive for
 13 continued and increased diversity in our
 14 workforce. We do not -- we are not where we
 15 need to be.
 16 I agree with Ms. Price. I believe that
 17 we're doing a good job. We can always do a
 18 better job. To have the vote and the voice of
 19 the Council behind me and all of us to strive
 20 for greater diversity is a wonderful thing.
 21 You all can decide how you want to

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1 accomplish that. We can give you feedback and
 2 suggestions. You can form a task force.
 3 I just want to make clear that I believe
 4 it does need to be included.
 5 MR. PACK: So Mr. Divilio, I want to go
 6 back to your point. Did you want to make the
 7 amendment now to include also the boards and
 8 committees?
 9 Right now as it's drafted, it would only
 10 be pertainable to county employees.
 11 MR. DIVILIO: I think so. I think that
 12 would be the correct thing to do.
 13 MR. PACK: From each county employee and
 14 board member, that they we have received, read,
 15 and understand the Diversity Statement. Would
 16 that suffice to what you were asking?
 17 MR. DIVILIO: Yes, yes.
 18 MR. PACK: Madam Secretary, the amendment
 19 to the resolution would be written
 20 acknowledgement from each county employee and
 21 board member. So just those two words, and

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1 board member.

2 MS. PRICE: So in item number three where

3 it says development and approval of Diversity

4 Statement, I think that's what caught my

5 attention saying that we can use any

6 appropriate means, including without limitation

7 holding work sessions and inviting

8 participation from individuals who are

9 familiar, that part I don't think we need to

10 do.

11 MR. PACK: You don't have to. It just

12 opens the door for you to use whatever vehicle

13 you choose to use.

14 If you choose to use those vehicles, you

15 don't --

16 MS. PRICE: -- now because we are so

17 inundated with --

18 MR. PACK: Ms. Price, I am not going to

19 ask this Council to hold work sessions on the

20 matter.

21 This just gives you a list of ways you can

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1 go about accomplishing the task. If this board

2 says we want to write it ourselves, we can

3 write it ourselves. If we want to ask a group

4 to write it for us, we can ask that group to

5 write it for us.

6 So just because that's listed there

7 doesn't mean we have to do a work session.

8 It's just an option, if you would, on a buffet

9 for you to pick from. You don't have to do a

10 work session if the Council feels we don't need

11 a work session, we can write it ourselves.

12 MS. PRICE: So my preference would be to

13 rather than to even consider that, to certainly

14 get from Ms. Ferullo and Mr. Hollis a couple of

15 statements that we can incorporate and keep

16 it very simple because we have a lot of things

17 on our plate right now. And while this is

18 important, there is -- you know what our

19 calendar looks like.

20 MR. PACK: I do.

21 MS. PRICE: And I have complete faith that

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1 they can handle this. They can bring us a

2 couple of statements and we can discuss them

3 briefly up here at a future meeting and

4 incorporate it that way.

5 MR. PACK: Well, as great as Mr. Hollis

6 and Ms. Ferullo are, I would like even

7 diversity in the creation of the Diversity

8 Statement. So even that in and of itself

9 speaks to why we need a Diversity Statement.

10 MS. PRICE: Well, what he told me earlier

11 was other municipalities and counties already

12 have them. So we don't --

13 MR. PACK: No. They're about to create

14 them. He was saying that you will probably see

15 other counties go into doing what we're --

16 we're at the forefront of something here. You

17 will probably see other counties starting to

18 create Diversity Statements within their

19 handbook.

20 MS. PRICE: Right. And he thinks that

21 they exist and that we could, rather than

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1 reinvent the wheel, we could look at some

2 Diversity Statements that already exist first.

3 MR. PACK: We can, Ms. Price. We can.

4 It's just the way about going about completing

5 the task.

6 You can look at other Diversity

7 Statements. You can talk to other

8 representatives around the State. Joan

9 Williams is the diversity officer down at

10 Salisbury University. So we can grab

11 information from a variety of sources.

12 Don't get hung up on the fact that the

13 work session is in there. It's just a vehicle

14 by which you can use to accomplish the task.

15 Don't let that frighten you.

16 MS. PRICE: I'm not frightened by

17 anything.

18 I would also ask that we don't vote on any

19 anything. We have a lot on our plate tonight.

20 We have some things that we have to vote on.

21 MR. PACK: Let's --

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1 MS. PRICE: So I'm saying that even though
 2 we are able to vote on this tonight, all of
 3 this stuff is all new in the last week.
 4 We have some things that we have to take
 5 votes on tonight like some of the charter
 6 things, the tax cap things --
 7 MR. PACK: That's going to be up to
 8 members of this Council whether to move to
 9 second reader or not.
 10 First of all, for matter of record, let me
 11 address Mr. Divilio's amendment to the
 12 resolution so we can at least get that added to
 13 the resolution. Behind the word county
 14 employees we had and board members as the
 15 amendment.
 16 Is there a second to the amendment as
 17 written?
 18 MR. LESHER: Second.
 19 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Leshner. Any
 20 further discussion on the amendment? Okay.
 21 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, could you

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1 read that back to us for the record?
 2 SECRETARY: An administrative resolution
 3 of County Council for Talbot County, Maryland,
 4 requiring the development of a Talbot County
 5 Diversity Statement, providing for the
 6 inclusion of such statement in the county
 7 employee handbook, and requiring a written
 8 acknowledgement from each county employee and
 9 board member that they have received, read, and
 10 understand the Diversity Statement.
 11 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Madam
 12 Secretary. Just on the amendment alone, I'm
 13 going to ask to call for a vote on the
 14 amendment. It was seconded by Mr. Leshner.
 15 Madam Secretary, to the amendment, please take
 16 your roll.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 18 MR. PACK: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 20 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 3 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 5 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 6 MR. PACK: Okay. The matter has now been
 7 amended. The resolution has now been amended.
 8 It is eligible to be moved to second reader at
 9 this time tonight and voted upon tonight. The
 10 chair would entertain a motion to move it to a
 11 second reader.
 12 MS. PRICE: So my request is neither this
 13 resolution or the next resolution that we vote
 14 on tonight. We have a lot on our agenda
 15 tonight.
 16 MR. PACK: I don't foresee why setting
 17 this aside as administrative resolutions
 18 would -- I mean you're basically kicking the
 19 can down the road.
 20 MS. PRICE: And we've always had an
 21 agreement if a Council member is not ready to

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1 vote --
 2 MR. PACK: Is there a substantive reason
 3 why we cannot move this to vote tonight?
 4 MS. PRICE: There's a lot that's going on
 5 right now. I think that we are reacting
 6 emotionally.
 7 MR. PACK: Ms. Price, again, I am not
 8 reacting emotionally. This is something --
 9 MS. PRICE: That's you.
 10 MR. PACK: This was something that was put
 11 before Council for over a week to read and
 12 consider. If --
 13 MS. PRICE: I'm asking for more time
 14 because there's a lot of things going on right
 15 now.
 16 MR. PACK: I understand. The chair would
 17 entertain a motion to move to second reader if
 18 such a motion can be made at this time.
 19 MR. DIVILIO: I'll make that motion. I
 20 apologize for breaking the rule, Ms. Price.
 21 But I think now is the time, that we just can't

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1 keep waiting on some of -- on this issue. I
 2 think we can quickly get through it quickly.
 3 MR. PACK: There's a motion to move to
 4 second reader. Is there a second?
 5 Motion is not moved to second reader at
 6 this time.
 7 Madam Secretary, you have a second
 8 administrative resolution.
 9 SECRETARY: Yes, I do. An administrative
 10 resolution of the County Council for Talbot
 11 County, Maryland, requiring that the county
 12 manager produce a report for the County Council
 13 within 30 days on diversity training for Talbot
 14 County employees and identifying future
 15 training opportunities and establishing an
 16 annual reporting requirement on diversity
 17 training and opportunities for Talbot County
 18 employees.
 19 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Madam
 20 Secretary.
 21 Again, this was a resolution that I

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1 offered up to Council for consideration this
 2 evening.
 3 As Mr. Hollis said, we've been good in the
 4 way we've gone about bringing diversity
 5 training to the county employees. There's
 6 always room for improvement.
 7 What this resolution does is give this
 8 Council a report from him on an annual basis,
 9 from the county manager on an annual basis
 10 outlining what those trainings entail and any
 11 future trainings that would be underway.
 12 The idea was to have this report delivered
 13 during the budgetary session so that you can
 14 see if there was funds needed for additional
 15 diversity training going into the next fiscal
 16 year. Those would be outlined by the county
 17 manager as we move forward.
 18 And again, this is just a way for this
 19 Council and future Councils to be put on notice
 20 by the county manager as to what diversity
 21 trainings have taken place and what action item

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1 steps came out of those trainings. So that is
 2 the reason behind this one. And it would just
 3 give us an annual report, it would give the
 4 Council an annual report from the County
 5 Manager's Office.
 6 Any question there?
 7 MS. PRICE: I think for the same reasons
 8 that I think that that's already occurring, to
 9 ask him to do it within the next 30 days with
 10 everything else going on I think is way too
 11 much to ask of the county manager.
 12 We want to do something on an annual
 13 basis, but we've not had reports.
 14 I know what our staff does. I know the
 15 type of training that is done amongst each
 16 other and the respect that's going on. I don't
 17 know that we need both.
 18 And so maybe we, again, wait on this one
 19 and decide if this is something that needs to
 20 be done. I think that's just too much
 21 pressure. We've got a lot of stuff that we're

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1 dealing with. Let's think about whether this
 2 can be done on an annual basis or if you do
 3 adopt a Diversity Statement and you're signing
 4 off on it.
 5 Again, it's not a problem that -- there's
 6 a lot -- we have a lot of other problems here.
 7 I don't think that this is one of them.
 8 And I know that people will probably say
 9 why is Ms. Price putting these off, why don't I
 10 just accept them, is she racist. And I'm sure
 11 that there are people that say that.
 12 Has nothing to do with that. I am very
 13 proud of this county, the way it has acted on
 14 issues over the years, the ten years that I've
 15 been here.
 16 And I know what issues, our problems that
 17 we have to deal with. And it's not one we have
 18 in county government.
 19 And there's a lot of other things besides
 20 just racial issues that people need to think
 21 about when they're treating each other. And to

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1 single that one thing out --

2 MR. PACK: What one thing are you talking

3 about? Single what one thing out?

4 MS. PRICE: Diversity training. I mean

5 it's --

6 MR. PACK: Diversity is more than just

7 race. Diversity can deal with economic

8 inequalities, it can deal with job

9 inequalities. So diversity is not just about

10 race.

11 MS. PRICE: We're doing that. I don't

12 know that we need a report on it. I'm saying I

13 don't know.

14 Because when we have problems, we have

15 closed sessions. We have times when HR or the

16 county manager will come to the Council and say

17 we've got an employee issue, we might have to

18 let someone go or this is an issue.

19 The openness and communication that we

20 have always had, it's just not a problem. I

21 mean we know about everything. Sometimes

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1 they're like well, we don't even necessarily

2 need to bring it to us.

3 You told us about an issue today that

4 didn't necessarily need to come to Council, but

5 he always has.

6 So yes, you're right. We might not always

7 have Mr. Hollis. So maybe it's something you

8 adopt on an annual basis or whatever. As long

9 as -- he's got (inaudible). I guess I don't

10 need a report from Mr. Hollis in the next 30

11 days.

12 MR. PACK: The 30-day report would

13 encompass the last two fiscal years of this

14 Council so this Council could be made aware

15 what has happened while this Council has been

16 in session. That's why that 30-day report, it

17 would just cover the last two years.

18 If Mr. Hollis felt he needed more time,

19 I'm sure this body would give him more time.

20 The 30 days, as Mr. Hollis alluded to in my

21 conversation with him, will not be hard

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1 pressed. The report is not anything that would

2 be onerous on his part to create.

3 MS. PRICE: And remember, all of the --

4 MR. PACK: We can remove that part of it

5 out of the equation.

6 MS. PRICE: I remember all of the

7 statements at the Council comments two weeks

8 ago and you gave a long list of comments before

9 you came up with a few resolutions. And it was

10 interesting because you listed all the

11 wonderful things about the county government.

12 So I was surprised honestly with the way

13 things have gone. Again, you've been here 12

14 years, I've been here ten years. It hasn't

15 been a problem.

16 And it was wonderful to hear you speak

17 about how good those types of things have been,

18 that it's not a problem here.

19 So I get it. I don't feel like we

20 necessarily need a statement, I don't

21 necessarily feel like we need a report.

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1 If we end up in a situation where it was a

2 county manager here that's not being open and

3 honest with us, then at that time. But I'm

4 just perfectly comfortable with the way the

5 communication has been.

6 So again, can we think on this one again?

7 If you want to introduce, you can.

8 MR. HOLLIS: So I really think the

9 dialogue between the Council members is

10 important, but I will say again, as I did

11 previously, you need to figure out the vehicle.

12 I'm more interested in what the goal and

13 objective is.

14 I am committed to increasing diversity

15 training in the county workforce. Does that

16 mean we have a problem, I'm not even sure what

17 that means. Do I believe that we have issues

18 that need to be explored and discussed perhaps

19 in ways we haven't before, I absolutely do and

20 I'm committed to that.

21 I want to make sure that my governing body

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|--|---|
| <p>1 is telling me to go in that route as well, 2 though. 3 Again, I think we're doing a good job. I 4 think there is always room for improvement. I 5 think diversity training, as Mr. Pack said, 6 goes well beyond just the issue of race into a 7 variety of different other factors as well. 8 And I think that's something we should be 9 working on as a business, just as a general 10 rule of operation.</p> | <p>1 conversation. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: I know it. I know it. 3 Right. Yeah. I know we did. 4 MR. PACK: Okay. 5 MR. CALLAHAN: I know we did. I know we 6 did, but I knew it was going to lead up to this 7 because it was a surprise to everybody. This 8 isn't a shock to me that we're at this point.</p> |
| <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. President?</p> | <p>9 I think what it is, Mr. President, I'm</p> |
| <p>12 MR. PACK: Yes.</p> | <p>10 just asking you. I think we're definitely</p> |
| <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Sitting here and we just 14 seen this and this just come out to us.</p> | <p>11 headed in the right direction. I just think 12 that we need to kind of go about it in a little 13 bit different way.</p> |
| <p>15 MR. PACK: No. You've seen this before.</p> | <p>14 MR. PACK: I wish I shared your optimism. 15 And sitting here this evening, I do not.</p> |
| <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, I'm just saying about 17 a week ago with what you're asking us to look 18 at.</p> | <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 17 MR. PACK: I do not. I do not share that 18 optimism that we are headed in the right 19 direction.</p> |
| <p>19 Is it possible, is it possible --</p> | <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> |
| <p>20 MR. PACK: To kick it down the road?</p> | <p>21 MR. PACK: I'm quite stunned.</p> |
| <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, bear with me now.</p> | |
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| <p>1 I'm not using that term, kick it down the road. 2 Is it possible for us to digest this a 3 little bit? Listen to this. 4 I think we're all in agreement.</p> | <p>1 I will ask the Council. This is eligible 2 for second reader if there's a motion to do so 3 this evening. The chair would entertain that 4 motion.</p> |
| <p>5 MR. PACK: I don't think we are, but go 6 ahead. I don't think we are all in agreement, 7 but go ahead.</p> | <p>5 MR. DIVILIO: I'll make that motion. 6 MR. PACK: Motion made by Mr. Divilio for 7 second reader. Is there a second?</p> |
| <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, I think we can be. I 9 think we can be because we're all trying to say 10 the same thing.</p> | <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Second it. 9 MR. PACK: Seconded by Mr. Callahan. The 10 matter is now on the motion to move to second 11 reader, Madam Secretary, please call your roll.</p> |
| <p>11 But is it possible to put this back on the 12 agenda --</p> | <p>12 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> |
| <p>13 MR. PACK: I would ask the same question. 14 What's the substantive reason why we could not 15 act on this this evening?</p> | <p>13 MR. PACK: Aye. 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 15 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> |
| <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, I was just thinking 17 it would be nice to talk to each member about 18 it and talk with the manager about it, because 19 it seems like you two were talking. I'd like 20 to be a little bit more involved --</p> | <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 18 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 19 MS. PRICE: This is to move to second 20 reader, right?</p> |
| <p>21 MR. PACK: You and I had a nice</p> | <p>21 MR. PACK: Yes.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
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| <p>1 MS. PRICE: No.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p> <p>3 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: Matter is now before Council</p> <p>5 for second reader. Any other discussion before</p> <p>6 Madam Secretary reads it again?</p> <p>7 MS. PRICE: So I'm just going to say the</p> <p>8 reason for my vote is not a vote against this.</p> <p>9 We have always had the courtesy to allow a</p> <p>10 Council member to wait on a vote.</p> <p>11 We have so much on our plate right now.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Which is I'm stunned that we're</p> <p>13 taking so long with these. I am really stunned</p> <p>14 that it's taken us 20 minutes to go through</p> <p>15 these. You're absolutely right.</p> <p>16 MS. PRICE: I haven't had time to talk to</p> <p>17 county manager, as Mr. Callahan suggested.</p> <p>18 Has anybody looked at our agenda recently?</p> <p>19 Has anybody looked at the amount of e-mails and</p> <p>20 the things that we're dealing with on top of</p> <p>21 COVID and the economy and all of those things?</p> | <p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>4 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>8 MS. PRICE: No.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p> <p>10 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>11 MR. PACK: Okay. The matter passes.</p> <p>12 MS. PRICE: Totally different topic. I</p> <p>13 got a message that someone is not able to hear</p> <p>14 it on Webex and they don't know if it's their</p> <p>15 computer or if it's something else.</p> <p>16 Is there a way to just check with our IT</p> <p>17 Department that everything is functioning? He</p> <p>18 hears me. So I guess it is.</p> <p>19 MR. HOLLIS: Your IT Department is right</p> <p>20 here.</p> <p>21 MS. PRICE: Okay. So maybe it's the</p> |
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| <p>1 And to me, those are things that need to be</p> <p>2 addressed that are going to require a lot of</p> <p>3 our attention. And there's a lot to digest --</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: Certainly not diversity in the</p> <p>5 county.</p> <p>6 MS. PRICE: -- like other Council members</p> <p>7 have done, to wait on the vote. And that is</p> <p>8 not -- I'm not getting the courtesy of that</p> <p>9 vote.</p> <p>10 So in that case I wouldn't be supporting</p> <p>11 it at this time on June 23rd.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Madam Secretary, please read</p> <p>13 the resolution.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: An administrative resolution</p> <p>15 of the County Council --</p> <p>16 MS. PRICE: I'll still ask that so much be</p> <p>17 considered a reading.</p> <p>18 MR. PACK: Any objection to Ms. Price's</p> <p>19 motion? Hearing none, the matter is now before</p> <p>20 Council for a vote.</p> <p>21 Madam Secretary, please call your roll.</p> | <p>1 person's computer. Thank you.</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: We now have the added item to</p> <p>3 the agenda. I'll pull that up. And this is</p> <p>4 also under administrative resolution.</p> <p>5 MR. DIVILIO: Yes.</p> <p>6 MR. PACK: Okay. Madam Secretary, do you</p> <p>7 have that resolution in front of you?</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Yes, I do.</p> <p>9 MR. PACK: Will you please read the title</p> <p>10 of that resolution.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: An administrative resolution</p> <p>12 of the County Council for Talbot County,</p> <p>13 Maryland. Providing for the replacement of the</p> <p>14 Talbot Boys Monument with a joint monument</p> <p>15 listing the names of all of those from Talbot</p> <p>16 County who served in the Civil War.</p> <p>17 MR. DIVILIO: It's very short. Can you</p> <p>18 read the (inaudible) now therefore?</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Whereas, the Talbot Boys</p> <p>20 Monument on the Talbot County Courthouse</p> <p>21 grounds only lists the Confederate soldiers</p> |

