

COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

August 25, 2026; 5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Keasha N. Haythe

Lynn L. Mielke

Dave Stepp

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 2 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We just want to 4 welcome everybody. If everybody could please 5 stand. We're going to say the Pledge of 6 Allegiance of the Flag and the prayer. 7 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.) 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's get started 9 here on tonight's agenda that's before us. Is 10 there any additions, deletions, or corrections 11 to the agenda, Council? 12 MS. HAYTHE: No. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Hearing none, the 14 agenda is accepted as unanimous consent. 15 The minutes of July 28th and August 11th. 16 We've had a chance to take a look at that. Is 17 there any additions, deletions, or corrections 18 to the minutes? 19 MS. HAYTHE: No. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Council? Okay. Hearing 21 none, it moves the minutes be accepted as	1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great. Okay. 2 Is there a motion to put this into the 3 record? 4 MS. MIELKE: So moved. 5 MR. LESHER: Second. 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 7 second to put it into the record. Madam 8 Secretary, could you call the vote. 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 12 MR. LESHER: Aye. 13 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 14 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 15 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 16 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Coach Plutschak, you 18 want to come on up, give us a little background 19 what you guys been up to. You can sit down 20 there with the speaker, if you would please. 21 There we go. There we go.
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1 unanimous consent. 2 Disbursement of August 18th and 25th. 3 We've had time to review that, Council. Is 4 there any additions, deletions, or corrections 5 to that? 6 MS. HAYTHE: No. 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Hearing none, the 8 chair moves that the disbursements be accepted 9 as unanimous consent. Okay. 10 All right. The first thing tonight is the 11 Junior All-Stars. There you go, the Maryland 12 State Champions. 13 Madam Secretary, could you go ahead and 14 read the certificate into the record, please. 15 SECRETARY: Certificate of Recognition is 16 awarded in recognition of your valuable 17 contributions to the 2026 Talbot All-Star 18 Junior League Team, 2026 Maryland State 19 Champions. 20 And it's signed by all member of the 21 County Council.	1 COACH PLUTSCHAK: So we started this 2 journey back June. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: There we go. We got a 4 future baseball player. There we go. 5 COACH PLUTSCHAK: Yup. So we started this 6 journey back on June 5th, started through the 7 districts. Did pretty well there. We, you 8 know, had a few challenges but fought through 9 them. Won that. 10 And then we went to the State tournament 11 in Waldorf, Maryland. We also did pretty well 12 there. 13 Ended up going to DuBois, Pennsylvania. 14 Won our first game, which was a really tough 15 battle, and ended up falling short the 16 following two games. 17 But couldn't be any more proud of these 18 boys. It was a heck of a journey for all of 19 us, and the future is very, very bright for all 20 12 of these young men. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great. That's

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1 great. Well, we really all appreciate you're 2 doing. 3 And we're so happy, you guys. We're very, 4 very proud of you to represent Maryland and 5 really represent Talbot County and Easton. So 6 we're just so proud of you guys. 7 And it's a pleasure and an honor to be up 8 here. And we got some stuff for you up here. 9 Council, would you like to say anything? 10 MS. HAYTHE: No. Just that we're so proud 11 of you and what you have accomplished, and 12 happy to provide you with these certificates 13 this evening. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. 15 MR. LESHER: Just congratulations. And 16 you've done Talbot County proud. We're all 17 proud of you, and you've shown us all in a good 18 light. 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. And Lynn. 20 MS. MIELKE: Well done, well done. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Well done. Okay.	1 COACH PLUTSCHAK: Buddy Callahan is here. 2 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. That's his. 3 And Assistant Coach Jason Smith. Not 4 here. 5 SPEAKER: Coaching soccer. 6 MS. HAYTHE: All right. Hold those up. 7 MS. KILMON: All right, guys. We're going 8 to look at Michaela real quick. 9 SPEAKER: Three, two. Great. 10 MS. KILMON: One for the official record 11 with my phone. 12 Lynn, can you scoot to the left just a 13 little? There we go. Make sure I see all the 14 heads here. There we go. We are good. 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Good. 16 MS. MIELKE: Congratulations. 17 COACH PLUTSCHAK: Thank you, everybody. 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. 19 MR. LESHER: Congratulations. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We'll go ahead, and 21 that was pretty special.
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1 We got a certificate for you. 2 MR. STAMP: Get them all up front. 3 COACH PLUTSCHAK: Hey, guys. 4 MR. CALLAHAN: You'll do it. 5 MS. HAYTHE: Do you have a list, Susan? 6 SECRETARY: Well, they're just on here. 7 They should be in alphabetical order. 8 MS. HAYTHE: Michael Adams. Henry 9 Callahan. 10 MR. STAMP: Line up here for a photograph. 11 SPEAKER: Start over here. 12 MS. HAYTHE: Davis Councell, Blake Hanna, 13 Cayson Kennedy, Hunter Kennedy, Tommy Mackall. 14 Am I pronouncing that right. McCall. 15 Congratulations. Brycen Mollick. Not here. 16 Absent. Colton Smith, Jaiden Smith, Liam 17 Sutton. Congratulations. Brady White. 18 SPEAKER: Not here. 19 MS. HAYTHE: And of course, Head Coach 20 Plutschak. 21 And assistant coach here?	1 And we got one more special thing coming 2 now. Come on up here, Ray. 3 We're going to have a proclamation for Ray 4 Clarke, the engineer. He's retiring tonight. 5 Well, really this week. It's this week, isn't 6 it, Ray? 7 MR. CLARKE: Yes. 8 MR. CALLAHAN: When is it official? Is it 9 today? 10 MR. CLARKE: It's actually the 28th. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: The 28th. 12 COACH PLUTSCHAK: Well, technically I 13 guess HR says it's the 1st. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you, I got you, I got 15 you, I got you. 16 So Madam Secretary, could you go ahead and 17 read the proclamation, please, in the record. 18 SECRETARY: Certificate of Recognition to 19 Raymond P. Clarke, PE, county engineer. 20 Whereas, Raymond P., Ray, Clarke, PE began 21 his career as the county engineer for Talbot

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1 County Government on August 7, 2000. 2 And whereas, throughout his tenure, Ray 3 has earned the respect and appreciation of both 4 his colleagues and the community, as evidenced 5 by numerous letters of appreciation from Talbot 6 County residents included in his personnel file 7 as a testament to the exceptional service, 8 responsiveness, and care he has demonstrated 9 throughout his career. 10 And whereas, over the course of his 11 career, Ray has made a lasting impact on his 12 fellow county employees, as expressed through 13 his professionalism, technical expertise, and 14 unwavering commitment to serving the citizens 15 of Talbot County. 16 And whereas, with the support of the 17 County Council, along with his team at the 18 Department of Public Works, Ray led projects 19 which have made and continue to make meaningful 20 contributions to county infrastructure, 21 environmental stewardship, and long-term	1 many bridges and culverts. 2 And whereas, during his tenure as county 3 engineer, various county buildings and 4 facilities have been constructed or renovated, 5 including renovations to the Talbot County Free 6 Library Easton and St. Michaels branches, the 7 former Health Department building on Hanson 8 Street and the new Health Department facility 9 on Cadmus Lane, the north EMS station in 10 Cordova, White Marsh Elementary School, Easton 11 Middle School, Tilghman Elementary School, 12 St. Michael's Elementary, Middle, and High 13 School, Chapel District Elementary School, 14 Mid-shore Regional Landfill Transfer Station on 15 Barkers Landing Road, all while securing over 16 \$100 million in federal and State grants for 17 Talbot County sewer, roads, and construction 18 and renovation projects. 19 And whereas, Ray's impressive educational 20 background reflects his commitment to lifelong 21 learning and professional excellence. He
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1 planning efforts, including upgrades to the 2 Region II St. Michael's wastewater treatment 3 plant in 2008, and Region II sewer collection 4 system in 2017 to 2022, replacement of the 5 Region IV Wye Mills wastewater treatment plant 6 scheduled for 2027-28, upgrades to the Region V 7 Tilghman wastewater treatment plant scheduled 8 for 2027-28, and extension and public sewer to 9 eliminate approximately 1,200 septic systems, 10 all with the goal to improve water quality in 11 the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. 12 And whereas, for the past 26 years as the 13 leader of the Department of Public Works, Ray 14 and his team, in conjunction with leadership 15 and team of the Roads Department, have 16 implemented, overseen, and brought to 17 completion numerous road and other 18 infrastructure replacement and rehabilitation 19 projects, including improvements to Glebe Road, 20 Black Dog Alley, Goldsborough Neck Road, 21 Airport Road, and Dutchmans Lane, as well as	1 earned a bachelor of science in metallurgical 2 engineering from the University of Texas at El 3 Paso and his masters in environmental 4 engineering at the University of Maryland. 5 As a registered professional engineer with 6 the State of Maryland, Ray has upheld the 7 highest standards of the engineering profession 8 and demonstrated his dedication to his field 9 through active membership in numerous 10 professional organizations, and by continually 11 seeking opportunities to stay informed and 12 contribute to the engineering community. 13 And whereas, Ray's knowledge, integrity, 14 and dedication have left a lasting legacy 15 within Talbot County Government. And his years 16 of service have strengthened the county and 17 have and will continue to benefit countless 18 residents for years to come. 19 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of 20 Talbot County, do hereby express our sincere 21 appreciation for his 26 years of outstanding