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1 from Talbot County who served in the Civil War.
 2 And whereas, it has come to the attention
 3 of three consecutive County Councils that the
 4 Talbot Boys Monument tells only one side of the
 5 story.
 6 And whereas, the County Council recognizes
 7 more individuals from Talbot County served in
 8 the Civil War, namely Union soldiers.
 9 And whereas, in a showing of how Talbot
 10 County is a place where people from many
 11 backgrounds come together to enjoy the county's
 12 natural beauty, spend time with family, and
 13 pursue a variety of recreational activities,
 14 the County Council finds that the Talbot Boys
 15 Monument should be replaced with a joint
 16 monument listing the names of all those from
 17 Talbot County who served in the Civil War.
 18 MR. DIVILIO: Thank you. So this was my
 19 idea. After speaking with so many members of
 20 the community, hearing different sides,
 21 different histories, different opinions of

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1 history, different takes on it, and then
 2 looking around at other monuments around the
 3 state, what they've done.
 4 The one that I found that really
 5 interested me the most was up in Chestertown.
 6 It's identical to our base basically. It's
 7 just a block, stone block that lists all the
 8 names of the soldiers, and it was completed
 9 within five years of us building just the
 10 Confederate side of our Civil War monument.
 11 My goal -- so then I looked at that and I
 12 thought well, that looks fair. Nobody has
 13 complained about that because it's on their
 14 monument row. It just shows everybody that
 15 fought in the war, not just one side of it.
 16 So then I went back and I asked a stone
 17 mason to come in and give me prices on what it
 18 would cost to do everything I said in the last
 19 meeting, to remove the statue that we have now,
 20 the whole monument, to duplicate the entire
 21 monument that we have, and to see if we can

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1 alter the current monument to make it one Civil
 2 War monument showing both.
 3 The Civil War monument, there's a lot of
 4 nervousness about the copper statue being 100
 5 years old. Also, because of how it has been
 6 interpreted for so long, I think that it would
 7 not benefit what I was trying to achieve.
 8 Going back and building a Union monument
 9 to match it, that has been brought up several
 10 times. It's never been funded. It's never
 11 been done. And the other one was privately
 12 funded.
 13 It would also encompass -- there were only
 14 about a third, three and a half times as many
 15 Union soldiers as there were Confederate
 16 soldiers. Then again, you're not going to
 17 appease people because you're going to end up
 18 with two different statues that show two
 19 different things. It doesn't bring it back
 20 together.
 21 So I have gone out and found an artist, a

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1 sculptor. And I'll pass these out to you. I
 2 have enough for seven and for the newspaper so
 3 that they could have it as well. And this is
 4 what we've come up with so far.
 5 MS. PRICE: That's not going to work.
 6 MR. DIVILIO: So this is what we came up
 7 with after looking at what's in Gettysburg.
 8 Gettysburg has a monument for Maryland. It has
 9 the Union and the Confederate soldier at the
 10 top. They're propping one another up. They
 11 both kind of appear to look like they're
 12 injured on the battlefield.
 13 And this also came from there was a member
 14 of the community who sent me some different
 15 ideas and things. Northern Ireland, they have
 16 the reaching of the hands where every time
 17 they're able to make a civil union or get a
 18 little bit closer, they slide the monuments a
 19 little bit closer where the hands are coming
 20 closer and closer to shaking out and reaching.
 21 This is not what I'm going to ask for

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1 anybody to vote on obviously tonight or
 2 hopefully this is a very rough sketching and
 3 idea of what I've come up with.
 4 My goal is to take the Talbot boy off of
 5 the statue, save that. It's part of history.
 6 It's in books. It needs to be able to be seen
 7 somewhere, whether it's in a basement and comes
 8 up for a reunion thing or whatever. But to
 9 create a true Civil War monument on our land
 10 here that shows all of the names, everybody
 11 fairly who fought, but the fact that we all
 12 came back. And that's what Talbot County is.
 13 You may fight with one another, as we
 14 have. We will always disagree on many
 15 different things. But at the end of the day,
 16 we've come back and we're still making huge
 17 leaps and bounds in diversity and dealing
 18 with -- and working together with race
 19 relations.
 20 I know my lifestyle is completely
 21 different than what was available to my

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1 parents' generation and what they went through
 2 with segregation of schools versus when I was
 3 in high school, we had teachers who went back
 4 to historically black colleges to try to bring
 5 more diversified teachers to our school, trying
 6 to bring diversity into our school.
 7 So there's a lot that I've seen that I
 8 love about Talbot County. And my favorite part
 9 is how we do look out for one another.
 10 And these two are looking back to each
 11 other, reaching out. And my goal is to come up
 12 with a unity statue that is fair, shows equal
 13 representation, and I'm going to keep saying
 14 this. Think of the unveiling. Think of the
 15 unveiling when we take off the cover, bring
 16 everyone back together in Talbot County and say
 17 yes, we recognize what was on our land or on
 18 our courthouse lawn for over 100 years, we saw
 19 that, we recognized it.
 20 No one has built the other side. So here,
 21 now it's our turn to correct that and say yes,

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1 there was a Civil War, but we came back and
 2 here we are together.
 3 So that's the approach that I'm coming
 4 from. I know that we have lots of different
 5 things that we're going to discuss about how we
 6 can handle this and other approaches, but this
 7 is the best that I could come up with in a
 8 week.
 9 MS. PRICE: I guess it's frustrating that
 10 we've offered -- I think that's beautiful. I
 11 think that's beautiful. And if you could do it
 12 and actually incorporate the boy who is there
 13 with another one rather than losing him.
 14 But groups, we've met with groups. And
 15 they seem to have been willing to do either
 16 something like this or build the Union one.
 17 Because again, we didn't build anything. We
 18 didn't build the Confederate one. We're not
 19 saying, I assume, you told me that you were not
 20 planning -- I mean this would have to be
 21 privately funded.

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1 MR. DIVILIO: Yes. I want this to be
 2 privately funded.
 3 MS. PRICE: But all these years, nobody
 4 has ever come up with the funds.
 5 We've talked about a Union soldier and if
 6 they wanted to do that. Groups have expressed
 7 on multiple occasions to do that. They've
 8 never come up with the funding.
 9 And then there have been a couple of
 10 people who have suggested something similar to
 11 this idea of taking the boy off and bringing
 12 back with something else rather than going
 13 completely from scratch. And nobody has ever
 14 done that.
 15 It makes me think that's not what they
 16 ever wanted. What they want is this one gone,
 17 period. I'm not sure that they -- there are
 18 going to be some people who would say this is a
 19 beautiful idea. And of course, it's a
 20 beautiful idea.
 21 But it's sad to me that over all these

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1 years that nobody has ever put their money
 2 where their mouth is because they have come to
 3 us. We've had work sessions. And they said
 4 they were going to do it and they never did.
 5 So my only fear is that nobody will fund
 6 this.
 7 MR. DIVILIO: So I've mentioned this to
 8 very few people. But the few that I have
 9 mentioned it to, each one I've said that this
 10 is going to be privately funded, whether crowd
 11 funded or through the Midshore Community
 12 Foundation. And everyone has said let me know
 13 when it's set up and I'll go over there.
 14 MS. PRICE: That's what they said to us
 15 before, too.
 16 And people have written us e-mails saying
 17 I'll put forth the first \$10,000. And they say
 18 it.
 19 I'm just saying it's hard to actually make
 20 that part of it happen.
 21 MR. DIVILIO: My thought was that, being

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1 privately funded, and we're going to talk about
 2 the ballot later, everybody wants a voice and
 3 an opportunity to make a difference.
 4 And by being privately funded, by being a
 5 piece of unity for the community, it gives
 6 everybody the opportunity to go up to the
 7 Midshore Community Foundation, five bucks or
 8 5,000 bucks. This will take the community to
 9 come together to do it.
 10 I will -- when I first, I spoke to a
 11 gentleman about this in the beginning and I
 12 said I don't want to bring the statue up and
 13 divide the county while we're dealing with such
 14 a difficult budget time.
 15 Now we've moved to the budget issue, and
 16 there's discussions of moving it. So that's
 17 when I was prepared to bring this back up.
 18 So I think it's a good timing for it, both
 19 community wise and I feel that people will.
 20 Now that we know that there is a lot of
 21 unsettling feelings towards this, and we've had

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1 people e-mail me. I hold people to their word.
 2 I'm being held to my word. That's why I'm
 3 bringing this up.
 4 So I will hold people to their word. And
 5 I think the community can get behind coming
 6 together.
 7 MS. PRICE: So we do have some other
 8 things to discuss. That's just the laying
 9 forth the concept this evening?
 10 MR. DIVILIO: Correct, yes.
 11 MR. LESHER: Well, I want to commend
 12 Mr. Divilio for bringing this forward. I think
 13 it does move the conversation forward.
 14 Whatever the course forward is once the
 15 Talbot Boys Monument is removed, I think does
 16 need to be certainly publicly vetted.
 17 But by putting a concrete idea on the
 18 table, I think that does move us in that
 19 direction and I thank you for doing that.
 20 And regardless of who the sculptor might
 21 be or what the content might be, whether it

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1 honors all those who served or those killed in
 2 action, as the Vietnam and the proposed World
 3 War I and World War II, and Korean War
 4 monuments do, whatever the content is ought to
 5 be equally publicly vetted.
 6 But I think that this moves the
 7 conversation forward. And I want to thank you
 8 for offering this up.
 9 MR. DIVILIO: Thank you.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: I want to say, commend you
 11 too for putting yourself out there.
 12 Great idea. You put a lot of hard work in
 13 it. It does look phenomenal. It does move the
 14 conversation in the right direction. I really
 15 feel like there's a lot to be said with that
 16 picture.
 17 Talbot County is so unique. We're going
 18 to be coming together, just like everybody is
 19 saying. And that's our whole goal. I think
 20 everybody's goal here tonight to talk through
 21 this is starting the conversation. And we've

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1 started it, we're moving forward, you can see
 2 good things going to happen.
 3 And let's say face it. Whatever we come
 4 up with is going to be a great opportunity to
 5 move forward with Talbot County because, like
 6 you said, like you said, something like that
 7 actually as far as the public is concerned and
 8 the media is concerned could be huge. It could
 9 be really huge.
 10 So I really appreciate the effort. This
 11 gives us an opportunity to think about it. And
 12 we've got more stuff here that we're going to
 13 be talking about tonight that's going to be
 14 some great ideas. And I'm looking forward to
 15 talking through it.
 16 MR. DIVILIO: So my goal would be from
 17 this, to come back in two weeks with an
 18 organization that will be able to manage the
 19 fundraising because I don't want to get
 20 involved with that while I still -- I'd rather
 21 pass this on to an organization to move forward

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1 with it.
 2 But my goal would be to come back in two
 3 weeks with that and then bring that up for
 4 consideration.
 5 MR. PACK: Again, Mr. Divilio, as we
 6 talked about earlier today, I didn't see the
 7 necessity of this being an item on the agenda
 8 because conceptually, as Ms. Price pointed out
 9 to you, we have a resolution in place to allow
 10 people to bring us ideas and concepts. And
 11 this could have certainly been done on that
 12 resolution to do that. You could have
 13 assembled your group, made a presentation to
 14 the Council under that current resolution to do
 15 whatever rendering you want to do.
 16 I just didn't feel that it was necessary
 17 to take up the time for Council to see your
 18 idea as an agenda item when you already had a
 19 vehicle by which to do that, which was through
 20 the resolution that was already drafted. We
 21 talked about it at length today. You could

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1 assemble your partners, assemble your artist,
 2 assemble your funding source, and put forth an
 3 idea for this Council to act upon.
 4 This is just a conversation piece. And it
 5 really took up valuable time just to have a
 6 conversation about something that is not going
 7 to be acted upon.
 8 So I think that conceptually what you're
 9 trying to do is to bring people together, and I
 10 support that wholeheartedly, I support that.
 11 There's a vehicle by which to do that,
 12 which is to give us an idea how it's going to
 13 be funded. I even said to you earlier that if
 14 you're going to be a part of that creation of
 15 that idea and that team, you probably want to
 16 recuse yourself from the vote. So to say this
 17 is my idea, I'm going to get a team and bring
 18 it back, I have issues with that. Not the
 19 idea. But the process by which you're going to
 20 do it when there is already a resolution on the
 21 book to do that.

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1 I don't know whether Mr. Kupersmith
 2 enlightened you on that. But there's already a
 3 vehicle by which to do that. And if he hasn't,
 4 I'll talk to him about that as well.
 5 MR. DIVILIO: He did. We did review it.
 6 And the reason for some of the wording on this,
 7 when you look at my resolution, I looked at
 8 yours and I updated yours with mine. And the
 9 only addition really was just changing the
 10 wording and adding a statue, opposed to just
 11 taking down one piece.
 12 So that's what I was thinking of how can I
 13 complete this instead of just the thought
 14 process of are we just going to remove the
 15 Confederate statue and then leave nothing on
 16 the grounds for a Civil War monument, which is
 17 always my follow-up question.
 18 MR. PACK: And there's a vehicle by which
 19 to do that, which is the current resolution.
 20 MS. PRICE: The resolution has already --
 21 MR. PACK: There's a resolution --

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1 MS. PRICE: No. I am disagreeing. The
 2 language is very different. The way they start
 3 out is very different. So I do think they
 4 needed to be separate.
 5 You're not introducing it tonight. I
 6 appreciate the fact that we've had the
 7 discussion on it. I think it's a concept to
 8 have a buffet of options possibly on the table.
 9 And it is one that there was a gentleman,
 10 and I can't remember his name.
 11 MR. PACK: Mr. Merrill.
 12 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Merrill.
 13 MS. PRICE: Who had a similar idea. We
 14 never saw renderings or anything like that.
 15 MR. PACK: There was renderings, there
 16 were renderings. But those were never
 17 presented to Council and acted upon.
 18 Can we go onto our numbered resolutions
 19 now? Okay.
 20 I will say to the audience before we go
 21 into our numbered resolutions, these

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1 resolutions are for introduction purposes only.
 2 There will be no vote on any of these numbered
 3 resolutions tonight. I say that to the persons
 4 in the gallery, also the people who may be
 5 joining by phone.
 6 We have one, two, three, four numbered
 7 resolutions. All numbered resolutions must
 8 have a public hearing. All numbered
 9 resolutions must have a public hearing. And
 10 it's during that public hearing time that you
 11 can voice your opinion on those resolutions.
 12 So I just wanted to make that clear on the
 13 onset that these numbered resolutions that
 14 you're going to be hearing in just a moment by
 15 Madam Secretary are just for introduction
 16 purposes only.
 17 It takes one Council member to introduce
 18 just by lifting his hand or her hand and that
 19 matter is now introduced for public hearing.
 20 So I just want to make sure that just
 21 because a member may lift his or her hand,

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1 doesn't mean that something is being done.
 2 It's just for introduction purposes only.
 3 Okay.
 4 Madam Secretary, now we're going into our
 5 numbered resolutions portion of the agenda. If
 6 you wouldn't mind reading the first resolution.
 7 SECRETARY: A resolution to place a
 8 question on the ballot at the November 2020
 9 general election to amend Section 205 of the
 10 Talbot County Charter to establish term limits
 11 for Talbot County Council members.
 12 MR. PACK: Okay. I believe this matter
 13 came between Mr. Leshar and myself. Pete, I
 14 don't know whether you want to speak to it
 15 first. If not, I can jump on, I'll take it.
 16 There are certain, in the current code,
 17 certain department heads are required to live
 18 within -- am I not on the right one?
 19 MS. PRICE: Did you just say term limits?
 20 MR. DIVILIO: Term limits.
 21 MR. PACK: Oh, I'm sorry. Mr. Leshar, I

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1 do apologize. Excuse me. I'm on the wrong
 2 one. This is me. So I apologize, Mr. Leshar.
 3 This is not you.
 4 The term limit concept was one that I came
 5 up with, not Mr. Leshar, dealing with how
 6 future Councils may evolve. Again, when we
 7 talk about having access with diversity, having
 8 an opportunity for persons to join the Council
 9 through a more routine or regimented manner,
 10 setting term limits would be one vehicle by
 11 which to do that. Sure, the voters have their
 12 say. But it would be one vehicle by which to
 13 do that.
 14 This resolution would set in place a
 15 two-term limit on an individual to serve two
 16 four-year terms. And then he or her would have
 17 to step off the Council for a full term before
 18 being eligible to be considered for another
 19 election cycle.
 20 Again, the premise behind this particular
 21 ballot question would allow a vehicle by which

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1 you would get more diversity persons on the
 2 Council in a more regimented way.
 3 Within the resolution, it would allow for
 4 a Council member to come back in and fill a
 5 term that was not completed. If a Council
 6 member was unable to complete his or her term,
 7 that exiting Council member would be allowed to
 8 come back onto the Council to fulfill that
 9 term, but then would have to step off once that
 10 term is over with.
 11 So it would, again, create a vehicle by
 12 which you would have a more diverse Council on
 13 a two-term cycle. So this is one effort,
 14 again, to bring those diverse voices onto the
 15 Council. So this is why I put forward this
 16 particular resolution.
 17 Any comment or question?
 18 MS. PRICE: Well, no. I definitely have
 19 something to say on this one.
 20 This is something that is probably
 21 appropriate at the federal level, possibly the

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1 State level, but not in a small little rural
 2 county. It is so hard to find people, good
 3 people, not just filling slots. Really hard to
 4 find good people to serve.
 5 And we are so close to the people. You
 6 see us every day on the street, in the grocery
 7 store. And we are held more accountable at
 8 this level, and maybe a Town Council person in
 9 a small area, than any other elected official
 10 that's throughout the country.
 11 And I remember when I first ran in 2010,
 12 there were two sitting Council members, very
 13 popular, familiar people who got voted out.
 14 And they brought in some new blood. And that
 15 would be me and Mr. Hollis.
 16 In 2014, we couldn't even find ten
 17 candidates to run. We only ended up with
 18 seven, and two of them were kind of by default
 19 because two people after a primary couldn't
 20 continue on. So you couldn't even find enough
 21 people to fill a full ballot of five

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1 Republicans and five Democrats.
 2 And people were replaced in the 2018
 3 election. And that's as far as back I go.
 4 But there is plenty of turnover on the
 5 County Council and plenty of accountability. I
 6 think two terms -- I mean if you were ever to
 7 have this discussion, and I don't think with
 8 all of the other things, again, that we're
 9 dealing with, that we need to put another
 10 ballot question forward, I personally don't
 11 think this one is appropriate.
 12 Again, plenty of accountability. We see
 13 you all every day and you vote us in and out of
 14 office. You call us on our cell phones. I
 15 really don't think this one is at all
 16 necessary. I just really don't see putting
 17 this on the ballot.
 18 If you all felt that way, you probably
 19 wouldn't have voted certain people back. And
 20 it's just so hard to find people. You have no
 21 idea.