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1 service to Talbot County Government and the 2 citizens of Talbot County, extend our sincere 3 gratitude for his many contributions, and wish 4 him good health, happiness, and success in the 5 future. 6 Given under our hands and the great seal 7 of Talbot County this 25th day of August in the 8 year of our Lord, 2026. 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary. 10 Good job. 11 Council. 12 MS. HAYTHE: Yes. I just want to say 13 congratulations, Ray, on your retirement. I'm 14 sure it's bittersweet for you. 15 MR. CLARKE: It is. 16 MS. HAYTHE: And I just want to say thank 17 you for your leadership and your dedication for 18 all the years that you've been with Talbot 19 County. You certainly helped Talbot County 20 improve and become a better county because of 21 all of your hard work.	1 going on. 2 And as you've heard, we've made a lot of 3 progress. And so thanks to you for leading 4 your team through all of this. You've got a 5 lot to take credit here. 6 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. 7 MR. LESHER: We're really grateful for 8 your service. 9 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. 10 MR. CALLAHAN: And Ray, to add to that. 11 It's been great working with you for many 12 years. And thank you so much for your 13 dedication. 14 I want to thank your better half over 15 there, too, for everything she's put up with, 16 you know. 17 But at the end of the day, Ray, I really 18 appreciate you hanging in there with us. I 19 know that, you know, I didn't want to let you 20 go really. 21 MR. CLARKE: I know.
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1 So thank you, and enjoy retirement. 2 MR. CLARKE: I will. 3 MS. MIELKE: I join in with that. It's 4 been a pleasure knowing you and congratulate 5 you on all the projects that you've overseen. 6 And as a former resident of Tunis Mills, I 7 just wondered how you're handing off the Leeds 8 Creek? I think the public would want to know 9 how you're handing off the Leeds Creek project. 10 MR. CLARKE: Well, we're giving it to Ken 11 Jacoby. 12 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go, there you go. 13 MS. MIELKE: Okay. 14 MR. LESHER: Well, congratulations, Ray, 15 and thank you for your service. 16 I get to see Ray in action every month as 17 Council liaison for the Public Works Advisory 18 Board. And the number of projects that he 19 juggles, as you heard referenced in the 20 citation, it ranges from wastewater to roads to 21 county facilities. And we have an awful lot	1 MR. CALLAHAN: I really did not want to 2 let you go. 3 MR. CLARKE: I have to go. 4 MR. CALLAHAN: But we got a good man 5 that's going to back you up, Josh. We got a 6 good man there. And you've done a great job 7 with him. And you've got a really great staff 8 behind you, got a phenomenal team behind you. 9 And, you know, I just want to personally 10 thank you for hanging in here for a few months. 11 I know we were wanting to do something last 12 year, but it means so much that you mentored 13 the people that could take your job over. 14 And really your job has been a really 15 tough job, and you've got so many things in the 16 last five, well, 20 years really. But, you 17 know, here in the last five years since COVID, 18 we've done schools and we've done EMS stations, 19 and you guys have been knocking it out of the 20 park. And you're the one that's been driving a 21 lot of that stuff and helping things, like

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1 Mr. Leshar said. 2 So I really, really thank you for all 3 you've done for the county and for the Council 4 because you've made the Council really look 5 good with all the projects and stuff. So I 6 really, really appreciate you. 7 MR. CLARKE: You're very welcome. 8 MR. CALLAHAN: And look, in your endeavors 9 of what you want to do and stuff, can I still 10 have your phone number? 11 MR. CLARKE: You have my cell number, yes. 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, thank you. 13 MR. CLARKE: It won't change. 14 MR. STAMP: So Council, thank you for 15 allowing me to say a couple of things about 16 Ray. 17 So I've been working with Ray for about 17 18 years since I arrived here as the emergency 19 director. And my initial contact with Ray was 20 nothing but cooperation day in and day out. He 21 taught me so much.	1 MR. CLARKE: At restaurants maybe. 2 MR. STAMP: Right. But Ray, thank you for 3 everything. 4 MR. CLARKE: You're welcome. Thank you, 5 all. Thank you. 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. You want to say a 7 few words? 8 MR. CLARKE: Sure, sure. First off, 9 Council, thank you very, very much for all the 10 kind words. I really appreciate it. 11 The other thing I will tell you is 26 12 years is a long time, and I did a lot. I'm 13 actually tired from listening to what Susan 14 said. 15 That being said, I think one of the 16 things, kind of a couple of tidbits. When I, 17 actually you noted, I graduated with a BS is 18 metallurgical engineering from the University 19 of Texas El Paso. So technically I learned how 20 to rape the earth, and then I became an 21 environmental engineer from the University of
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1 And then in my roles as acting county 2 manager and as assistant county manager, he 3 mentored me. And in the last five years as 4 county manager, we've been side by side and 5 done so many good things for this community. 6 This guy is a smart guy. 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. 8 MR. STAMP: But more than being a smart 9 guy, he's got a heart that's huge, and he 10 understands customer service. 11 When people called Ray Clarke, he tried to 12 figure out a way to help them get where they 13 needed to get. It wasn't reading off a rule or 14 regulation. It was trying to figure out how to 15 help them. 16 And as far as mentoring, he's mentored a 17 lot of people, he's got a huge heart, and his 18 customer service and dedication is just off the 19 charts. 20 And I have a feeling that we may be seeing 21 him time to time in the future.	1 Maryland with my masters. So I learned how to 2 fix it and make it better. 3 That being said, when I first came to 4 Talbot County, we had the Region II wastewater 5 treatment plant. It was actually under 6 contract operations with Maryland Environmental 7 Service. 8 And in 2001, our daily average flow was 9 352,000 gallons per day. We had a situation at 10 the wastewater treatment plant. Basically we 11 have a transducer that basically reads the 12 flow. And in 2004, the transducer is on this 13 rod or clamp and clamped on, but it's dropping. 14 So as it's dropping, we're reading flows. 15 So our daily average flow in 2004 was 470,000 16 gallons a day. And in 2005, it was 579,000 17 gallons per day. 18 I'm calling up MES going where is this 19 flow coming from. Well, we've got our meter 20 calibrated. I'm like we need to know where the 21 flow is coming well. Well, we've got the meter

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1 calibrated. 2 It wasn't until we went out there and 3 found out this clamp basically was letting the 4 transducer fall, which basically was reading 5 the flows higher and higher and higher. So 6 that kind of caught us off guard. 7 But I will say what's very, very 8 interesting is in 2025, our wastewater flows at 9 the Region II wastewater treatment plant were 10 actually 295,000 gallons per day. So 11 significantly less than they were in 2001. 12 MR. STAMP: And what is the capacity of 13 that plant? 14 MR. CLARKE: That plant is 660,000 15 gallons. 16 MR. STAMP: And you're reaching closer 17 every day, right? 18 MR. CLARKE: We're trying. We've trying 19 to get up there, we're trying to get up there. 20 The other thing I will tell you, 21 Ms. Mielke, I will say this I have in my career	1 or help, I'm willing to help him out via 2 donating my time to him and helping him, but 3 I'm not coming to work. 4 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good. 5 MR. CLARKE: Thank you all very, very 6 much. I appreciate that. 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great. So 8 you want to come on up, Ray. 9 MR. CLARKE: Oh, sure. 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, yeah. 11 MS. HAYTHE: And if you want that resident 12 inspector job, come see me. 13 MR. CLARKE: I'm going to be a caregiver. 14 Well, thank you, all. 15 MS. KILMON: Try to find Keasha. There we 16 go. Ready? One, two, three. Perfect. 17 SPEKAER: All right. One, two, three. 18 Thank you, guys. 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. 20 MR. CLARKE: Thank you all so much. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda,
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1 with Talbot County, I replaced four out of the 2 five bridges, timber bridges. I hope they can 3 get Tunis Mills done in 26 years. It was -- 4 MS. MIELKE: Big project. 5 MR. CLARKE: It was a tough project. 6 And the only other thing I'd say is we've 7 done a lot of culvert replacements. 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. 9 MR. CLARKE: And I think we're very happy 10 about that. I'm happy about it. 11 I am leaving you with a topnotch engineer 12 in Josh Elliott. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Absolutely. 14 MR. CLARKE: The only disadvantage I feel 15 that Josh has is I had a little better 16 advantage. I had more engineers that were 17 working for me when I first started. I think 18 it's going to get tougher and tougher for him 19 to find engineers out there. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. 21 MR. CLARKE: But if he needs any support	1 eligible for vote. Madam Secretary, could you 2 read the title of the bill into the record, 3 please. 4 SECRETARY: Bill Number 1652, a bill to 5 amend Chapter 131, road naming and property 6 numbering of the Talbot County Code, for the 7 purposes of modernizing Talbot County's 8 addressing standards to be Next Generation 911 9 compliant and to clarify staff responsibilities 10 in administering the provisions of Chapter 131. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Madam 12 Secretary. 13 How you doing, Bryce? How you guys doing? 14 MR. YELTON: Good. Thank you, Council. 15 Bryce Yelton, Talbot County Planning & Zoning. 16 And next to me is Katie Stafford, Emergency 17 Services and technical services. 18 The bill is what we're here for today. So 19 this, again, just another bill that is going to 20 seek to modernize the way that we do our 21 addressing standards in Talbot County. And it