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1 And you've got three business people
 2 sitting here. Our businesses to an extent are
 3 put on the line every day. We have to be
 4 very -- we have to say what we feel. We have
 5 to vote the conscience of what we feel is in
 6 best interest of the majority of Talbot County
 7 citizens, but we're always going to make
 8 somebody upset.
 9 And I mean I know I'm not planning to do
 10 this again. It's too hard on my business.
 11 It's tough to find good people. So I
 12 don't think it's necessary because you already
 13 have one who is not going to run again.
 14 Anyway, that's a long way of saying I'm
 15 not supportive of this in any way, shape, or
 16 form and not at two terms for sure.
 17 MR. PACK: Any other comment? I'll ask
 18 for a show of hands for introduction.
 19 MR. LESHAR: Mr. Pack, just a question.
 20 We've been -- refresh my memory. We've been
 21 blessed with your presence on this Council for

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1 how many terms now?
 2 MR. PACK: This will be my third, fourth,
 3 13th year.
 4 MR. LESHER: And in your opinion, would
 5 Talbot County's Council have been more diverse
 6 and more blessed if you had been precluded from
 7 running for a third and fourth term?
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: You stopped the vehicle.
 9 MR. PACK: That's a good question, Pete.
 10 That's one that this particular resolution
 11 would allow to see if that's the case, to see
 12 if persons leaving after serving two terms
 13 would open the door for more diversity on the
 14 Council.
 15 That's the objective of the resolution, is
 16 to allow for that vehicle to happen. Of
 17 course, the citizens have the final say, of
 18 course.
 19 Trappe has a term-limit Council. I think
 20 Prince George's County has a term-limit
 21 Council. I can't think of others off the top

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1 of my head, but there are other County Councils
 2 and municipalities and townships that have term
 3 limits. So it's not that unheard of to have a
 4 term limit seat of government.
 5 MS. PRICE: Most of them are much larger
 6 jurisdictions where you can find people.
 7 But we have the citizens decide on this
 8 every four years, and they either vote you back
 9 in or they vote you back out. And they have
 10 certainly turned over several Council members
 11 at a time.
 12 I don't hear a call from the people
 13 talking about you need term limits. Because if
 14 you think you need term limits, guess what,
 15 you're not going to get voted back into office.
 16 MR. PACK: Any other questions, comment?
 17 Yes.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Look at him.
 19 MR. PACK: Yes, Mr. Callahan.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: I'm a little bit like Pete.
 21 I'm not sure that two years --

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1 MR. PACK: Two terms.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Two terms gives you enough
 3 time. We briefly talked about it. But I would
 4 like to see --
 5 MR. PACK: Again, this is just for
 6 introduction. I don't want to keep on going
 7 down the rabbit hole. So I can introduce it by
 8 myself and just set it in for a public hearing.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. No problem.
 10 MR. PACK: So Madam Secretary.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: So I can talk you into
 12 something then, right. Okay, that's good.
 13 MR. PACK: Madam Secretary, I'll introduce
 14 this particular resolution. And we'll set it
 15 in for a public hearing and, therefore, we can
 16 hear from the public to see if there is an
 17 outcry for a term limit or not. But at least
 18 let the people have a say-so on the matter, as
 19 we should always do.
 20 The resolution number is 289, and I
 21 believe we're set for the 21st for this one?

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1 SECRETARY: No. It would be the 14th.
 2 MR. PACK: The 14th for this one, okay.
 3 SECRETARY: July 14th.
 4 MR. PACK: July 14th. Time, please.
 5 SECRETARY: At 6:30.
 6 MS. PRICE: Ish.
 7 SECRETARY: In this room.
 8 MR. PACK: 6:30 here in the Bradley
 9 Meeting Room for Resolution 289. Okay.
 10 Moving onto the second numbered resolution
 11 again for introduction purposes only, Madam
 12 Secretary, would you please read the
 13 resolution.
 14 SECRETARY: A resolution prohibiting
 15 statues depicting persons, signs, or symbols
 16 associated with military action on Talbot
 17 County property and providing for the removal
 18 of the Talbot Boys Statue while retaining the
 19 base of the monument.
 20 MR. PACK: Thank you, Madam Secretary.
 21 This was another resolution that I put forward

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1 to this Council for consideration.

2 I don't need to go back down through the

3 long history of the Talbot Boys Statue and what

4 we've seen recently regarding monuments around

5 the country being removed and the reasons why.

6 I've spoken with some of you personally

7 about my reasons for introducing this

8 resolution. I do feel that it is time. I

9 think that this county has reached a point

10 where, again, we have to say what we mean, as I

11 did earlier with the Diversity Statement.

12 The statue, quite honestly, has become to

13 me a source of a distraction. We do have a

14 number of things that this body and future

15 Councils will have to do. And to keep coming

16 back to the question of the removal of the

17 Talbot Boys Statue is not one that any Council

18 should waste any more time on.

19 So the flag, the CSA that's on the buckle

20 of the statue, to some people are very

21 offensive. And I'm not one person to ever tell

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1 a person that they don't have the right to feel

2 the way they feel. So if persons are saying

3 collectively that they feel a certain way when

4 they see that statue, when they see the

5 unfurled flag over the shoulder of the boy or

6 they see the CSC on the belt buckle, that it

7 makes them feel a certain way, and if that's

8 the case, I need to listen and also hear what

9 those persons are saying.

10 And I have. And it has certainly struck a

11 chord with me.

12 As I said to you earlier today,

13 Mr. Callahan, things change. Seasons change,

14 technologies change, and people change.

15 It was once told to me that a man who

16 failed to change his mind will never change the

17 world around him. So I have changed my mind on

18 the Talbot Boys Statue. I think that it is

19 time for it to be removed.

20 Mr. Divilio floated an idea earlier that

21 he's maybe working on with another group.

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1 Perhaps that's a vehicle by which this Council,

2 maybe another Council may go to.

3 But it has reached a time that I feel that

4 the statue should be removed.

5 And retaining the base, if you were to do

6 something similar to, again, what was floated

7 here earlier, then you could do an inscription

8 of the Union soldiers and find a way to

9 incorporate that into the base.

10 After the public hearing, who knows. It

11 may be a motion to remove the base all in

12 itself and open the space up for maybe an even

13 more grander type of a monument to be done in

14 remembrance of both Union and Confederate

15 soldiers here in Talbot County.

16 I don't know. I don't know the answer to

17 that. I just know right now I feel that

18 something needs to be done and this is a step

19 forward in doing that, is to remove the Talbot

20 Boys Statue, allow the citizens to talk to us

21 during the public hearing process, and then see

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1 what next steps or step this Council desires to

2 make.

3 So that's the reason for the resolution

4 that I offer this evening.

5 If there are no comments or questions, I

6 will --

7 MS. PRICE: I prepared a statement. And I

8 think it's probably more appropriate to read it

9 now during this before we introduce any

10 resolutions.

11 And I do have extra copies for the press

12 afterwards if you grab one from me.

13 No decision made through fear and

14 intimidation is for the civic good. Such

15 decisions are morally empty and dangerous to

16 the fabric of our community and to the

17 Constitution --

18 MR. PACK: Ms. Price, I'm going to stop

19 you now just for order. Right now we're just

20 asking for introduction of this.

21 If you want to save them for your closing

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1 comment --

2 MS. PRICE: I'd rather just finish it.

3 MR. PACK: Just for a matter of order,

4 you're out of order reading that at this

5 particular time.

6 MS. PRICE: If I were just going to make

7 comments, I'd be able to make comments. I

8 chose to write them down.

9 And you're going to interrupt something

10 when I don't know how long the press is going

11 to be here. They may leave.

12 So I'm going to ask for the courtesy --

13 MR. PACK: Ms. Price, just as a matter of

14 order. If the matter hasn't even been

15 introduced, if you wanted to --

16 MS. PRICE: Okay. Introduce your

17 resolution. Then I'll read it.

18 MR. PACK: The chair would ask for a show

19 of hands for introduction of the resolution as

20 read. By Mr. Leshner and Mr. Pack.

21 The resolution number is Resolution 290,

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1 and I believe this public hearing we will have

2 set for. . .

3 SECRETARY: Tuesday, July 28th, at 6:30,

4 in the Easton High School Auditorium.

5 MR. PACK: Tuesday, July 28th, 6:30. And

6 again, please make note that this public

7 hearing will not be held here. It will be held

8 at the high school at the auditorium. In that

9 case, we're going to allow for more citizens to

10 come in and give public testimony on the

11 resolution.

12 We will not have the Webex set up for

13 persons to call in and give their statements.

14 So it will be done in person only at that time.

15 Is that correct, Ms. Morris?

16 MS. MORRIS: Correct.

17 MR. PACK: Just in person, okay.

18 Ms. Price, I'm going to move onto the next

19 resolution so we can get through these next

20 two.

21 MR. LESHER: Mr. Pack, we can't offer any

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1 words of explanation after that introduction?

2 MS. PRICE: Yeah. I mean we always have

3 discussion on a resolution. I'm highly

4 offended at the moment.

5 MR. PACK: Ms. Price, we do have --

6 Ms. Price, read your statement. We will

7 entertain you to read --

8 MS. PRICE: Thank you. Otherwise we're

9 going to be another two or three hours and

10 possibly public comment even later than that.

11 So you know.

12 No decision made through fear and

13 intimidation is for the civic good. Such

14 decisions are morally empty and dangerous to

15 the fabric of our community and to the

16 Constitution under which this nation has

17 existed for nearly 300 years.

18 While there are those who are demanding

19 the immediate removal of the statue, there is

20 another group of people who are afraid, afraid

21 to speak out for fear of being labeled or,

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1 worse yet, targeted.

2 These are not the tactics of a free

3 society. They are the tactics of an

4 authoritarian government, and we should never

5 embrace those.

6 Instead, we need to calm our voices and

7 treat each other with civility so that we

8 actually hear each other's voices, all of them.

9 Those who are threatening us are simply using

10 the tactics they would have us to believe that

11 they abhor.

12 No matter what I say, there will be people

13 who disagree.

14 In ten years, I've never catered to one

15 group or voted on the basis of those who are

16 the most vocal publicly, nor will I do so now.

17 Removing the Talbot Boys Statue might be a

18 real issue in our community or it might simply

19 be an abrupt reaction to the chaos that is

20 being fanned around the country.

21 I do know one thing. Removing the Talbot

| | |
|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 110</p> <p>1 Boys Statue has nothing to do with George 2 Floyd, though his horrible death is being 3 hijacked. 4 Surely everyone who reads seriously about 5 what is happening in this country is aware of 6 the takeover of a movement that began with an 7 honest protest against the murder of George 8 Floyd and the demand that law and order be 9 administered in a just and equitable way. 10 I watch what has happened in this country, 11 and it makes me sick. The daytime peaceful 12 protests have escalated too often into chaos 13 and lawlessness. I'm outraged by the looting 14 and the rioting. But I was not elected to 15 solve the problems in Minneapolis, Seattle, New 16 York, or even Baltimore. 17 I was elected to balance a budget, I was 18 elected to guard the taxpayer dollars and 19 spend your money wisely. I was elected to make 20 decisions on zoning issues. I was elected to 21 help oversee county government.</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 112</p> <p>1 creative and possibly blending two statues 2 together and including all the names, both 3 Union and Confederate, no longer seem to be 4 willing to compromise. This is a real loss. 5 We are neighbors. We are friends. We share a 6 messy, painful, and mostly positive history 7 since those days. 8 If the County Council or the citizens via 9 a ballot question, which I'll be discussing 10 going forward, do decide to remove the statue, 11 then it should not be done within the context 12 of the chaos raging in our country. 13 Never should an individual or an elected 14 body succumb to the demands of those who wish 15 to destroy law and order. We should not be 16 influenced by an angry national movement. Our 17 actions must be in relation to our county. 18 Decisions must not be made on the emotions of 19 the day. 20 Should my opinion matter? As a citizen, 21 yes. But as an elected Council member, no. We</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 111</p> <p>1 I was not elected to make a decision on a 2 statue from 100 years ago. If that were the 3 case, you would have an entirely different 4 Council sitting here. 5 We have been through this, not once, but 6 twice since I've been on the Council. We 7 carefully weighed the facts in the past, held 8 public hearings, and made options available for 9 groups to balance the story. First, with the 10 Frederick Douglass Statue and also offering 11 space for a Union memorial if groups desired to 12 build one, which we just talked about. 13 Discussions were held, work sessions were 14 undertaken, and there seemed to be a 15 willingness for compromise to truly tell the 16 whole story of this county in the context of 17 very real conflict between those who supported 18 the Union and those who supported the 19 Confederacy, not just tear down something that 20 is painful for some. 21 People who were once open to being</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 113</p> <p>1 must take the time to listen to everyone and 2 gather all the facts again. 3 Maybe this time is different. I 4 acknowledge that. But I'm going to take the 5 time to make sure that we do that. 6 I do hope that we can put an official poll 7 out to the people. That is the only way that 8 it will allow us the time to weigh all the 9 facts and absorb what is going on all around 10 us. 11 Thank you. 12 I appreciate reading the statement now 13 before we are all very, very tired in about 14 three hours. So thank you. 15 MR. LESHHER: Mr. Pack, just briefly. 16 MR. PACK: Please. 17 MR. LESHHER: I did sponsor this resolution 18 with you. And by doing so, it is not because I 19 support leaving the pedestal in place, removing 20 only the monument. 21 But because this is a numbered resolution,</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| Page 114 | Page 116 |
| <p>1 this will give the public a hearing, an</p> <p>2 opportunity to speak on this.</p> <p>3 And I've heard from many of you by e-mail</p> <p>4 and by other means that you do want a voice on</p> <p>5 this, you do want to be able to speak on this.</p> <p>6 And this will give that opportunity.</p> <p>7 At that time, I intend to introduce an</p> <p>8 amendment to this resolution which would alter</p> <p>9 it such that it would remove, the resolution</p> <p>10 would remove both the statue and the pedestal,</p> <p>11 the complete monument.</p> <p>12 I believe that that is the way forward. I</p> <p>13 am supporting this, I am sponsoring this</p> <p>14 resolution in order so that we may get the</p> <p>15 process that will both engage the public and</p> <p>16 get to that desired outcome.</p> <p>17 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Leshner, for your</p> <p>18 support. And we welcome seeing any amendment</p> <p>19 you want to put forth as we go forward through</p> <p>20 the public hearing process.</p> <p>21 I'm just a bit stunned by Ms. Price's</p> | <p>1 R10A zoning district upon annexation will</p> <p>2 result in substantially different uses or</p> <p>3 substantially higher density, exceeding</p> <p>4 50 percent, than could be granted for proposed</p> <p>5 development under the pre-annexation county</p> <p>6 zoning, and waiving the five-year hold in</p> <p>7 accordance with Local Government Article</p> <p>8 section 4-416 of the Maryland Annotated Code.</p> <p>9 MR. PACK: Thank you, Madam Secretary.</p> <p>10 Mr. Kupersmith, can you hear me?</p> <p>11 MS. MORRIS: One moment, please. I'm just</p> <p>12 switching the presenter.</p> <p>13 MR. KUPERSMITH: Yes, Mr. Pack. Can you</p> <p>14 hear me?</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: Yes, I can. Did you want to</p> <p>16 speak to this matter before we ask for</p> <p>17 introduction on the resolution?</p> <p>18 MR. KUPERSMITH: Sure, I'm happy to.</p> <p>19 This resolution has to do with the</p> <p>20 Dutchman's Lane annexation. And in that</p> <p>21 annexation, the county has asked the Town of</p> |
| Page 115 | Page 117 |
| <p>1 reading because before coming out here, we were</p> <p>2 to instruct citizens not to give lengthy</p> <p>3 comments on the statue, as it was just an</p> <p>4 introduction only, and that the public hearing</p> <p>5 process would allow persons to speak more fully</p> <p>6 on the statue.</p> <p>7 To have such a double standard to now read</p> <p>8 a two-page report and now tell citizens they</p> <p>9 can't speak, I'm just appalled by that. I'm</p> <p>10 just absolutely appalled by it.</p> <p>11 But let's move on. Madam Secretary, would</p> <p>12 you please read the next resolution.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: A resolution concerning the</p> <p>14 proposed rezoning by the Town of Easton,</p> <p>15 Maryland, the town, of real property located at</p> <p>16 29328 Dutchman's Lane, Easton, Maryland 21601.</p> <p>17 Further described as tax map 34, parcel 91.</p> <p>18 Consisting of approximately 1.696 acres, plus</p> <p>19 or minus, the property. Finding that the</p> <p>20 proposed rezoning from Talbot County's town</p> <p>21 residential, TR, zoning district to the town's</p> | <p>1 Easton to annex both Dutchman's Lane and a</p> <p>2 small residential property.</p> <p>3 The residential property has to come in as</p> <p>4 part of the annexation to avoid creating an</p> <p>5 enclave.</p> <p>6 So whenever we do an annexation or</p> <p>7 whenever the town does an annexation, they have</p> <p>8 to select a new zoning category for the</p> <p>9 property. And so the issue comes up if the</p> <p>10 proposed town zoning is substantially different</p> <p>11 in terms of use or density from the previous</p> <p>12 county zoning, then the County Council has to</p> <p>13 decide whether to waive a five-year hold.</p> <p>14 So here we're going from town residential</p> <p>15 county zoning to R10A town zoning. And so it</p> <p>16 is substantially different. And this</p> <p>17 resolution would waive the five-year hold so</p> <p>18 that this residential property, which is</p> <p>19 1.696 acres, can be put into R10A.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: Thank you for that explanation.</p> <p>21 Any questions of Mr. Kupersmith, any</p> |

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1 comments? Hearing none, the chair would ask
 2 for a show of hands for introduction only for
 3 this evening.
 4 Madam Secretary, by Council. And I
 5 believe we're at 291 now.
 6 SECRETARY: Yes. And this public hearing
 7 will be on Tuesday, July 21st, at Easton High
 8 School auditorium.
 9 MR. PACK: Easton auditorium. And it's a
 10 6:30 public hearing, roundabout.
 11 SECRETARY: Yeah, 6:30.
 12 MR. PACK: And the last numbered
 13 resolution we have this evening.
 14 SECRETARY: A resolution authorizing the
 15 transfer of a portion of Dutchman's Lane to the
 16 Town of Easton and authorizing the execution of
 17 a quitclaim deed to effect the transfer.
 18 MR. PACK: We have been after this for
 19 quite some time, Mr. Kupersmith. Are you still
 20 there? Do you wish to speak to this before we
 21 ask for introduction, sir?

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1 MR. KUPERSMITH: Thank you, Mr. Pack.
 2 Briefly.
 3 The purpose of the Dutchman's Lane
 4 annexation is ultimately to allow the county to
 5 transfer a large portion of Dutchman's Lane to
 6 the Town of Easton.
 7 So the Local Government Article requires
 8 that when you dispose of real property, you
 9 have to provide notice and the opportunity for
 10 public comment. So this resolution does that.
 11 It authorizes the transfer of this portion of
 12 Dutchman's Lane to the Town of Easton following
 13 the annexation.
 14 And we would be conveying the road to
 15 Easton by quitclaim deed for no monetary
 16 consideration.
 17 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Kupersmith.
 18 Any comment or question of Mr. Kupersmith
 19 on the resolution? Hearing none, the chair
 20 would ask for a show of hands for introduction.
 21 Madam Secretary, by Council. And I

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1 believe this is 292. And I'll look for your
 2 public hearing date.
 3 SECRETARY: Yes. This is Resolution 292.
 4 And the public hearing will be held on Tuesday,
 5 July 21st, at 6:30 p.m. in the Easton High
 6 School auditorium.
 7 MR. PACK: Thank you, Madam Secretary.
 8 Okay.
 9 Council, that ends our numbered
 10 resolutions for tonight.
 11 The next matter that I see on my agenda is
 12 a discussion for a county-wide poll on whether
 13 to remove the Talbot Boys Statue to be
 14 conducted in conjunction with the November
 15 General Election.
 16 I think we've gone through this before
 17 with Mr. Kupersmith, but it's on the agenda. I
 18 don't really understand why.
 19 MS. PRICE: This is my agenda item. And
 20 when we -- I think three of us at one point
 21 separately contacted the county attorney's

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1 office to see about putting a ballot question
 2 on there. And during legal advice, we were
 3 told that this really didn't fit as a charter
 4 amendment. So that we, the County Council,
 5 didn't have a way -- and I think you had
 6 mentioned that in your comments a couple of
 7 weeks ago, Mr. Pack.
 8 But we were interested in doing that
 9 because -- and I led into that in the comments
 10 that I just made a few minutes ago, that I
 11 think the best place for this is to let the
 12 people in the privacy of a voting booth be able
 13 to speak on this matter.
 14 So we can't do it as a charter amendment.
 15 Then we explored the option of whether or
 16 not we could just do it as, I'm trying to
 17 think, Mr. Kupersmith, a non-binding straw
 18 poll, but that would require the General
 19 Assembly basically to give us permission.
 20 Well, the General Assembly is not in session
 21 right now.

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1 So it would require being a little bit
 2 more creative, but I don't think it would be
 3 difficult.
 4 I really would like the people to -- I
 5 mean yes, we're getting a lot of e-mails, no
 6 doubt. But I'd really like everybody to be
 7 able to voice their opinion on that.
 8 And I think there's a fairly simple way
 9 that we could do it that would be not
 10 ridiculously expensive either. If, on Election
 11 Day, we could simply print up a piece of paper
 12 with yes or no, and maybe even incorporate
 13 Mr. Divilio's option, maybe three options.
 14 Yes, remove. No, keep it. Three, marry them
 15 together. We could do that.
 16 And literally as people are leaving, they
 17 would be handed a piece of paper with those
 18 options. And you would have two volunteers
 19 manning each ballot box, just like normally.
 20 You have a Republican and a Democrat judge.
 21 You could have two people that would literally,

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1 you just check the box yes or no or marriage,
 2 whichever you decide to do, drop it off. We
 3 hire an accounting firm to count it up and we
 4 know. Very simple.
 5 And I just don't see, I don't see any down
 6 side to allowing the people, all of the people
 7 who are voting on Election Day to let us know
 8 what they want.
 9 We've been through this twice. Some
 10 people liked our decision the last two times,
 11 some people didn't like our decision. Maybe
 12 it's time to let you all make that decision. I
 13 think we could do it.
 14 MR. PACK: Okay. So we have introduction
 15 of legislation.
 16 MS. PRICE: Is there no other discussion?
 17 MR. PACK: I have nothing to say on that,
 18 Ms. Price.
 19 I think we've already heard from
 20 Mr. Kupersmith on it.
 21 The quickest way for it to generate a

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1 challenge is to do what you're suggesting for
 2 us to do and to spend funds to do something
 3 that this Council needs to do. The Council
 4 needs to put on his big boy pants and make a
 5 decision.
 6 Yes, we were trying to get it on the
 7 ballot, but there's no vehicle by which to do
 8 that for this year. General Assembly is not in
 9 session.
 10 We have to make a decision. So I mean to
 11 try to put up boxes out at the 100-foot mark
 12 for people to drop in --
 13 MS. PRICE: We would have to work with the
 14 Election Board.
 15 MR. PACK: They will not do it. I don't
 16 know whether Mr. Kupersmith has given you full
 17 information, but --
 18 MS. PRICE: He has. And I think that --
 19 MR. PACK: Let me finish.
 20 MS. PRICE: -- we can talk to Ms. Cook
 21 to --

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1 MR. PACK: She is not going to do it.
 2 Ms. Cook has said directly --
 3 MS. PRICE: I'm not asking for her to do
 4 anything other than allow us to be within the
 5 100-foot line so that we know that they are
 6 actually registered voters.
 7 MR. PACK: She is not going to take part
 8 in --
 9 MS. PRICE: And she works for us.
 10 MR. PACK: She does not. Ms. Cook is a
 11 State employee. She does not work for us. She
 12 is a State employee.
 13 MS. PRICE: We pay everybody at the
 14 Election Board.
 15 MR. DIVILIO: I'll say one thing positive
 16 about it just because I brought this up, too.
 17 I did ask the county Office of Law about this.
 18 One of my thoughts was that everybody in
 19 Talbot County has a right to voice their
 20 opinion on this. And we get a ton of e-mails
 21 and phone calls. And a lot of people don't --

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1 many people, constituents I talk to don't even
 2 realize how many e-mails we get and phone calls
 3 we get or how much we try to get out into the
 4 community to find out.
 5 I was looking for a way that each member
 6 of this community could go in and be part of
 7 history and put their thumb on or check the box
 8 or be part of the decision themselves.
 9 And yes, the biggest pushback I got was we
 10 elected you to make that decision for us.
 11 But the community needs to know that we
 12 have looked at almost every option, at every
 13 option I could think of on how to properly
 14 handle this so that we have the most input from
 15 the community.
 16 And that's probably the one way to
 17 guaranty everybody has an option to voice their
 18 own opinion. But unfortunately, due to timing,
 19 I don't think it would work. It will not work
 20 to get it onto this ballot that we need it on
 21 right now officially as a question (inaudible).

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1 And it's something that is so far out of
 2 the box that this county is still
 3 investigating, trying to figure out everything
 4 that we can do to make sure that the community
 5 has a voice.
 6 MS. PRICE: I just felt like we could be
 7 creative and making sure that you catch the
 8 person as they're exiting the door, that you
 9 know they've been through voter registration,
 10 that they are actually Talbot County citizens.
 11 I would not be asking Ms. Cook to do
 12 anything other than allow someone to be, two
 13 people to be standing there and people could
 14 just literally put it in. It could be so
 15 simple. We don't need to complicate it.
 16 And all I'm asking for right now is let's
 17 discuss it because none of this other stuff is
 18 going to get voted on and stuff tonight. So I
 19 would just like to explore whether it's a
 20 viable option because honestly there's no
 21 better option than for you all to decide.

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1 Because no matter what we do up here, there's
 2 going to be unhappy people. And you're going
 3 to feel like oh, my voice wasn't heard.
 4 And as I stated in any comments earlier,
 5 there are people who are afraid to speak up.
 6 And I want to make sure that I'm, as I said,
 7 that I'm making sure that I hear from everybody
 8 who is capable of doing so. And some people
 9 are much more comfortable through a ballot,
 10 which is why we do ballot questions.
 11 And so we have to be a little more
 12 creative. So I'd just like to explore the
 13 option. There's no resolution offered this
 14 evening. But we're not taking this statue down
 15 tomorrow. We're not voting on this tonight,
 16 and I would just like to explore the option
 17 could this be done, can we have a conversation,
 18 what do you all think, would that be your
 19 preference.
 20 You can e-mail us on that, too. I've
 21 gotten lots of e-mails saying put it on the

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1 ballot. Well, it's a little complicated this
 2 year. We can't do that. And I don't think
 3 anybody wants to wait two years.
 4 So let's get some feedback on that. But
 5 we don't need to shut the door on the
 6 opportunity tonight.
 7 MR. PACK: Okay. We have several
 8 introduction of legislation for Council
 9 consideration this evening.
 10 Hello, Ms. Lane. Good to see you.
 11 MS. LANE: Good evening, Council.
 12 MR. PACK: We have several bills for
 13 introduction. And Ms. Lane, why don't you go
 14 ahead and read the bill number and the title.
 15 MS. LANE: We have 14 bills.
 16 MR. PACK: Fourteen.
 17 MS. LANE: For introduction. These are
 18 all part of the budget process, the fiscal 21
 19 budget. These are all capital items that are
 20 included in our fiscal 21 budget.
 21 So I don't know if it would be acceptable

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1 to Council for me to read the title of all 14
 2 bills and have them introduced as a group or if
 3 there are one or two that you are uncomfortable
 4 with leaving in a group, we can pull those out
 5 separately.
 6 MR. PACK: Have you all looked at all
 7 these bills? If there anyone that wants to
 8 pull any of these bills out separately?
 9 I would suggest that we take them as a
 10 group.
 11 MR. DIVILIO: Yeah, I think that. . .
 12 MR. PACK: Have you looked these over,
 13 members? Does anyone want to pull any one out
 14 separately?
 15 MR. LESHER: Mr. Pack, item P, this is the
 16 zoning one. Would that be not grouped --
 17 MS. LANE: That's not part of this 14.
 18 MR. LESHER: Like otherwise O, that's a
 19 zoning matter. So that would not be grouped
 20 with these?
 21 MS. LANE: Correct.

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1 MR. LESHER: It would just be A through N
 2 would be the grouping?
 3 MS. LANE: I don't have A through N.
 4 SECRETARY: The last one of the capital
 5 enabling legislation is a bill to authorize the
 6 resurfacing repaving of the St. Michael's
 7 school parking lot.
 8 MR. LESHER: Thank you. I'm comfortable
 9 with grouping them.
 10 MR. PACK: Thank you very much. So as a
 11 group, Ms. Lane, if you wouldn't mind reading
 12 through all 14 and we'll. . .
 13 MS. LANE: All right. The first one is a
 14 bill to amend Bill Number 1366, the
 15 appropriation for improvements to Black Dog
 16 Alley, a bill to authorize the replacement of
 17 the Easton High School football track, a bill
 18 to authorize a nutrient credit program.
 19 MR. PACK: Ms. Lane, these all each have
 20 separate bill numbers to them. Do we need to
 21 have the bill number read along with it so we

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1 can have that for the record?
 2 MS. LANE: I think we do the bill number
 3 after you've introduced.
 4 MR. PACK: So you want to go back and do
 5 the bill number for each one?
 6 MS. LANE: I have the range.
 7 MR. PACK: Okay. Go ahead. As long as we
 8 have those in there. Go ahead.
 9 MS. LANE: A bill to authorize the
 10 purchase of additional security cameras for
 11 St. Michael's High School.
 12 MR. PACK: Okay.
 13 MS. LANE: A bill to amend Bill Number
 14 1393, the appropriation for the development of
 15 the Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe
 16 located at 13213 Lewistown Road, Queen Anne,
 17 Maryland.
 18 A bill to amend Bill Number 1404, the
 19 appropriation for a sewer system for the Ferry
 20 Point Marina and surrounding areas.
 21 A bill to amend Bill Number 1430 and Bill

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1 Number 1362, the appropriation for the region
 2 two St. Michael's sewer rehabilitation and
 3 improvements.
 4 A bill to authorize the purchase and
 5 installation of a new telephone and public
 6 address system for the White Marsh Elementary
 7 School.
 8 A bill to amend Bill Number 1420, the
 9 appropriation for the renovation of classrooms
 10 at the Easton Elementary School Dobson building
 11 for the Early Head Start program.
 12 A bill to amend Bill Number 1422, Bill
 13 Number 1335, and Bill Number 1317, the
 14 appropriation for storm water management and
 15 upgrades of Goldsborough Neck Road and Airport
 16 Road.
 17 A bill to authorize improvements to
 18 Skipton Creek Landing boat ramp.
 19 A bill to authorize the resurfacing
 20 repaving of the Easton High School parking lot.
 21 A bill to authorize a gymnasium addition

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1 to the Talbot County Community Center.
 2 A bill to authorize the resurfacing
 3 repaving of the St. Michael's High School
 4 parking lot.
 5 And if these are all introduced by
 6 Council, they will be Bill Numbers 1448 through
 7 Bill Number 1461.
 8 MR. PACK: Okay.
 9 MS. PRICE: May I ask just for one of them
 10 to be pulled out?
 11 MS. LANE: Sure.
 12 MS. PRICE: And the one I would ask to be
 13 pulled out would be the gymnasium.
 14 MS. LANE: Okay.
 15 MS. PRICE: At the Community Center.
 16 MS. LANE: So that --
 17 MS. MORRIS: 1460.
 18 MR. PACK: 1460.
 19 MS. LANE: This was an existing project
 20 where we have reallocated the funding streams
 21 in the budget.

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1 MS. PRICE: We didn't think we were going
 2 to get near as much like grant funding, and the
 3 private donations have not come in the way we
 4 hoped.
 5 MS. LANE: We actually have additional
 6 grant funds, but we had originally projected
 7 using donations and contributions for the
 8 majority of the project. And we have not been
 9 successful in identifying sources for donations
 10 and contributions.
 11 So we now have additional federal and
 12 State grants. That would be approximately
 13 \$1,450,000 of federal and State grants.
 14 This would propose using long-term
 15 borrowing of approximately \$2,385,000 and
 16 approximately 165,000 in funds from the
 17 recreation fund, including contributions
 18 received for the project. And if we receive
 19 additional contributions, we would obviously
 20 borrow less money.
 21 MS. PRICE: Right. But at this point the

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1 way it's written, it's over \$2 million in
 2 borrowing to the county?
 3 MS. LANE: Yes.
 4 MS. PRICE: And so we know that we are in
 5 unprecedented times with the budget. We have
 6 no idea how that's going to come in.
 7 MS. LANE: Actually, in this case, we can
 8 use Program Open Space for the principal
 9 payments of this debt service. So there is an
 10 identified funding stream for the principal
 11 portion of debt service.
 12 MR. HOLLIS: The interest would be on the
 13 county side.
 14 MS. LANE: Yes.
 15 MS. PRICE: So there's a couple of issues,
 16 which is why I want to pull this one.
 17 And that is that the State government is
 18 going to make cuts to the counties. And they
 19 are losing billions of dollars in revenue
 20 sources. And I would say that Program Open
 21 Space could be vulnerable.

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1 So I'm not comfortable that we're going to
 2 get what we hope we're going to get on Program
 3 Open Space. So that's number one.
 4 Number two, we have many other capital
 5 projects. We still don't really have a way to
 6 pay for the school that's now done. I assuming
 7 it's done. We have to --
 8 MS. LANE: Just about.
 9 MS. PRICE: We've heard this before.
 10 Health Department.
 11 And while that's a nice to have, we
 12 subsidize the Community Center every year.
 13 So the reason I'm asking for this one to
 14 be pulled out is this is the one that I'm
 15 really not comfortable with because it's a lot
 16 of money. And even though Program Open Space
 17 might pay half or two-thirds or whatever the
 18 principal turns out to be, I'm not convinced
 19 that the State -- I mean we know there's going
 20 to be State cuts. And even if they keep that
 21 one, they're going to cut something else from

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1 our -- that they're going to make us take on --
 2 MR. PACK: We're just introducing tonight,
 3 Ms. Price. We're not taking any action but
 4 introduction.
 5 I will introduce 1460. So if no other
 6 Council member wishes to introduce it
 7 tonight --
 8 MS. PRICE: I just want to pull that one
 9 out.
 10 MR. PACK: -- I introduce it. I will
 11 introduce 1460. So introduced by Mr. Pack and
 12 Mr. Callahan and also Mr. Divilio.
 13 Mr. Leshner?
 14 MR. LESHER: I'll hold off.
 15 MR. PACK: He'll hold off. So 1460
 16 introduced by Mr. Pack, Mr. Divilio, and
 17 Mr. Callahan. So that's introduced with us
 18 three.
 19 So as far as the other matters before
 20 Council for introduction, is there any other
 21 questions regarding those other bills? Hearing

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1 none, the chair would ask for a show of hands
 2 for introducing as that grouping of bills. By
 3 Council for the remainder of those bills.
 4 MS. LANE: Okay. Thank you, Council.
 5 One thing I will say is before we can do
 6 any long-term borrowing, we do have to enact
 7 separate enabling legislation. So no project
 8 that has borrowing associated with it can move
 9 forward on the borrowing without us coming back
 10 to Council to specifically authorize the
 11 borrowing.
 12 So there is that other layer of --
 13 MS. PRICE: It's just important that the
 14 public knows every step of the way. Didn't
 15 have to be a long conversation, but I think the
 16 public deserved to know why we're pulling that
 17 one specifically out.
 18 MS. LANE: Thank you, Council. The public
 19 hearings will be on July. . .
 20 MR. HOLLIS: Fourteenth.
 21 MS. LANE: Fourteenth.