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1 really just clarifies the responsibilities 2 within each department on who is responsible 3 for reviewing those. 4 So happy to answer any questions. I know 5 we've been here a couple of times before. 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great. 7 Any questions? 8 MR. LESHAR: We've been over some of this 9 ground before as we did the public hearing for 10 this, but it sounds like Planning & Zoning, 11 Emergency Services are already working 12 together. This may formalize the relationship, 13 codify what is already happening on the ground 14 and make us compliant. 15 But this doesn't sound like it's going to 16 be a big change for the way you operate? 17 MR. YELTON: That's correct. 18 MS. STAFFORD: That's correct. 19 MR. STAMP: I was just going to say, 20 Council, this is more of a housekeeping bill. 21 This does codify what has been taking place	1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thanks a lot, guys. 2 Good job. 3 MR. YELTON: Council, thank you. 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. 5 Okay. We got a few Clay things to happen 6 here. 7 MR. STAMP: Okay. Good. Good evening, 8 Council. 9 Under county manager report this evening, 10 I have several committee and board appointments 11 that I'm bringing to you. 12 The first would be the Agricultural 13 Resolution Board. I'm asking for your 14 considering to appoint Ms. Antoinette Johnson 15 to that board. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Motion to approve request. 17 MR. LESHAR: Second. 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 19 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the 20 vote. 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
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1 operationally. The Emergency Services 2 Department, and Katie in specific, has been 3 doing the work, making sure that the addressing 4 is in order following the guidelines and 5 working with Planning & Zoning. 6 So again, it's just codifying what 7 operationally has been done for some time. 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay, then. So that being 9 said, any other questions or concerns? 10 Madam Secretary, you want to call the 11 vote. 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshar. 15 MR. LESHAR: Aye. 16 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 17 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 18 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 19 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 21 MR. MEEHAN: Aye.	1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshar. 3 MR. LESHAR: Aye. 4 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 5 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 6 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 7 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 8 MR. STAMP: The next, Council, would be 9 the Commission on Aging. Requesting the 10 appointment of Ms. Betsy Roe. 11 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve. 12 MR. LESHAR: Second. 13 MS. MIELKE: Second. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 15 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the 16 vote. 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshar. 20 MR. LESHAR: Aye. 21 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.