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1 SECRETARY: Yes. 6:30 p.m.
 2 MR. PACK: July 14th.
 3 SECRETARY: In the Bradley Room here.
 4 MR. PACK: Here, Bradley Room.
 5 MS. LANE: Thank you, Council.
 6 MR. PACK: Thank you, Ms. Lane.
 7 Okay, Council. Now moving on, we have two
 8 more matters for introduction, two more bills
 9 for introduction. One dealing with the
 10 repealing of zoning map 34.
 11 Madam Secretary, if you wouldn't mind
 12 reading that bill.
 13 SECRETARY: A bill to repeal official
 14 zoning map 34 of Talbot County and reenact the
 15 same with an amendment designating the zoning
 16 district of a parcel of land shown on tax map
 17 34 and described as Third Street on a plat
 18 titled de-annexation plat, Town of Easton,
 19 Third Street right of way in the Town of
 20 Easton, Talbot County, Maryland. Tax map 34,
 21 grid N/A, parcel N/A. Prepared by Lane

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1 Engineering, Inc. and dated April 28, 2020.
 2 Such parcel consisting of 0.57 acres, plus or
 3 minus, from the R10A Town of Easton zoning
 4 district to town residential, Talbot County
 5 zoning district, in part, and town
 6 conservation, Talbot County zoning, in part,
 7 which zoning designation is contingent upon the
 8 de-annexation of Third Street by the Town of
 9 Easton, Maryland.
 10 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Madam
 11 Secretary.
 12 Mr. Kupersmith, just for a bit of clarity,
 13 I'm going to turn to you on this.
 14 MR. KUPERSMITH: Thank you, Mr. Pack.
 15 This also is part of the Dutchman's Lane
 16 transaction. The whole transaction involves
 17 three different pieces. There's the annexation
 18 of Dutchman's Lane and the Covington Property.
 19 There's then the de-annexation of Third Street,
 20 and that's what this bill has to do with. And
 21 then there's the transfer of the road to the

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1 Town of Easton.
 2 So when we're doing the annexation, the
 3 annexation would create an enclave unless the
 4 Town of Easton simultaneously de-annexes Third
 5 Street.
 6 Third Street is located a little bit
 7 further down Route 50 from where Dutchman's
 8 Lane is. And all it is is a paper street right
 9 now. I don't believe that it's improved other
 10 than perhaps it's a dirt road.
 11 And so when the town de-annexes this, it's
 12 going to come back into the county. And the
 13 county needs to put a zoning designation on it.
 14 The zoning designation that's proposed
 15 here would just be consistent with the
 16 underlying and neighboring county zoning, and
 17 that is TR, town residential and town
 18 conservation.
 19 MR. PACK: Okay. Thank you,
 20 Mr. Kupersmith.
 21 Any questions of Mr. Kupersmith on the

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1 bill? Hearing none, the chair would ask for a
 2 show of hands for introduction this evening.
 3 And by Council.
 4 And the public hearing date for this one,
 5 Ms. Moran?
 6 SECRETARY: Yes. It will be known as Bill
 7 Number 1462. And the public hearing will be on
 8 Tuesday, July 21st, in the Easton High School
 9 auditorium.
 10 MR. PACK: Okay. And we have one more
 11 bill for introduction. If you wouldn't mind
 12 reading that one.
 13 SECRETARY: A bill to amend article three
 14 of Chapter 64 of the Talbot County Code,
 15 development impact fees, to add new definitions
 16 for single-family detached dwelling and other
 17 residential.
 18 MR. PACK: Thank you, Ms. Moran.
 19 I had Ms. Verdery, I don't think she's
 20 with us tonight, work on this to allow for some
 21 flexibility when it comes to single-family

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1 homes here in Talbot County and how they're
 2 treated.
 3 So this would give a new definition for
 4 single-family homes to allow them to take
 5 advantage of some waiver of the impact fee,
 6 reduction of impact fee I should say.
 7 So before if you were a single detached
 8 home, you could not get the reduction of impact
 9 fee or the waiver of impact fee. You weren't
 10 eligible for it. This would allow those
 11 smaller units that a builder may be building,
 12 700 foot.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. One lot.
 14 MR. PACK: On one lot, right.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: On one lot. That's the
 16 key.
 17 MR. PACK: And would allow that developer
 18 to take advantage of this fee reduction,
 19 demonstrating that these homes are created for
 20 low income and working people. And we didn't
 21 have that before in our code.

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1 So Ms. Verdery looked at it and we were
 2 able to come up with this option for Council to
 3 consider. So I just want to give you some
 4 background as to where we are with that. I
 5 don't see her in the room to speak to it.
 6 I'm sure if a Council member wanted to get
 7 some more detail, Ms. Verdery would be happy to
 8 sit down with you for a more detailed
 9 explanation.
 10 So if there's no more comment or question
 11 about it, I will ask for a show of hands for
 12 introduction this evening. By Mr. Divilio,
 13 Mr. Callahan, myself, and Ms. Price.
 14 This will be Bill 1463 I have, Madam
 15 Secretary.
 16 SECRETARY: Yes, that is correct.
 17 MR. PACK: And you have a hearing date for
 18 us?
 19 SECRETARY: Will be Tuesday, July 14th,
 20 here at 6:30 in the Bradley Meeting Room.
 21 MR. PACK: Thank you. Okay. Thank you.

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1 So that gets us through the introduction of
 2 bills.
 3 Now, we have public hearing, which was, of
 4 course, slated for 6:30, but it's never the
 5 case.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Close.
 7 MR. PACK: Yeah, real close.
 8 We have several matters for public hearing
 9 this evening. Madam Secretary, what I would
 10 ask you to do is to read each of the matters
 11 that are open for public hearing. And anybody
 12 that's on the phone or anyone here who wants to
 13 speak to any of the resolutions, please come to
 14 the table, give us your name and your address.
 15 If you're speaking for yourself, we'll give you
 16 three minutes on the clock. If you're speaking
 17 for a group, let us know the name of that
 18 group. We'll give you five minutes on the
 19 clock.
 20 So we have four matters for public hearing
 21 tonight. It's about 8:10. Again, we do

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1 apologize for the late start, but we had other
 2 matters we had to dispense of.
 3 So all of these matters that we're going
 4 to hear today are eligible for vote on
 5 July 21st. They're eligible for vote on
 6 July 21st.
 7 So Madam Secretary, what I'm going to ask
 8 you to do is read each of the resolutions, if
 9 you would.
 10 And then anyone who wish to speak. We'll
 11 go through the room first for persons sitting
 12 here and then I'll turn to Ms. Morris so we can
 13 go to the callers on hold.
 14 SECRETARY: Resolution Number 285, a
 15 resolution to place a question on the ballot at
 16 the November 2020 General Election to add a
 17 section to the Talbot County Charter to allow
 18 the County Council to waive residency
 19 requirements for certain employees.
 20 Resolution 286, a resolution to place a
 21 question on the ballot at the November 2020

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1 General Election to amend section 614 of the
 2 Talbot County Charter, to clarify that the
 3 constant yield tax rate certification prepared
 4 by the Maryland Department of Assessments and
 5 Taxation should be used to identify properties
 6 included on the tax rolls.
 7 Resolution 287, a resolution to place a
 8 question on the ballot at the November 2020
 9 General Election to amend section 614 of the
 10 Talbot County Charter so that consumer price
 11 index urban, CPIU, a measure intended to track
 12 the cost of goods in urban, not rural, settings
 13 is no longer used in calculating the cap on
 14 revenues derived from real property taxes in
 15 Talbot County.
 16 And Resolution Number 288, a resolution to
 17 place a question on the ballot at the
 18 November 2020 General Election to amend section
 19 614 of the Talbot County Charter to allow but
 20 not require the County Council to add up to one
 21 cent per \$100 of assessed value above the

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1 revenue cap for no more than five years
 2 beginning July 1, 2021.
 3 MR. PACK: Thank you, Ms. Moran.
 4 So we'll start here in the room first.
 5 Again, if you want to speak to any one or two
 6 of these resolutions, please come to the table,
 7 give us your name and your address. As I said
 8 before, three minutes if you're speaking for
 9 yourself, five minutes if you're speaking for a
 10 group.
 11 And I'll start on my left in the front
 12 row. Sir, do you wish to speak to any of these
 13 matters? No, you do not.
 14 I'll go to my right. Anyone in that row?
 15 Yes, Ms. Lane, you want to speak to any of
 16 these matters?
 17 MS. LANE: Good evening, Council.
 18 MR. PACK: Good evening.
 19 MS. LANE: I am here speaking on behalf of
 20 the Talbot County Property Tax Referendum
 21 Committee.

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1 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 2 MS. LANE: The Talbot County Property Tax
 3 Referendum Committee was appointed by the
 4 County Council to review the current real
 5 property tax revenue cap and make
 6 recommendations to the County Council on
 7 possible modifications to the revenue cap.
 8 We met starting in October of 2019 and met
 9 from that time period through May of 2020. In
 10 May of 2020, we did present recommendations to
 11 the County Council.
 12 And Resolution 286, Resolution 287, and
 13 Resolution 288 have been developed from the
 14 recommendations made by the Talbot County
 15 Property Tax Referendum Committee.
 16 Therefore, on behalf of the Talbot County
 17 Property Tax Referendum Committee, I request
 18 that Resolution 286, Resolution 287, and
 19 Resolution 288 be approved by the entire County
 20 Council and have all of these important
 21 questions placed on the November 2020 ballot.

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1 Thank you for consideration of this
 2 request. And I didn't give you my name. I'm
 3 Angela Lane. And I guess since I'm
 4 representing the committee, my address is 11
 5 North Washington Street, Easton.
 6 MR. PACK: Thank you very much, Ms. Lane.
 7 Thank you for your leadership in that
 8 committee. And I know that committee was a
 9 very diverse group. I'm not going to have you
 10 read all the names off.
 11 MS. LANE: I do have them if you want
 12 them.
 13 MR. PACK: Not unless Council.
 14 MR. LESHER: Mr. Pack, can I just add my
 15 thanks to Ms. Lane for all the work that you
 16 put into this, you individually and the group
 17 collectively.
 18 MS. LANE: The group was outstanding.
 19 MR. LESHER: Thank you for bringing us to
 20 this point, to bring us some really solid
 21 proposals that are thoroughly vetted and will

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1 provide I believe some real but limited relief
 2 to the county's finances over the course of the
 3 next five years.
 4 MR. DIVILIO: Are we going to vote on this
 5 tonight?
 6 MR. PACK: These matters are eligible for
 7 vote this evening. Mr. Kupersmith --
 8 MR. DIVILIO: Say the names --
 9 MS. PRICE: Before Ms. Lane runs away, I
 10 want to express my thanks, too, even though I
 11 was able to serve on the committee.
 12 But I also don't want the people to think
 13 well, why is a county employee coming up and
 14 speaking in favor of something that would raise
 15 taxes in the county.
 16 She ran the committee. But these, what
 17 she read and the opinion that Ms. Lane is
 18 giving is the opinion of the committee that we
 19 put together as the -- I don't know. Are you
 20 the tax collector and all that? It's not her
 21 opinion. It's the opinion of the committee.

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1 I just don't want anybody to get confused
 2 with isn't that strange that a county employee
 3 would you giving testimony.
 4 MS. LANE: Right.
 5 MS. PRICE: So I just want to make that
 6 clarification.
 7 MS. LANE: And I did notify the Tax
 8 Referendum Committee members that I would be
 9 submitting written comments to the Council.
 10 MS. PRICE: On behalf.
 11 MS. LANE: On behalf the committee.
 12 MS. PRICE: Thank you.
 13 MR. PACK: And I will concur with your
 14 description of that committee as outstanding.
 15 MS. LANE: It was an outstanding group of
 16 people. They were very engaged.
 17 MR. PACK: I would certainly concur with
 18 that.
 19 Ms. Morris, do you have callers on hold
 20 for us for this public hearing?
 21 MS. MORRIS: Mr. Pack, at the time, we

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1 have 55 people participating in the meeting.
 2 So I will unmute the callers, but I would ask
 3 that all callers put themselves on mute as I'm
 4 unmuting. And we'll give them about 30 seconds
 5 or so to do that. And then we will open it up
 6 and ask them to speak one at a time.
 7 MR. PACK: Okay. We have 55 callers
 8 listening in. We're going to unmute the
 9 system, but we ask each caller to put himself
 10 or herself on mute. Find your mute button
 11 wherever it is on your phone or whatever system
 12 that you're using and please click it now.
 13 MS. PRICE: So these are -- they can speak
 14 on any of these four resolutions but nothing
 15 else?
 16 MR. PACK: Any of these four resolutions.
 17 MS. MORRIS: That is correct.
 18 MR. PACK: That's the public hearing.
 19 MS. MORRIS: Here we go.
 20 MR. PACK: Yes. Caller, thank you for
 21 calling in and waiting for us. We're in the

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1 public hearing on the four resolutions before
 2 Council. We ask that you mute your phones,
 3 please.
 4 MS. MORRIS: The participants who are
 5 watching the meeting. . .
 6 MR. PACK: We ask that you please mute
 7 your phones. Thank you.
 8 MS. MORRIS: We are in the middle of the
 9 Talbot County Council meeting. Does anyone
 10 wish to make public comments?
 11 The callers can hear us. And some people
 12 are participating sitting through their
 13 computers and watching it. Some people are
 14 calling in. We have approximately at this time
 15 it looks like we have about ten people calling
 16 in just listening. The remaining 40 people are
 17 listening and watching through the Webex
 18 portal.
 19 MR. PACK: Let's try this one more time so
 20 no person would feel that he or she is being
 21 disenfranchised.

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1 Again, we're going to ask that you please
 2 mute your phone, turn down your computer.
 3 Whatever device you're listening to us on,
 4 please turn that down. Okay. And if you want
 5 to speak on these resolutions, either one or
 6 both, there are four of them, you can do so.
 7 Unmute your phone at this time and give us your
 8 name and your address.
 9 MR. DIVILIO: You can click on that name
 10 in the top left (inaudible).
 11 MR. PACK: Is there a caller wanting to
 12 speak on the resolutions that were read? Okay.
 13 Ms. Moran, before we broadcast something
 14 that we shouldn't broadcast, why don't we go
 15 ahead and stop that.
 16 I'm going to ask, Council, that we not
 17 take vote tonight on these matters. They're
 18 eligible for vote on the 21st.
 19 If anyone wants to send in written
 20 comment, I did give that address out to you at
 21 the beginning of this meeting, please do so.

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1 We will be delighted to hear from you in
 2 writing on Resolution 285, 286, 287, and 288.
 3 Please write us and give us your comment. We
 4 want to hear from you.
 5 But it sounds like we don't have any
 6 callers who are ready to speak to us via Webex
 7 at this time and we want to not broadcast
 8 anything inappropriate.
 9 MR. LESHAR: Mr. Pack, could you repeat
 10 when we'll schedule the vote on this?
 11 MR. PACK: July 21st. July 21st would be
 12 the vote on these resolutions.
 13 MS. PRICE: Where are we going to be
 14 location wise on July 14th?
 15 MR. PACK: Twenty-first, we're at the. . .
 16 MS. PRICE: On July 14th.
 17 SECRETARY: Here.
 18 MR. PACK: July 14th we're here. 21st
 19 we're at the high school.
 20 SECRETARY: And the 28th will be at the
 21 high school.

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1 MS. PRICE: So I guess I was just trying
 2 to figure out a way if any of these people
 3 wanted to speak, if we could get them in person
 4 on the 14th.
 5 MR. PACK: We tried, Ms. Price. We tried.
 6 MS. PRICE: No, no. In person. I guess,
 7 okay, let me rephrase the question. How long
 8 are we going to leave public comment open?
 9 MR. PACK: What about to that Friday
 10 before the 21st? So what would that be, the
 11 18th of July?
 12 MS. PRICE: So would they be allowed to
 13 come in here on July 14th if they fit within
 14 the 28 to make comment in person if they fit?
 15 MR. PACK: If they get in here, they can
 16 do it during the public comment portion.
 17 MS. PRICE: Okay. So we won't have an
 18 official nother public hearing. But if you do
 19 attend the meeting on the 14th and you don't
 20 feel like written comment is good enough for
 21 you, we can take your public comment at the end

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1 of the meeting on the 14th.
 2 MR. PACK: Public comment, certainly, on
 3 any matter before Council. Absolutely.
 4 MS. MORRIS: Excuse me, Mr. Pack.
 5 Mr. Durham did have a good idea. I was trying
 6 to unmute everybody at once. He said why don't
 7 you try them in groups of ten and see if we can
 8 find out if anybody in a smaller group wants
 9 to --
 10 MS. PRICE: I was going to suggest by
 11 alphabetical order.
 12 MS. MORRIS: So would you be willing to
 13 try that?
 14 MR. PACK: What the heck, why not? Take
 15 the first grouping of ten, and let's see if
 16 anybody in that grouping wishes to say anything
 17 to us.
 18 MS. PRICE: Publicly.
 19 MR. PACK: We haven't closed the public
 20 hearing as of yet. So anyone who wants to
 21 speak on these resolutions, please do so.

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1 We're unmuting ten callers at a time.
 2 MS. MORRIS: We're in the first group. If
 3 anybody wishes to speak, please identify
 4 yourself, your name and address, and the floor
 5 is open. Going once.
 6 This is a public hearing of the Talbot
 7 County Council. If anyone wishes to comment on
 8 the resolutions, Resolution 285, Resolution
 9 286, Resolution 287, and Resolution 288, please
 10 state your name and address.
 11 MR. PACK: Ms. Moran, they have until the
 12 18th to send in their written comment. Let's
 13 not, before we hear something that we don't
 14 need to hear.
 15 MS. MORRIS: Okay. Sounds good.
 16 MR. PACK: Let's go ahead and end that
 17 right now. Thank you.
 18 So we're going to move on in our agenda.
 19 Next item up for Council is consideration for
 20 forwarding a letter of support to our
 21 Congressional delegation on HR7120. This is

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1 the Justice in Policing Act of 2020.
 2 Again, I believe you all should have
 3 gotten a copy of the letter and also a copy of
 4 the Act and what the Act entails.
 5 This Act is an oversight, national
 6 oversight on policing that's being offered by
 7 the Congress, the US Congress, that takes on a
 8 number of issues regarding banning or outlawing
 9 certain tactical holds used by officers. It
 10 also entails the creation of a database by
 11 which individuals who are not acceptable to
 12 wear the uniform as a police officer would be
 13 placed on that list. It would also govern
 14 types of training that officers would have to
 15 undergo.
 16 So it's a more uniform way of doing
 17 national standards of policing that has never
 18 been done before.
 19 There are 18,000 I believe policing
 20 agencies across this nation, and each one does
 21 something a little differently.

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1 This would standardize policing, put them
 2 all under one umbrella when it comes to, again,
 3 certain tactical movements or holding positions
 4 that they can use on suspects and also allow
 5 for more oversight when it comes to individuals
 6 who have been -- who should not be on the list
 7 for consideration to wear the uniform and carry
 8 a gun.

9 So I read through this. I believe that
 10 you all should have received a copy of it or at
 11 least a link to go into it and read it. I feel
 12 that it is a solid bill on its face, what it
 13 does. And I would hope that we can send a
 14 letter of support for the Justice in Policing
 15 Act of 2020.

16 So that is my consideration this evening.

17 MS. PRICE: So Mr. Pack, two points of
 18 order.

19 We don't take positions on legislation.
 20 Typically what we've done in the last couple of
 21 years is like for Annapolis, we have bill night

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1 so that we ask for public comment on whether
 2 they feel like we should support a bill or not.

3 I don't think taking a position on a
 4 federal piece of legislation should be treated
 5 any differently than that.

6 So I would ask for, number one, that we
 7 would put this forward for people to make
 8 public comment on.

9 But also, since that particular one was
 10 introduced, that is the Democratic version of
 11 it. And the Republicans also have a version.
 12 In what I've seen and heard, there's about
 13 two-thirds overlap, but there right now are two
 14 separate bills. And while we don't typically
 15 see the two sides working together very often
 16 at the federal level, in this case they are.

17 So I also think it would be prudent to
 18 wait for the two sides to come up with --
 19 because I don't know necessarily if there's
 20 everything in this bill that we would agree
 21 with or the Republican bill. So I think that

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1 it's important to let the federal government at
 2 this point -- our voice isn't going to make
 3 much difference anyhow.