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1 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 2 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 3 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 4 MR. STAMP: And Council, the next is the 5 Talbot County Family Network Board of 6 Directors. Requesting the appointment of 7 Demetrius Price to that board. 8 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve. 9 MR. LESHER: Second. 10 MS. MIELKE: Second. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 12 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the 13 vote. 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 17 MR. LESHER: Aye. 18 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 19 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 20 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 21 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.	1 what is really a very valuable community 2 resource with this building. And of course, 3 they make it available for much, much more than 4 their Waterfowl Festival functions. It's 5 really a great place. 6 So I'll move for issuance of that letter 7 of support. 8 MS. MIELKE: Second. 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 10 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the 11 vote. 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 15 MR. LESHER: Aye. 16 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 17 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 18 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 19 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 20 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council. 21 The next item will be the Roads Department
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1 MR. STAMP: Okay. That completes the 2 board and committee appointments. 3 I have three items for you this evening. 4 The first, the Waterfowl Festival is 5 seeking a letter of support from the Talbot 6 County Council for their application for a 7 Maryland State Arts Council grant in the amount 8 of \$200,000 for the restoration of the 9 Waterfowl building. 10 No county funds are required. 11 And I don't see Deana here with us this 12 evening, but she has extended this request to 13 you. 14 MR. LESHER: Well, I think that we've seen 15 how much Waterfowl Festival has been doing with 16 this building that they received for a dollar. 17 And you might think that they overpaid for it 18 for all that it's costing them now. 19 They've put a new roof on it. They've 20 restored the windows. This will be the next 21 step. And I know they've got big ambitions for	1 is seeking Council approval to purchase a 2 freightliner dump truck with a snow plow 3 package and extended warranty from Johnson 4 Truck Center in Landover, Maryland, in the 5 amount of \$235,786 utilizing the Sourcewell 6 group purchasing contract. 7 There are sufficient funds in the budget 8 for this purchase, and it has been budgeted in 9 FY27 budget. 10 This will be replacing a 1995 dump truck 11 with a steal body that was conveyed to the 12 county from SHA. Again, 1995 with over 200,000 13 miles on it. 14 And again, we're asking this of Council 15 this evening. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 17 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve the 18 request. 19 MS. MIELKE: Second. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 21 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the

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1 vote. 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 5 MR. LESHNER: Aye. 6 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 7 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 8 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 9 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 10 MR. STAMP: And finally, Council, I have 11 the last request. Seeking approval from 12 Council to renew the county's contract with 13 Providence Strategy Group in the amount of 14 \$48,000 a year for lobbying services. 15 There are sufficient funds in the budget 16 for this contract. 17 I will just mention to you, as Council is 18 aware, Providence provided services during this 19 last State legislative session that was 20 incredibly helpful during a really challenging 21 time where we are seeing movement at the State	1 MR. LESHNER: Aye. 2 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 3 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 4 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 5 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 6 MR. STAMP: And Council, that completes 7 your county manager report for this evening. 8 And as always, I thank you for your support. 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job. 10 MS. MIELKE: Thank you. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job. Okay. 12 Next, public comment. Yes, sir, come on 13 up. 14 MR. RIGGIN: Thank you, sir. 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir. 16 MR. RIGGIN: My name is Phil Riggan. I 17 live at 29736 Sullivan Drive here in Easton. 18 Actually it was interesting. I'm 19 fascinated by what is a very short agenda but 20 one that's very pithy. I guess that's the 21 proper word.
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1 level to shift fiscal obligations to county 2 governments. And at the same time, seeking to 3 remove authorities from the county government. 4 So it's very important that the county has 5 realtime view of those so you can engage in a 6 timely manner, one. 7 And two, he was successful in securing a 8 half a million dollar grant for Talbot County 9 to aid in the delivery of the sewer service to 10 the hospital, which was excellent. 11 So staff recommends your consideration to 12 approve this request. 13 MS. HAYTHE: Motion to approve the request 14 for Providence Strategies. 15 MS. MIELKE: Second. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 17 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the 18 vote. 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.	1 First of all, I'm glad that you had the 2 opportunity to go to the new medical center 3 under construction. I don't know what you 4 learned, but I'm sure it was entertaining, and 5 we all look forward to that thing being 6 completed. 7 It will be a huge, a huge facility, a 8 huge -- it will elevate the status of Easton, 9 and then improving health care is always 10 something that's very, very good. 11 I also want to let you know that I was a 12 little bit late getting in here today. And I 13 was even later when 77 people came out the door 14 at one time, having I guess thanked the Little 15 League, or I used to call it Little League. 16 This is the Junior League I assume. And State 17 champions. So that's great. 18 I also want to mention something that's 19 kind of close to my heart. What you just did 20 in renewing the contract or, yeah, renewing the 21 contract for lobbying services. It's extremely