4 I support a lot of what they're trying to
 5 do. But the two sides are trying to work it
 6 out, and I believe that has happened since you
 7 forwarded HR7120. There is another version of
 8 the bill that they're trying to compromise on.

9 So I think we have two points of order,
 10 that it wouldn't be appropriate to take a
 11 position tonight on. That's not what we do on
 12 Annapolis legislation. And I'd like to see
 13 what the compromise bill is first.

14 MR. PACK: I couldn't disagree with you
 15 more.

16 This is a -- although there have been
 17 members of the Democratic-led caucus who put
 18 forth the bill, I think it does have bipartisan
 19 support.

20 We have offered our opinion up on matters
 21 regarding writing letters of support. Yes, we

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1 do have bill night. But as you know, there
 2 were persons on this Council who wanted to
 3 introduce bills after bill night.

4 MS. PRICE: Right. But we have public
 5 comment on them.

6 MR. PACK: So it's like now that I'm
 7 asking for this to be considered, and there's
 8 an issue. I mean it wasn't an issue when
 9 members of this Council wanted to offer up
 10 bills after bill night before.

11 MS. PRICE: But we were going to have
 12 public comment on it and have discussion.

13 MR. PACK: Now it's an issue.

14 MS. PRICE: You're the one whose idea it
 15 was to have legislation, and I believe that our
 16 county attorney has told us that when it's
 17 legislative matters, that obviously we have to
 18 do it publicly.

19 But there are two bills out there. They
 20 are not identical.

21 MR. PACK: I have no problem putting this

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1 on for consideration on the 21st so if people
 2 wanted to weigh in on it.
 3 I think that this Council needs to make a
 4 stand where it is when it comes to the national
 5 policing process that we see in front of us. I
 6 think we either are against over-policing in
 7 various neighborhoods, we either are against
 8 illegal chokeholds being used against
 9 citizens --
 10 MS. PRICE: And that's --
 11 MR. PACK: We either are against people
 12 wearing the uniform who shouldn't be wearing
 13 the uniform --
 14 MS. PRICE: You're putting words in my
 15 mouth.
 16 MR. PACK: I'm not putting anything in
 17 your mouth.
 18 MS. PRICE: You are.
 19 MR. PACK: We --
 20 MS. PRICE: There are two bills.
 21 MR. PACK: We are either against those

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1 things or we're not.
 2 MS. PRICE: That's not what I am trying to
 3 say.
 4 There are two bills being considered at
 5 the federal level. There is an immense amount
 6 of overlap. All the things that you stated are
 7 in both bills.
 8 But there are two bills. And I'm not
 9 ready to take a position on HR7120 when there's
 10 another bill and they're trying to work out the
 11 compromise.
 12 All of the bad things are in both bills
 13 that you want to get rid of.
 14 So I am not against bad policing. Please
 15 don't put those words in my mouth.
 16 MR. PACK: I'm not putting anything -- I
 17 wouldn't dare even try to.
 18 MS. PRICE: Okay. There are two bills.
 19 We do not have the other bill in front of us.
 20 MR. PACK: Ms. Price, if you wanted to
 21 offer up Council to issue a letter on the other

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1 bill, I would happily support that. I would
 2 happily support that.
 3 MS. PRICE: Let's let the federal
 4 government do their thing and bring forth a
 5 letter that we can support when they have a
 6 compromised bill that is the two together.
 7 Right now you're assuming -- there might
 8 be something that we don't like in that that
 9 might be better in the other bill. And I think
 10 it's more appropriate to see both bills side by
 11 side.
 12 But in the meantime, they can work it out
 13 themselves and then we can offer up a letter of
 14 support.
 15 I have no problem sending a letter of
 16 support. I just don't know if everything in
 17 that bill is what I would support and there
 18 might be something from the other bill.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Pack, just a
 20 suggestion. So once we find out down the road
 21 here in the next month or so, we're all going

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1 to read both bills, do you think it's
 2 appropriate to ask the sheriff, his input?
 3 MR. PACK: Why?
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: You know, when it comes to
 5 this tactical stuff and this technical stuff, I
 6 would love to hear his --
 7 MR. PACK: You either are for it, Chuck,
 8 or you're not. I mean it comes down to I
 9 think --
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: I would --
 11 MR. PACK: -- it comes to a point where we
 12 have to make a decision based on what we feel
 13 comfortable with allowing and seeing in our
 14 nation or not.
 15 And we don't need to take a pulse check of
 16 the sheriff or a pulse check of the State's
 17 Attorney to do that.
 18 Your eyes work just as good as mine. You
 19 see what is happening.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, I understand that, I
 21 understand that, Mr. Pack.

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1 So some of this training in the way
 2 they're wording this stuff, me personally, for
 3 25 years in the fire department I was doing
 4 training.
 5 So now we're asking the Council to approve
 6 a letter that we're not really quite sure what
 7 some of this actually means.
 8 I mean I think we're all on board with
 9 proper techniques and stuff. I'm just saying
 10 that Sheriff Gamble, this is his wheelhouse.
 11 It would be nice for him to be on board with
 12 this, too.
 13 MR. PACK: Mr. Callahan, you could have
 14 gone over and spoken to Sheriff Gamble at any
 15 time this week to get his input on this bill.
 16 Did you do that?
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Uh-uh.
 18 MR. PACK: Why not, if I may ask?
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: I wasn't ready to even --
 20 well, first of all, I wasn't on board with
 21 giving support.

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1 MR. PACK: So you didn't really care to
 2 ask him because you weren't on board. So you
 3 didn't really care to find out where his
 4 position was on the bill because you didn't
 5 support it.
 6 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Pack, I think we're
 7 getting a little out of order here.
 8 MR. PACK: I agree.
 9 MR. DIVILIO: There's four things in this
 10 bill. This is a federal bill. And if we know
 11 anything about the federal government, there's
 12 never one thing in the bill.
 13 MR. PACK: No.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: If you want to pull out the
 15 four main things that I would consider the most
 16 important ones, and I will admit I'm not an
 17 attorney and I don't know the difference from
 18 willful to knowing or reckless, the difference
 19 and what that matters in the police
 20 proceedings, nor do I understand the limits of
 21 qualified immunity as a defense and liability

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1 in a private civil action.
 2 But I do understand what these three items
 3 are trying to do. And I also understand that
 4 as a small town police force, it is very
 5 difficult for us to do a full background check
 6 on any police officer who is coming to us. And
 7 therefore, a national police misconduct
 8 registry would be very beneficial to us.
 9 So if you would like to pull out the four
 10 items in the bill summary and that, the
 11 national registry, I'd be more than happy to
 12 support sending this letter to them.
 13 But I can understand reservations with
 14 anybody who would want to send a letter to the
 15 federal government on a federal bill when we
 16 know that there's many things that are also
 17 added in.
 18 But I do -- also I would assume the
 19 community and public would recognize that we're
 20 weighing in to try to provide public safety in
 21 a fair, equitable fashion. And we want to hold

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1 our police officers fair and hold them
 2 accountable, as we always have.
 3 I certainly respect your intention of
 4 sending a letter on this. I'm willing to send
 5 a letter on this. And I can understand
 6 reservations of when you -- with change in this
 7 stuff.
 8 So this is actually one I think we can
 9 even pull out and send specific of those things
 10 that you would like to have achieved out of
 11 this.
 12 MR. PACK: Well, the bill does, of course,
 13 cover more than just those three things you
 14 outlined.
 15 And I would hope, I was hoping that you
 16 all would have by now even gone through it and
 17 asked those questions if you didn't understand
 18 the difference between willfulness and
 19 recklessness, that you got clarification from
 20 that by either the county attorney or even from
 21 Joe on those matters.

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1 So I did ask that it be sent ahead of
 2 time, that you all would have it to look at and
 3 to ask those probing questions.
 4 To say now that I don't know anything
 5 about this or I need to find out more
 6 information, you should have had this for over
 7 a week now.
 8 MS. PRICE: So since that time, Mr. Pack,
 9 another bill at the federal level was
 10 introduced, since you put this out there.
 11 And for you to ask why should we ask our
 12 sheriff. When we take positions on bills in
 13 Annapolis, we always, if it's something to do
 14 with the jails, we have Terry Kokolis come in.
 15 When it's something to do with policing, we
 16 have the sheriff come in.
 17 I think it's completely appropriate to
 18 ask --
 19 MR. PACK: Then why did not you ask that
 20 question?
 21 You don't have to wait until the night to

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1 go talk to Sheriff Gamble.
 2 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Pack --
 3 MR. PACK: Why didn't you ask that
 4 question?
 5 MS. PRICE: Because there's been another
 6 bill since. And there are two bills out there.
 7 And Frank is absolutely right. It is not
 8 just three things. If you wanted to pick three
 9 things that --
 10 MR. PACK: I don't want to pick three
 11 things. I didn't want to pick three things at
 12 all.
 13 MS. PRICE: Then I am not ready to support
 14 this bill because I don't know everything
 15 that's in it and I know that there's another
 16 bill. And the federal government, for once, is
 17 actually working on a compromise bill. And at
 18 that point once we see what that compromise
 19 bill is, I'm willing to look at that and offer
 20 our support for that.
 21 But right now, there are Democrats and

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1 there are Republicans and there are two
 2 versions of the bill at the federal level. And
 3 I don't think it's appropriate for us as the
 4 County Council to pick one when we don't
 5 know -- we know that these bills run hundreds
 6 of pages long. You could be sending a letter
 7 of support, there could be something buried in
 8 there. We know how they do business. Thank
 9 God we don't do business that way.
 10 But I need to know everything that's in
 11 there before I send --
 12 MR. PACK: Ms. Price, you wanted this
 13 Council to support a bill, a State bill without
 14 reading it before. You put forth to us to
 15 support something without this Council reading
 16 it.
 17 MS. PRICE: No. I'm pretty sure I read
 18 that.
 19 MR. PACK: No. Without this Council even
 20 have knowledge of it.
 21 So to say now that you object to

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1 supporting the bill when you've had a copy of
 2 it for about week --
 3 MS. PRICE: So I am going to respond
 4 because the Kirwan bill had been available for
 5 months. And if the Council hadn't read it,
 6 that was not my fault. It be available and
 7 written back in January. And we didn't offer
 8 anything until at least two, two and a half
 9 months later. So I would respectfully disagree
 10 with that.
 11 Just like you're saying we should have
 12 read this, but there are two bills. Since you
 13 put this forth, there is a second bill and they
 14 are -- you see it on the news every night.
 15 MR. PACK: If any Council member had
 16 wanted to offer up that other bill for
 17 consideration this evening, I would have been
 18 happy to read it and consider it.
 19 MS. PRICE: Have you seen our agenda this
 20 evening?
 21 MR. PACK: We've wasted a lot of time this

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1 evening. I agree with you.
 2 MR. DIVILIO: And I take offense to the
 3 fact that you think we didn't do our homework.
 4 I have on this.
 5 MR. PACK: I didn't say that you didn't.
 6 I said I'm not willing to pull those three
 7 things out that you alluded to.
 8 MR. DIVILIO: I'm going off the summary
 9 page for the bill. I think if we take a look
 10 at that, I think we would all be happy with
 11 those issues.
 12 MR. PACK: So that's where this matter
 13 stands. I would ask for consideration of
 14 support of a letter of support.
 15 If it doesn't pass by the body, then I may
 16 take a position of my own, but I would hope
 17 that we would support a more standardized
 18 policing across this nation.
 19 There are some things. Of course, the
 20 bill has many parts to it. There may be some
 21 things in the bill that you don't like. Could

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1 you live with those things and still support
 2 the bill?
 3 MS. PRICE: So have you looked at the
 4 other bill? I know I haven't. But have you
 5 looked at it?
 6 MR. PACK: I have not.
 7 MR. DIVILIO: I can't find it. I've found
 8 nine related bills, but I have not found any
 9 one that's been filed. This has just been
 10 introduced.
 11 MR. PACK: Yeah. I haven't seen it,
 12 either. So I don't know which bill you're
 13 talking about.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: There are nine related bills
 15 to it currently.
 16 MR. PACK: So let's move the clock
 17 forwards. I don't want to belabor this any
 18 more than necessary. Is there a motion to send
 19 the letter of support for HR7120? This is the
 20 Justice in Policing Act of 2020.
 21 MR. LESHHER: So moved.

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1 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Leshher. Is there
 2 a second to send a letter of support?
 3 I will turn the gavel over to
 4 Mr. Callahan.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure.
 6 MR. PACK: And issue my second to the
 7 motion. I will issue a second.
 8 The matter is now before Council for a
 9 vote. Madam Secretary, please call your roll.
 10 I'm sorry.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: I was getting ready. Madam
 12 Secretary, would you please take roll call
 13 please.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 15 MR. PACK: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 17 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 20 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 21 MS. PRICE: No.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.
 2 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 3 MR. PACK: Okay. I apologize,
 4 Mr. Callahan. Thank you very much. I'll take
 5 the gavel back at this time.
 6 MS. PRICE: And in no way is that vote to
 7 be taken that I don't support the majority of
 8 what's in here. I only wanted to wait to see
 9 what the compromise is to see where the overlap
 10 is. So I don't want anybody to take my vote
 11 that I don't support more standardized things
 12 for the police.
 13 MR. PACK: Okay. Mr. Hollis, I believe
 14 we've reached your portion of this agenda. And
 15 I'll happily turn it over to you.
 16 MR. HOLLIS: I think they are minor
 17 matters, I hesitate to say, Mr. President.
 18 Requesting your approval to apply for and
 19 accept a grant in the amount of \$30,000 for
 20 operation and maintenance of the region two
 21 wastewater treatment plant. This is an annual

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| <p>1 opportunity from the Maryland Department of the</p> <p>2 Environment because we operate below the</p> <p>3 enhanced nutrient removal concentration levels.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: Okay. Is there a motion to</p> <p>5 apply for the grant?</p> <p>6 MR. LESHER: So moved.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Second it.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: Moved by Mr. Lesher. Seconded</p> <p>9 by Mr. Callahan. Any further discussion?</p> <p>10 Hearing none, Madam Secretary, please call</p> <p>11 your roll.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>13 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>15 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>19 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>20 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p> <p>21 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> | <p>1 If not, Madam Secretary, please call your</p> <p>2 roll.</p> <p>3 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>6 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>10 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Lesher.</p> <p>12 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>13 MR. HOLLIS: Council, on an annual basis,</p> <p>14 we request your approval of the fourth quarter</p> <p>15 budget transfers for fiscal year 20. A</p> <p>16 two-page document. Summary has been included</p> <p>17 in your packet.</p> <p>18 I don't know if Ms. Lane wants to run</p> <p>19 through it or is here for questions. What is</p> <p>20 your pleasure?</p> <p>21 MR. PACK: I have that summary printed.</p> |
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| <p>1 MR. HOLLIS: The Town of Oxford is asking</p> <p>2 for a letter of support for their grant</p> <p>3 application to the National Fish and Wildlife</p> <p>4 Foundation for a resiliency project. There are</p> <p>5 no county dollars involved.</p> <p>6 MR. PACK: Ms. Lane, you want to speak to</p> <p>7 this?</p> <p>8 MR. HOLLIS: No. I'm sorry. Ms. Lane is</p> <p>9 next.</p> <p>10 MR. PACK: Oh, she's next. So you called</p> <p>11 her up a little bit early.</p> <p>12 MR. HOLLIS: But she may.</p> <p>13 MR. LESHER: I'll move to authorize the</p> <p>14 letter of support.</p> <p>15 MR. DIVILIO: I'll second it.</p> <p>16 MR. PACK: Letter of support for the</p> <p>17 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.</p> <p>18 Seconded by Mr. Divilio. Right?</p> <p>19 MR. DIVILIO: Yes.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: Okay. Any other questions,</p> <p>21 comment?</p> | <p>1 But go ahead.</p> <p>2 MS. LANE: Do you want me to read all the</p> <p>3 changes that are being proposed?</p> <p>4 MR. PACK: Yes. Why don't you while I</p> <p>5 search for my copy.</p> <p>6 MS. LANE: Okay. Section 615 of the</p> <p>7 Talbot County Charter authorizes the County</p> <p>8 Council to make transfers between agencies and</p> <p>9 departments of county government in the fourth</p> <p>10 quarter of the fiscal year with the</p> <p>11 recommendation of the county manager.</p> <p>12 So before you I have prepared a list of</p> <p>13 proposed transfers. They really are in two</p> <p>14 areas. Capital outlay, which generally what we</p> <p>15 do is we move certain items that have been</p> <p>16 requested in the upcoming budget, we move them</p> <p>17 into the current year budget for purchase when</p> <p>18 we have funds available, which we do in the</p> <p>19 current year.</p> <p>20 And salary and benefits. This year,</p> <p>21 health insurance in particular has come in</p> |

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1 above what we had budgeted. We actually are
 2 self-insured and have had a very high
 3 experience -- very high poor experience this
 4 year. It's the highest level of claims we've
 5 ever had since we've been self-insured. So
 6 that's generally why you'll see some transfers
 7 in the salary area, is really to cover
 8 increased health insurance costs.

9 So the fourth quarter transfers between
 10 agencies and departments of the county general
 11 fund are Circuit Court, capital outlay, from
 12 \$3,600 to \$4,600, a change, an increase of
 13 \$1,000.

14 Orphans' Court, salary and benefits, from
 15 \$50,851 to \$60,851, a change, an increase, of
 16 \$10,000.

17 State's Attorney, salary and benefits,
 18 from \$969,237 to \$989,237, a change, an
 19 increase of \$20,000.

20 Victim witness program, salary and
 21 benefits, from \$172,979 to \$177,779, a change,

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1 an increase of \$4,800.

2 County administration, salaries and
 3 benefits, from \$756,324 to \$772,324, a change,
 4 an increase of \$16,000.

5 Finance office, salaries and benefits,
 6 from \$765,384 to \$777,504, a change, an
 7 increase of \$12,120.

8 County attorney, salary and benefits, from
 9 \$328,419 to \$344,419, a change, an increase of
 10 \$16,000.

11 Board of Appeals, salaries and benefits,
 12 from \$95,157 to \$96,957, a change, an increase
 13 of \$1,800.

14 County building maintenance, capital
 15 outlay, from \$44,000 to \$75,000, a change, an
 16 increase of \$31,000.

17 Information technology, salaries and
 18 benefits, from \$305,140 to \$325,990, a change,
 19 an increase of \$20,850. Capital outlay, from
 20 \$35,000 to \$46,400, a change, an increase of
 21 \$11,400.

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1 Sheriff, salary and benefits, from
 2 \$3,744,082 to \$3,754,082, a change, an increase
 3 of \$10,000. Capital outlay, from \$28,400 to
 4 \$106,200, a change, an increase of \$77,800.

5 Emergency Medical Services, capital
 6 outlay, from \$300,000 to \$400,500, a change, an
 7 increase of \$100,500.

8 Department of Corrections, capital outlay,
 9 from zero to \$118,000, a change, an increase of
 10 \$118,000.

11 Permits and inspections, salaries and
 12 benefits, from \$378,769 to \$384,319, a change,
 13 an increase of \$5,550.