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1 important. 2 As a lobbyist a long time ago, I know that 3 whenever I told somebody I was a lobbyist, they 4 frowned at me like I was somebody who was 5 smoking cigars in the back room with a bag of 6 cash. Those days are way over. That hasn't 7 happened for a very long time. 8 I was looking at a book at my house 9 yesterday. I was lucky enough to be featured 10 as one of the most successful lobbyists in 11 Washington, D.C. at the age of 40. And the 12 book -- people like Barry Goldwater. I know 13 some of you are not old enough to remember him, 14 but other people of significance who talked 15 about how lobbying was a big part of the 16 legislative process, and I know it was. 17 Congressional members, you folks, State 18 legislators, you can't possibly know enough 19 about everything that's going on. You need a 20 lobbyist. 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.	1 year will know to what extent that place is up 2 and running. 3 \$200,000, I don't think it's probably 4 enough money to get the job done over there. 5 So maybe, I won't lobby a lobbyist, but maybe 6 it would be -- if you need more money, maybe 7 you should go directly to the State Legislature 8 and get targeted funds, and maybe the lobbying 9 group can help you do that. 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. 11 MR. RIGGIN: Because, you know, it's tough 12 going grant money, grant money, grant money 13 when you can go directly to the legislature. 14 So that's all I have. Thank you very much 15 for listening to me. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Absolutely. Thank 17 you. I appreciate you. Okay. 18 Anybody else like to come up? Okay. 19 All right. Council comments. Mr. Leshner. 20 MR. LESHER: Yes. I was -- Mr. Riggini 21 mentioned the Maryland Association of Counties.
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1 MR. RIGGIN: And if you ever disappoint 2 someone, the door is shut, it takes forever to 3 get that door back open again. So it's a very 4 above board profession. 5 Finally, and I'm glad to see that you 6 folks have decided to move forward with that 7 because I know you're represented by MACo at 8 times, but you also have very unique things 9 that are before the legislature or should go 10 before the legislature where your lobbying 11 representation is precisely focused on 12 something like that. 13 \$200,000 for the Waterfowl building. I'm 14 just, I'm always thrilled as a resident of 15 Easton to see how well that building has been 16 maintained. 17 There are too many armories around this 18 State that have been allowed to fall in 19 disrepair, and not Easton's. And it is a very, 20 very vital part of life here in town. And 21 anybody who comes to the Plein Air event each	1 I recently attended their annual conference, 2 summer conference, which was for me the best 3 one yet in tackling the most pressing issues 4 that counties, including Talbot, are facing 5 from housing affordability to the Blueprint for 6 Excellence to the panoply of issues around data 7 centers. 8 There was a particularly informative 9 session on data centers that included a panel 10 with an official from Loudoun County, Virginia, 11 which is currently hosting the greatest 12 concentration of data centers, at least in the 13 United States. 14 The issues around resource use, electric 15 power, and water use as well as latency, that 16 is transmission of data, were raised. And the 17 Loudoun County official specifically urged 18 localities that have not yet grappled with data 19 centers in their zoning code to do just what 20 Talbot County is poised to do, that is to 21 institute a moratorium to gather the facts and