14 Emergency Management, capital outlay, from
 15 \$35,371 to \$307,271, an increase of \$271,900.

16 Roads, salaries and benefits, from
 17 \$1,528,338 to \$1,531,838, a change, an increase
 18 of \$3,500. Capital outlay, \$435,000 to
 19 \$444,000, a change, an increase of \$9,000.

20 Mosquito control, operating appropriation,
 21 from \$115,000 to \$138,000, a change, an

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1 increase of \$23,000.

2 Weed control, salaries and benefits, from
 3 \$70,777 to \$71,971, a change, an increase of
 4 \$1,200. Capital outlay, from zero to \$19,000,
 5 an increase of \$19,000.

6 Tourism, salaries and benefits, from
 7 \$178,564 to \$182,464, a change, an increase of
 8 \$3,900. Capital outlay, from zero to \$5,000, a
 9 change, an increase of \$5,000.

10 Parks and Recreation, capital outlay, from
 11 zero to \$10,000, a change, an increase of
 12 \$10,000.

13 Public landings, capital outlay, from zero
 14 to \$15,000, a change, an increase of \$15,000.

15 Board of Education, debt service, from
 16 3,723,819 to \$3,147,699, a decrease of
 17 \$576,120.

18 Library Administration, capital outlay,
 19 \$12,191 to 29,991, a change, an increase of
 20 \$17,800.

21 Employee benefits, retirees health

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| <p>1 insurance, from \$800,000 to \$1 million, a 2 change, an increase of \$200,000. 3 Reserve for contingencies, from \$600,000 4 to \$140,000, a change, a decrease of \$460,000. 5 The total of all these changes are going 6 from \$15,476,402 to \$15,476,402, a net change 7 of zero. 8 MR. PACK: Any comments or questions of 9 Ms. Lane on these fourth quarter transfers 10 between agencies? 11 MS. PRICE: Question why the debt service 12 went down so much on the Board of Education? 13 MS. LANE: We did not actually borrow for 14 the Easton Elementary School until June of this 15 year. So we had budgeted for one full payment 16 in fiscal 20. Since we didn't borrow until 17 June, we actually have no debt service payments 18 on the Easton Elementary School project in 19 fiscal 20. 20 MS. PRICE: -- it's just a timing issue? 21 MS. LANE: It's timing, yeah.</p> | <p>1 MR. PACK: Transfers are approved. 2 MR. HOLLIS: Council, we're requesting 3 that you declare Tuesday, July 21, 2020, a 4 special legislative day. Thank you. 5 MS. PRICE: Make a motion. 6 MR. DIVILIO: Second. 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Second it. 8 MR. PACK: July 21st as a special 9 legislation day. Made by Ms. Price, seconded 10 by Mr. Divilio beat you again, Mr. Callahan, 11 sorry. 12 No objections, Madam Secretary, please 13 call your roll. 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 15 MR. PACK: Aye. 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 17 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 20 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 21 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> |
| Page 191 | Page 193 |
| <p>1 MR. PACK: Any other questions? Okay. 2 Chair requests a motion for approval of the 3 transfer. 4 MS. PRICE: So moved. 5 MR. PACK: Moved by Ms. Price. 6 MR. DIVILIO: Second. 7 MR. PACK: Second by Mr. Divilio. I think 8 he beat you just by a hair, Mr. Leshner. 9 Seconded by Mr. Divilio. 10 If there's no further questions, Madam 11 Secretary, please call your roll. 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack. 13 MR. PACK: Aye. 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio. 15 MR. DIVILIO: Aye. 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 18 SECRETARY: Ms. Price. 19 MS. PRICE: Aye. 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 21 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> | <p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 2 MR. LESHER: Aye. 3 MR. HOLLIS: Thank you, Council. 4 MR. PACK: Ms. Morris, do I dare turn to 5 you yet again. 6 MS. MORRIS: I've got some news. 7 MR. PACK: You have some good news. 8 MS. MORRIS: We have Ms. Wade, Leah Wade, 9 wishes to speak this evening. 10 MR. PACK: Do I have a list? 11 MS. MORRIS: We do have one sign-up. And 12 I found a feature where I can chat with the 13 people. 14 MR. PACK: Well, Ms. Wade, you're here 15 with us patiently in person. Please come 16 forward and introduce yourself and address the 17 Council. We'll give you three minutes on the 18 clock. 19 MS. WADE: My name is Leah Wade. My 20 residence is 28140 Woodland Court in Easton. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Excuse me for a second. Do</p> |

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|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 194</p> <p>1 you want to explain to her minute wise?</p> <p>2 MR. PACK: Three minutes. That's it.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>4 MS. PRICE: Pull your microphone a little</p> <p>5 closer, please. Thank you.</p> <p>6 MS. WADE: Talbot County Boys represents a</p> <p>7 manufactured narrative born in the Jim Crow</p> <p>8 era.</p> <p>9 The perpetuated idea that the so-called</p> <p>10 Confederacy is somehow equivalent to the United</p> <p>11 States of America and that they were two sides</p> <p>12 of the same coin is false. Recognized by no</p> <p>13 government on earth, the insurgency that fought</p> <p>14 our country does not deserve to be memorialized</p> <p>15 on public grounds.</p> <p>16 Our fair county birthed one of our</p> <p>17 nation's true heroes, Frederick Douglass. And</p> <p>18 the notion that the statue of Frederick</p> <p>19 Douglass was restricted to not exceed the</p> <p>20 height of the monument shows exactly what</p> <p>21 people of Talbot County felt about it.</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 196</p> <p>1 fought for slavery and those who fought for</p> <p>2 liberty and justice.</p> <p>3 I am no minister of malice. I would not</p> <p>4 repeal the repentant, but may have my tongue</p> <p>5 cleaved to the roof of my mouth if I forget the</p> <p>6 difference between the parties to that bloody</p> <p>7 conflict.</p> <p>8 I may say if this war is forgotten, I ask</p> <p>9 in the name of all things sacred what shall men</p> <p>10 remember. Frederick Douglass's words Memorial</p> <p>11 Day 1871.</p> <p>12 It is shameful and I am embarrassed that</p> <p>13 the people that come to our town see one of</p> <p>14 these last relics of America's racism. Soon</p> <p>15 enough, as one after another of these</p> <p>16 structures come down, national attention will</p> <p>17 be leveled on our county, and that attention</p> <p>18 will not depict Talbot County as a thriving</p> <p>19 community that values all its citizens equally.</p> <p>20 That depiction will not praise the leaders of</p> <p>21 this county for clinging to an image that is</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 195</p> <p>1 In reality, you should tower over an</p> <p>2 effigy of inservants and mercenaries, and</p> <p>3 instead he was diminished and continues to be</p> <p>4 diminished by the feelings that lurk in the</p> <p>5 hearts and minds of the people of this county.</p> <p>6 History is not erased by removing the</p> <p>7 monuments to a wrong-headed rebellion, nor</p> <p>8 should it remain in place as a monument to</p> <p>9 better ends as the (inaudible) story that such</p> <p>10 status was accorded to those who rose up</p> <p>11 against their nation to fight for states'</p> <p>12 rights, which we know is loosely veiled code</p> <p>13 for the right to own people as property, the</p> <p>14 right to keep their enslaved people as a</p> <p>15 commodity, asset, and economy.</p> <p>16 150 years ago on Memorial Day Frederick</p> <p>17 Douglass said we are sometimes asked in the</p> <p>18 name of patriotism to forget the merits of this</p> <p>19 fearful struggle and to remember with equal</p> <p>20 admiration those who struck at the nation's</p> <p>21 life and those who struck to save it, those who</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 197</p> <p>1 hurtful and insulting to our black community</p> <p>2 members. Talbot County will not seem resolute.</p> <p>3 It will seem backwards, hateful, and devoid of</p> <p>4 moral consciousness.</p> <p>5 One city after another has seen the</p> <p>6 writings on the wall. The writing in God's</p> <p>7 hand, which said God has numbered the days of</p> <p>8 your kingdom and brought it to an end, you have</p> <p>9 been weighed and found wanton.</p> <p>10 Let us not number our county among those</p> <p>11 who are found wanton.</p> <p>12 MR. PACK: Thank you, Ms. Wade.</p> <p>13 Appreciate your sticking around and addressing</p> <p>14 us. Thank you.</p> <p>15 MS. MORRIS: Mr. Pack, the next person</p> <p>16 that wishes to speak is Henry Herr, Mr. Herr.</p> <p>17 MR. PACK: Mr. Herr, yes. Mr. Herr, can</p> <p>18 you hear us?</p> <p>19 MR. HERR: Yes, yes.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: Thank you for joining us.</p> <p>21 We'll give you three minutes on the clock. Go</p> |

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1 ahead, sir.

2 MR. HERR: I've been in front of you

3 before. I brought this attention to the Talbot

4 Boys Statue back in October. A Washington Post

5 poll was written about it, how it needed to be

6 taken down. This is now getting more

7 attention, as was just addressed.

8 Currently I have a petition out with over

9 300 supporters. I also have the support of

10 Senator Van Hollen and the State comptroller.

11 What is (inaudible) is doing is pretty

12 sad.

13 I've talked to the NAACP of Talbot County.

14 This statue shouldn't remain there. The fact

15 that this only affects Talbot County is just --

16 I can't cling to the words. This is something

17 that involves the entire State of Maryland. As

18 it is the last statue in the State of Maryland

19 on public grounds not on the battlefield or

20 graveyard.

21 I also take offense to Ms. Price's remarks

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1 saying that no one has come forth with funds.

2 I came forth in October. I said I have the

3 funds. I asked you what I needed to do next to

4 (inaudible) counterpart. You didn't respond.

5 There was nothing else said to me.

6 I e-mailed all of you many times about

7 this asking what do we have to do to get this

8 done.

9 You cannot say that there is not a call to

10 get this done and no one stepped up. There

11 have been plenty of people trying to step up.

12 You guys have been in the way.

13 Thank you for your time. It's time for

14 this to come down.

15 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Herr, for your

16 comments.

17 Ms. Morris, do we have anyone else?

18 MS. MORRIS: Yes. The next caller is

19 Keith Watts. And I just need to find where he

20 is.

21 MR. PACK: Mr. Watts, can you hear me?

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1 MR. WATTS: Yes, sir. Can you hear me?

2 MR. PACK: Public comment. We'll give you

3 three seconds -- three minutes on the clock,

4 sir. Sorry.

5 MR. WATTS: Three seconds. Oh, thank you.

6 Honorable Council persons, thank you for

7 your time, thank you for your service.

8 This evening, it was clear to me that

9 emotions are running high. (Inaudible)

10 Rayshard Brooks was laid to rest in Atlanta. I

11 just want to take (inaudible) of my three

12 minutes and make those seconds (inaudible) for

13 the 41 minutes that that man cooperated with

14 law enforcement and yet still met the fate of

15 so many.

16 I think you all know (inaudible) Talbot

17 Boys and whether the statue should go, the

18 entire thing should go, but I want to impress

19 upon you is it's not just about Talbot County.

20 The whole world is looking, not just Talbot

21 County, not just Maryland. History is what.

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1 And for anyone to say that they were elected

2 for a different purpose other than to take

3 action, action that will affect people of the

4 county who live here, is unconscionable.

5 Not unlike Mr. Herr, you all know that I

6 sent an e-mail to each and every one of you. I

7 think the comment earlier was put your money

8 where your mouth is. And I did. I didn't hear

9 anything back except from Mr. Leshar. Very

10 kind. And time was an issue, no question about

11 it, but time really is an issue.

12 And there is no more time to waste. There

13 is no more time for ballot (inaudible).

14 Ridiculous. Lincoln didn't wait for a ballot

15 measure to free the slaves. The Supreme Court

16 didn't wait for a ballot measure for Brown

17 versus the Board of Education.

18 For anyone to suggest that people are

19 afraid to speak, yes, there are some who are

20 afraid to speak. I've been afraid to speak in

21 my lifetime. I've been beaten. I've been spit

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1 on. I saw my city burn in Los Angeles,
 2 California, when Rodney King was pulled out of
 3 that truck (inaudible) and the 110.
 4 Let me also say something else about
 5 diversity inclusion. A record was made tonight
 6 in public that any plaintiff's attorney would
 7 drool over. And that is to say that the
 8 message was you don't care enough, not all but
 9 some, you don't care enough about diversity and
 10 inclusion with all this going on.
 11 It's the very first thing, because
 12 everything else will flow from that.
 13 Look, we all will have blind spots. Maybe
 14 we were raised in households where everything
 15 was fine. Maybe we were raised in households
 16 where we didn't know anybody who was black or
 17 Asian or Jewish or Muslim. I count myself
 18 lucky that I got that, but I just want to say
 19 this.
 20 MR. PACK: Mr. Watts, I'm going to need
 21 you to wrap it up in about another ten seconds

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1 if you could, please.
 2 MR. WATTS: Thank you, President Pack.
 3 Let's not kick this down the road. Let's get
 4 it done for all of us. Good night.
 5 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Watts.
 6 Appreciate your calling into us and sharing
 7 your comments with us.
 8 Ms. Morris.
 9 MS. MORRIS: And we have Benjamin
 10 Rubenstein who wishes to speak.
 11 Mr. Rubenstein, could you please -- thank
 12 you. Go ahead.
 13 MR. PACK: Mr. Rubenstein, can you hear
 14 me?
 15 MR. B. RUBENSTEIN: Yes.
 16 MR. PACK: Go ahead.
 17 MR. B. RUBENSTEIN: Can you hear me?
 18 MR. PACK: Yes. The floor is yours. I'm
 19 sorry. Go ahead.
 20 MR. B. RUBENSTEIN: Awesome. I'm coming
 21 here again after joining the County Council

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1 meeting two weeks ago, calling again for the
 2 removal of the monument.
 3 It's appalling that we're at this point
 4 that the resolution doesn't call for the entire
 5 removal of the monument. This puts a Band-Aid
 6 on the symbolism of systematic racism and white
 7 supremacy that only shows the continued racism
 8 in the county today.
 9 In addition, it's egregious that there are
 10 people in the county on the Council, including
 11 Council Member Price, that embody racism and
 12 white supremacy.
 13 It is not up to a white person to decide
 14 and comment on the diversity and inclusion in
 15 the county. You are not being the one
 16 oppressed. That is by nature systematic racism
 17 of today.
 18 I am calling for her resignation so we can
 19 move forward and eliminate racism within the
 20 county.
 21 To conclude, any and all symbols that

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1 represent Confederacy, white supremacy, racism,
 2 including the Jim Crow era erected Talbot Boys
 3 Monument, needs to be removed immediately in
 4 our never-ending fight for racial justice.
 5 It's up to you to make the decision.
 6 Thank you.
 7 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Rubenstein, for
 8 calling back in again.
 9 Ms. Morris.
 10 MS. MORRIS: And we have Jazzmine Davis.
 11 I just need to find her in the system.
 12 Ms. Davis, can you hear us?
 13 MS. DAVIS: Yes, I can hear you.
 14 MS. MORRIS: Please turn your phone down
 15 in the background. Ms. Davis, please turn your
 16 phone down. There you go. Go ahead.
 17 MR. PACK: Ms. Davis, go ahead.
 18 Ms. Davis, can you hear me? Ms. Davis, can you
 19 hear us?
 20 Is she still there, Ms. Morris?
 21 MS. MORRIS: She's still there. We'll

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1 give her a minute to call back in.
 2 MR. PACK: You want to go to another
 3 caller?
 4 MS. MORRIS: Yes.
 5 MR. PACK: Who else do we have?
 6 MS. MORRIS: I believe the next person
 7 that wishes to speak is Gerson Martinez.
 8 And if you hold for a moment,
 9 Mr. Martinez, let me find you in the system.
 10 Mr. Martinez, can you hear me?
 11 MR. MARTINEZ: Yes, I can. Can you hear
 12 me?
 13 MS. MORRIS: Yes. Thanks so much.
 14 MR. PACK: Mr. Martinez, good to hear from
 15 you. Are you speaking for yourself or for a
 16 group, sir?
 17 MR. MARTINEZ: I'm speaking for myself.
 18 MR. PACK: Okay. The floor is yours.
 19 MR. MARTINEZ: Thank you. First, I want
 20 to thank everyone for your service on the
 21 Council.

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1 But I want to express my strong support
 2 for the removal of the entire structure, the
 3 entire statue representing the Talbot Boys.
 4 And I want to let you know that from my
 5 perspective, this is a pass fail assignment for
 6 the Council. I don't believe that the
 7 community will give you partial credit for
 8 partial removal of a categorically divisive
 9 symbol in our community. If nothing else, that
 10 is a divisive symbol of racism that still
 11 exists in our community.
 12 And I would just ask you all to consider
 13 if someone (inaudible) for the right to kidnap
 14 and sell your child, where would you want us to
 15 put their statue? Thank you.
 16 MR. LESHAR: Thank you, Mr. Martinez.
 17 Ms. Morris, who is next?
 18 MS. MORRIS: Another in-person speaker.
 19 Ms. Lynn Mielke would like to speak.
 20 MR. PACK: Ms. Mielke, thanks for hanging
 21 around with us.

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1 MS. MIELKE: Thank you. I actually wasn't
 2 going to speak, but I just added my name to the
 3 list.
 4 MR. PACK: I'm glad that you decided to
 5 speak to us. Have a seat.
 6 MS. MIELKE: Thank you. Earlier this
 7 month, Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford said
 8 to build a better future, we must reckon with
 9 our past, not hide from it. Erasing our
 10 history just because it makes us uncomfortable,
 11 harms the work we must do.
 12 Unlike the vast majority of the
 13 Confederate statues in this country that were
 14 part of the lost cause financed by the
 15 daughters of the Confederacy and various other
 16 organizations, the Talbot Boys is unique. And
 17 that it was (inaudible) about and by local
 18 residents of Talbot County.
 19 The brief history you probably know. The
 20 first volume, the battle of the monuments was
 21 logged in 1913 by the Union veterans who had

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1 visited the monument, to the first regiment of
 2 the Eastern Shore volunteers at Culp's Hill at
 3 Gettysburg upon the 50th anniversary of the
 4 battle.
 5 In fact, there's a mural that was done by
 6 an artist that's in the Harrisburg Museum that
 7 shows the Talbot Boys running into their Talbot
 8 Union counterparts with their dog, Grace,
 9 leading the pack. And they were slaughtered.
 10 And on that battlefield, the Talbot Union
 11 soldiers comforted and took care of the Talbot
 12 boys that fought there. Just for history.
 13 The monument came about because those
 14 veterans from the Union visited Gettysburg.
 15 And it was the 50th anniversary, and they saw
 16 that there was a monument to them. The Talbot
 17 boys, who were the Confederates, reacted to
 18 that when they came back here. They raised the
 19 money. The northern unit was to raise money,
 20 and they never did. And there were a lot of
 21 economic issues that were going on at the time.

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| <p>1 It was erected in 1913, 1914. And the</p> <p>2 Talbot Boys figure was not erected until 1916.</p> <p>3 It's based on a poem by Longfellow called</p> <p>4 Excelsior Onward and Upward. And that poem, if</p> <p>5 you read it, is about a boy or a man who was</p> <p>6 trying to climb a mountain and it killed him.</p> <p>7 So the statement that Excelsior, that</p> <p>8 statue, makes is basically I tried to do</p> <p>9 something and I gave my life for it. And it</p> <p>10 was a foolish thing that he did.</p> <p>11 So there's some symmetry in knowing the</p> <p>12 whole history of this and not just lumping it</p> <p>13 into some category that it's like Robert E. Lee</p> <p>14 on Monument Row in Richmond.</p> <p>15 Talbot County and the midshore has been a</p> <p>16 model of contextual history. We have the</p> <p>17 Talbot Boys Statue, we have Frederick Douglass,</p> <p>18 we have the Unionville Renaissance, a few miles</p> <p>19 away we have the Harriet Tubman Underground</p> <p>20 Railroad Visitors Center, the Harriet Tubman</p> <p>21 Museum. You're all working on having the</p> | <p>1 Notably, there is no human cry to rename</p> <p>2 Yale University. Yale University was named</p> <p>3 after and endowed by Eli Yale.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Ms. Mielke, we've going to</p> <p>5 have to wrap it up here.</p> <p>6 MS. MIELKE: Okay. I'm almost done.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>8 MS. MIELKE: Eli Yale was a wealthy slave</p> <p>9 trader, and Yale was founded on his money,</p> <p>10 which was earned by the sale of slaves.</p> <p>11 When Yale University changes its name back</p> <p>12 to Collegiate College or whatever they want to,</p> <p>13 removes the name of Eli Yale, then and only</p> <p>14 then should that statue be taken down.</p> <p>15 And I thank you for your time.</p> <p>16 MR. PACK: Thank you, Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>17 Anyone else on the . .</p> <p>18 MS. MORRIS: Yes, Mr. Pack. I'm going to</p> <p>19 try Jazzmine Davis again.</p> <p>20 MR. PACK: Okay. Ms. Davis, can you hear</p> <p>21 me?</p> |
| Page 211 | Page 213 |
| <p>1 Frederick Douglass Park.</p> <p>2 Why erase one side of the history by</p> <p>3 removing the Talbot Boys Statue? Instead of</p> <p>4 promoting Talbot County and the midshore as a</p> <p>5 model of balance of Civil War history, some</p> <p>6 would rather seek to make political capital on</p> <p>7 the current wave of anti-history and mania,</p> <p>8 reminiscent of the ministry of truth in George</p> <p>9 Orwell's 1984 Isis.</p> <p>10 We have better and more important tasks to</p> <p>11 devote your time to and our time to and money</p> <p>12 and energy in order to achieve racial justice</p> <p>13 than to obsess over erasing our history and</p> <p>14 taking down the statute.</p> <p>15 The wave of hysteria has got to end. Not</p> <p>16 by erasing one side of history, but rather</p> <p>17 context. The alt left movement now wants to</p> <p>18 not only take down the statues, but rename the</p> <p>19 streets, the Air bases, the Army bases. They</p> <p>20 want to take -- they even want to take down</p> <p>21 Theodore Roosevelt now.</p> | <p>1 MS. DAVIS: Yes, I can hear you. Can you</p> <p>2 all hear me?</p> <p>3 MR. PACK: Yes, we can now. Thank you for</p> <p>4 holding for us. You've got three minutes on</p> <p>5 the clock. Yes.</p> <p>6 MS. DAVIS: Okay. Thank you so much. My</p> <p>7 name is Jazzmine Davis, and I live in Easton.</p> <p>8 And I prepared a statement today.</p> <p>9 Firstly, I (inaudible) surrounding the</p> <p>10 Talbot Boys Statue on your agenda, as this is a</p> <p>11 major concern of the majority of residents.</p> <p>12 The monument to honor those who fought to</p> <p>13 keep slavery intact, to keep people, human</p> <p>14 beings, as property.</p> <p>15 (Inaudible) this county, I respectfully</p> <p>16 ask that you take down the statue in its</p> <p>17 entirety. As it stands, it continues to honor</p> <p>18 the Confederate soldiers and glorify the</p> <p>19 oppression of slavery endured by so many. And</p> <p>20 although I wish it did, does not erase the</p> <p>21 history. I wish I could forget the torture</p> |

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| <p>1 that has been endured by my ancestors.</p> <p>2 And especially have (inaudible) on the</p> <p>3 grounds of a court of law (inaudible) of</p> <p>4 justice and fairness.</p> <p>5 How can you put forward (inaudible)</p> <p>6 symbols of racism (inaudible) discrimination</p> <p>7 that deliberately go against the values of our</p> <p>8 community?</p> <p>9 (Inaudible), but this is not new. To</p> <p>10 assume that it is new or to assume that it is</p> <p>11 an issue that is not an issue in our county,</p> <p>12 (audible) that warrants your current attention</p> <p>13 is hurtful, more so than I can possibly put</p> <p>14 into words.</p> <p>15 But the moral of the story is that this is</p> <p>16 a priority for the people you were elected to</p> <p>17 represent. That (inaudible) must be a priority</p> <p>18 to you.</p> <p>19 This is an issue in this nation and in</p> <p>20 this state and in this county that's landed on</p> <p>21 your front doorstep. And as county-elected</p> | <p>1 just give us your comments without any</p> <p>2 direct. . .</p> <p>3 MR. A. RUBENSTEIN: Yes. Just on the main</p> <p>4 conversation about diversity.</p> <p>5 MR. PACK: Yes.</p> <p>6 MR. A. RUBENSTEIN: And including our</p> <p>7 (inaudible) report. It was said many times</p> <p>8 that maybe this could become a back burner, we</p> <p>9 don't have time for this.</p> <p>10 And I would just like to say why aren't</p> <p>11 your prioritizing diversity? Why (inaudible)</p> <p>12 black people in Talbot County to be safe?</p> <p>13 Talbot County has (inaudible). And you guys</p> <p>14 need (inaudible) to address race issues, but</p> <p>15 you have a department on the Hog Neck Golf</p> <p>16 Course. This really shows (inaudible).</p> <p>17 Also, (inaudible) has been said, again,</p> <p>18 there hasn't been enough diversity, hasn't been</p> <p>19 (inaudible) diversity report.</p> <p>20 But over the duration of this Council, I</p> <p>21 attempted to put my own report together on the</p> |
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| <p>1 officials, you have a duty and an obligation to</p> <p>2 the Talbot County residents to answer.</p> <p>3 We can no longer put this off. The time</p> <p>4 is now to act.</p> <p>5 Thank you for your time and thank you for</p> <p>6 your consideration.</p> <p>7 MR. PACK: Thank you, Ms. Davis.</p> <p>8 Ms. Morris, anyone else?</p> <p>9 MS. MORRIS: Yes. Next we have Ari</p> <p>10 Rubenstein. Go ahead.</p> <p>11 MR. PACK: Another Rubenstein, okay.</p> <p>12 MR. A. RUBENSTEIN: Hello. Can you hear</p> <p>13 me?</p> <p>14 MR. PACK: Yes, sir.</p> <p>15 MR. A. RUBENSTEIN: Hi, yes. I'm Ari</p> <p>16 Rubenstein. And I would just like to say</p> <p>17 Council Member Laura Price, I am just disgusted</p> <p>18 on the way you conducted yourself --</p> <p>19 MS. PRICE: I'm sorry. That's</p> <p>20 inappropriate.</p> <p>21 MR. PACK: Mr. Rubenstein, can you please</p> | <p>1 race and gender of the Council members and</p> <p>2 department heads. In this quick report, I</p> <p>3 found that the combined department heads and</p> <p>4 Council members are 95 percent white. Only 78</p> <p>5 percent of our county is white.</p> <p>6 Also, did you know that the Council and</p> <p>7 the department heads are only 29 percent women,</p> <p>8 when 53 percent of Talbot County is comprised</p> <p>9 of (inaudible)?</p> <p>10 People have claimed you represent the</p> <p>11 county, but you don't. You claim to have</p> <p>12 diversity, but you don't. So this is why this</p> <p>13 (inaudible) needs to be done.</p> <p>14 Thank you.</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: Thank you, Mr. Rubenstein.</p> <p>16 MS. MORRIS: And then lastly, Mr. Pack, I</p> <p>17 understand there may be a caller on the phone</p> <p>18 who wishes to speak. I'm going to unmute the</p> <p>19 five callers and see if any of them wish to</p> <p>20 speak.</p> <p>21 MR. PACK: Okay. We'll try that.</p> |

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1 MS. MORRIS: Caller, I believe it might be
 2 Mr. Richard Potter who is calling in who wishes
 3 to speak or another caller.
 4 MR. POTTER: Yes.
 5 MS. MORRIS: Please identify yourself by
 6 name.
 7 MR. POTTER: This is Richard Potter. Can
 8 you hear me?
 9 MS. MORRIS: Thank you, Mr. Potter. Yes,
 10 we can hear you.
 11 MR. POTTER: Good evening, Council
 12 President Pack and members of the Council.
 13 MR. PACK: Good evening.
 14 MR. POTTER: First let me thank Councilman
 15 Divilio for his acts in attempting to provide a
 16 solution to the problem (inaudible) the county
 17 for last five years that relates to the Talbot
 18 Boys Monument.
 19 However, I'm appalled at listening to the
 20 discussion from your Council, County
 21 Councilwoman Laura Price as it relates to her

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1 resistance to creating a Diversity Statement,
 2 training, and diversity reports. Councilwoman
 3 Price's constant reiteration --
 4 MS. PRICE: Excuse me.
 5 MR. POTTER: -- of saying there are no
 6 problems --
 7 MS. PRICE: This has got to stop.
 8 MR. POTTER: -- it is obvious that she is
 9 speaking from her (inaudible) and her --
 10 MS. MORRIS: I'm trying --
 11 MS. PRICE: If you don't stop him, I'm
 12 leaving.
 13 MS. MORRIS: I'm trying to mute as fast as
 14 I can.
 15 MR. PACK: Okay. Callers, we're going to
 16 end the public comment portion at this time.
 17 And I do understand persons are very, very
 18 emotionally charged over this issue and a
 19 number of other issues, but we're trying to
 20 give you space to speak without zeroing in on
 21 any one particular Councilperson.

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1 So we're going to now go ahead and move
 2 the matter over to Council comments. And I'll
 3 start with Mr. Divilio.
 4 MR. DIVILIO: I don't have any comment at
 5 this time.
 6 MR. PACK: Okay. Mr. Leshner.
 7 MR. LESHER: I don't have anything,
 8 either.
 9 MR. PACK: Are we still on?
 10 SPEAKER: (Inaudible) bull crap.
 11 MS. MORRIS: Sorry.
 12 MR. PACK: It's okay.
 13 Ms. Price.
 14 MS. PRICE: No further comments this
 15 evening.
 16 MR. PACK: Okay. Mr. Callahan.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: The only thing I would say,
 18 there's a lot of emotion tonight. So I would
 19 ask everybody just to stay positive, think
 20 about others' feelings, and think about what
 21 you're saying before you say it because people

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1 are getting offended very, very easily.
 2 And we're all going to get through this.
 3 We're going -- the next several weeks and
 4 months coming ahead, things will get better.
 5 Just stay positive. We don't need to fight
 6 amongst ourselves as a Council. And we will
 7 make it through it.
 8 MR. PACK: As I said earlier,
 9 Mr. Callahan, I wish I shared your optimism.
 10 You know, we -- why you got people so charged
 11 up when we talk about Diversity Statements and
 12 forming a diversity report from the County
 13 Manager's Office is because, I said before,
 14 there comes a time when you have to put your
 15 words into actions. And it's not enough to say
 16 we are a diverse community. It's not enough to
 17 say we get along, it's not enough to say that
 18 we're doing an okay job.
 19 As wonderful as the current administration
 20 is, they're not going to be here always,
 21 they're not. And I'm not trying to lecture to

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1 you all. I'm just trying to give you my
 2 perspective from where I sit.
 3 And we have to do a better job at not just
 4 walking the walk or talking the talk, but
 5 actually walking the walk.
 6 And I am shocked that we had to set aside
 7 a Diversity Statement until another day, that
 8 we could not get this achieved tonight.
 9 Basically I'm dumbfounded, I really am.
 10 Because if we're going to sit here and say
 11 we're a collective group and that we promote
 12 these things, why not do it, why not do it.
 13 Mr. Divilio, I compliment you, sir, I
 14 really do, for taking the stance that you've
 15 taken. I really compliment you for trying to
 16 move the needle.
 17 I may not have liked the way you did it,
 18 but I do appreciate that you're trying to move
 19 the needle. You're trying to get people to
 20 understand that we have to come to a different
 21 point than where we are. I really do.

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1 So I don't mean to get myself emotionally
 2 charged, but maybe it's time for me to show
 3 some emotion.
 4 And as I said to you earlier, Chuck, I've
 5 changed from where I was five years ago, I
 6 have, I really have. And I'm not ashamed of
 7 where I am now and I'm not ashamed to say that
 8 I think it's time for change.
 9 I welcome any amendments that Mr. Leshner
 10 wants to forward. I will read them diligently
 11 and give them the time and consideration that
 12 they deserve, Mr. Leshner. I look forward to
 13 them.
 14 But it's time to just put our money where
 15 our mouth is. We've got to do this if we
 16 really mean it.
 17 To Mr. Herr, yeah, he's been knocking at
 18 this door for quite some time wanting to come
 19 in and present something to us.
 20 If the base remains and the statue goes
 21 away, maybe we do something with the base. The

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1 reason my resolution is written the way it is
 2 is to allow that conversation, that discourse
 3 to happen and happen freely without one side
 4 feeling that the door is absolutely shut on
 5 them and they don't have an opportunity to
 6 offer their side of the story.
 7 Ms. Milligan is it?
 8 MS. MIELKE: Mielke.
 9 MR. PACK: Mielke, Ms. Mielke, I certainly
 10 appreciate your retelling of what happened at
 11 Culp's Hill and that encounter between the
 12 Union soldiers and the Confederate soldiers. I
 13 had actually forgotten about that story. And
 14 as you were telling it, I was replaying it in
 15 my mind that these were Talbot Countians that
 16 were fighting against each other at that
 17 battlefield. And once it was over, they did,
 18 as she said, comfort each other.
 19 So we reached a point where we have to
 20 make a decision. And I know that I was
 21 searching to try to do a ballot question. I

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1 readily admit that. And I'm almost glad now
 2 that in talking with the Office of Law that we
 3 couldn't do it. Really I'm almost glad that we
 4 couldn't do a ballot question because I'd
 5 rather stand up here as an elected official and
 6 cast my vote without having to push it back and
 7 have the people do the job that they already
 8 hired me to do.
 9 I would be glad to listen to all points of
 10 view. Ms. Mielke, Ms. Wade, in the back, I
 11 welcome on the 21st we're doing the public
 12 hearing, 28th.
 13 SECRETARY: 28th.
 14 MR. PACK: 28th. On this public hearing
 15 at the school. I will certainly be listening
 16 intently to what you have to say. I ask that
 17 you make those comments respectfully to members
 18 of Council as well as to each other as you come
 19 and share your thoughts with us.
 20 Again, it is time for this Council to make
 21 a decision. We don't need to push it back on

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1 the people, we don't need to do straw polls, we
 2 don't need to set up tables outside election
 3 polls. We have to make a decision, and we have
 4 to live with it and move on.
 5 So we do have a lot of work to do that,
 6 unfortunately, the statue is taking up a lot of
 7 time. We have a number of other things that we
 8 have to do.
 9 I want people to really, really focus in
 10 also on those ballot questions that we put
 11 forth for consideration. We will be putting
 12 forth for your consideration on the 21st.
 13 Because it's really important that we look at
 14 those ballot questions as well.
 15 Again, my hat goes off to Mr. Hollis and
 16 his staff, what they've been doing. They have
 17 a number of diversity trainings that they put
 18 in place. We're good, we can be better. And I
 19 think he has the desire to be better and do
 20 better and bring more training in. I just hope
 21 that this Council supports him and gives him

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1 that support that he needs to do those things
 2 instead of hiding behind veiled conversations
 3 of he's good enough, we do things okay, we
 4 don't need to do anything else. Give him the
 5 support he needs.
 6 So that's all I have to say on that.
 7 Well, that's not all I have to say. That's all
 8 I will say tonight. Put it that way. Because
 9 I will say more, trust me.
 10 We have a County Fair that's been set up
 11 for July the 11th from ten a.m. to six p.m.
 12 Again, I think they're going to do it as a
 13 drive-through County Fair this year.
 14 Of course, due to COVID-19, a lot of our
 15 larger public venues and events are canceled or
 16 readjusted or turned into virtual events.
 17 The County Fair is looking to do a
 18 drive-through event on the 11th of July from
 19 ten a.m. to six p.m. And so if you want more
 20 information on that, there's a website,
 21 talbotcountyfair.org. You can click on that to

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1 take advantage of that.
 2 Also for your public pleasure, the Talbot
 3 County Fair is also doing an outdoor movie
 4 night. This is Sandlot, good movie, six p.m.
 5 And Footloose, okay movie, that will take place
 6 on Friday, July the 10th. It's free admission.
 7 You need to call to reserve your space online.
 8 Again, that will be free. Donations will be
 9 collected. Again, that's at
 10 talbotcountyfair.org.
 11 So some good public events going on next
 12 month to kind of take your mind away from all
 13 the other craziness with the COVID and the
 14 statues and when are we going back to school
 15 and when can we play baseball. Go have some
 16 fun with the County Fair and support them.
 17 Okay? Let's do that.
 18 The next Talbot County meeting will be
 19 held on Tuesday, July the 14th, at six p.m.
 20 Mr. Hollis, we already voted for special
 21 legislative day, right? We did that. Okay.

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1 The Council will be convening in open
 2 session at 4:30 and immediately adjourning into
 3 closed session to discuss real estate, legal,
 4 personnel matters, as listed on the statement
 5 for closing that meeting.
 6 Therefore, is there any other matters
 7 before Council, Madam Secretary, that I missed?
 8 SECRETARY: Not that I'm aware of.
 9 MR. PACK: Thank you very much.
 10 We're adjourned, Council.
 11 (Meeting concluded at: 9:27 p.m.)
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 21

1 STATE OF MARYLAND
 2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and
 for the State of Maryland, County of Anne Arundel,
 3 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot
 County Council Audio, personally appeared before me
 4 at the time and place herein set according to law,
 was interrogated by counsel.

5
 I further certify that the examination was
 6 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed
 from my stenographic notes to the within printed
 7 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription
 in a true and accurate manner.

8
 I further certify that the stipulations
 9 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my
 presence.

10
 I further certify that I am not of counsel
 11 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,
 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way
 12 interested in the outcome of this action.

13 AS WITNESS my hand Notarial Seal this 29th
 day of June, 2020, at Easton, MD.

14
 15 

16 _____
 Diane Houlihan
 Notary Public

17
 18
 19
 20 My commission expires September 16, 2021
 21

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