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1 take the time to figure this out. 2 We will be holding our public hearing at 3 our next meeting on that moratorium, and I look 4 forward to the discussion that will follow from 5 that. 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. 7 MS. MIELKE: Today, we took a tour of the 8 hospital under construction and was awfully 9 impressive in the progress that they're making. 10 And looking forward to that being a monument in 11 this, in this county and a facility to proceed 12 with offering good health services to the 13 community, not only Talbot County, but the 14 surrounding counties. So look forward to it. 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job. 16 MS. HAYTHE: So as Mr. Leshner stated, I 17 had the opportunity to attend MACo as well and 18 to speak at the diversity caucus at MACo, why 19 diversity matters. 20 And that's a conversation that President 21 Callahan and I have had quite often and more	1 Last year was our first year with a 2 lobbyist, and we had a phenomenal experience 3 with that. We had a great guy, Michael. 4 MR. LESHNER: Mason. 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Mason, yeah. He was great. 6 And we learned a lot. So I think it was well 7 spent for the constituents and learned a lot. 8 So and just to follow up with what Lynn 9 was saying with the hospital, we all went out 10 there today to take a tour of that hospital. 11 And what an impressive building. It's 12 something to be really proud. Not just the 13 Council, but the whole county and the tristate. 14 It's not just us. It's the people around us 15 from, you know, basically from the bridge to 16 Ocean City. I mean this is a regional 17 hospital. And it's very impressive. 18 And what we did learn is they're basically 19 on time and on budget. And the gentlemen that 20 were taking a tour around, they just knew all 21 the new technology that's going into that
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1 recently. So I'm really glad that President 2 Callahan does understand why diversity matters 3 and it's important in regards to Talbot County 4 and this Council. 5 And I certainly hope that the next Council 6 that takes this seat will continue in that vein 7 and understand why diversity matters as well in 8 the future. 9 In addition to that, I had a constituent 10 reach out regarding ball fields in Cordova, 11 County Manager Stamp. And if we could have 12 Parks & Recs look into what can be done to 13 upgrade the fields in that area in the Chapel 14 District, that would be great. And then I can 15 report back to them as to -- 16 MR. STAMP: Absolutely. 17 MS. HAYTHE: Okay. Thank you. That's it 18 for me. 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I just had a few 20 things and just follow up with what Mr. Riggan 21 said about the lobbyist.	1 hospital. It's fascinating. It really is. So 2 it's a really great project. 3 And that being said, that's about all I 4 have. 5 MS. MIELKE: 666 days. 6 MR. CALLAHAN: 666 days. Don't record 7 that. 8 MS. MIELKE: To completion. 9 MS. HAYTHE: To completion. 10 MR. STAMP: Wait until tomorrow. It will 11 be 665 days. 12 MR. CALLAHAN: I know it. Exactly. 13 MR. LESHNER: The County Council's next 14 meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8th, 15 beginning at 5 o'clock p.m. The Council will 16 be convening in open session at 2:30 p.m. for a 17 work session with the Talbot County Farm Bureau 18 and then adjoining into closed session at 19 3:30 p.m. for discussion of items as listed on 20 the statement for closing that meeting. 21 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn

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1 this meeting and reconvene as noted? 2 MS. HAYTHE: So moved. 3 MS. MIELKE: So moved. 4 MS. HAYTHE: Second. 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 6 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the 7 vote. 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 11 MR. LESHNER: Aye. 12 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 13 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 14 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 15 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thanks a lot. 17 Appreciate everybody coming tonight. 18 (Discussion held off the record.) 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Let's go back on the 20 record. 21 MR. GORMAN: I'm sorry. I should have	1 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem. 2 MR. GORMAN: I was here to make comments 3 about the data centers. I know obviously 4 everybody has already made their comments. But 5 I wasn't able to attend. So just real quick. 6 Good evening, Council President, Members 7 of Council. 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Sir, excuse me. Can you 9 introduce yourself, please. 10 MR. GORMAN: I am so sorry. My name is 11 Peter Gorman. I live in McDaniel, and I'm 12 almost a lifetime resident of Talbot County. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Great. Thank you. 14 MR. GORMAN: I'm here tonight about 15 tonight's data center moratorium. Obviously 16 I'm late now. 17 I understand those concerns, but I ask -- 18 I'd like to ask a different question. Not 19 whether we can stop data centers, but whether 20 Talbot County leads on how this region handles 21 them.
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1 said something. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, no. I apologize. I 3 seen you walk in. So come on up. 4 MR. GORMAN: I'm spoiling everybody's 5 night. Not to hold everybody up. 6 MR. CALLAHAN: That's okay. 7 MR. GORMAN: All right. 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Do we need a motion? 9 MR. LESHNER: You can call us back into 10 order. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Back into order. Yup. 12 MR. LESHNER: Unless legal counsel has 13 something in procedure for us. 14 MR. MEEHAN: No. You're fine. Just go 15 ahead and call into order. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir. Okay. I'm going 17 to give you three minutes if you can. 18 MR. GORMAN: Cool. 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. 20 MR. GORMAN: I know I'm a little late to 21 the party.	1 Data centers are coming to this region, to 2 Talbot County or the county next door. That's 3 already decided by the market. Counties across 4 Maryland are scrambling with moratoriums and 5 bans. Talbot County doesn't have to be one 6 more county reacting. We can be the ones 7 others look to. 8 I'd also like to look past the outdated 9 image of data centers as a water hog. The 10 standard data center uses roughly 110 million 11 gallons a year, about what one 18 golf course 12 uses for irrigation. 13 Modern facilities increasingly use closed 14 loop cooling -- 15 (Reporter admonition.) 16 MR. GORMAN: -- recirculating water 17 internally instead of drawing and discharging 18 it, cutting fresh water use up to 70 percent 19 further. This isn't the environmental threat 20 of a decade ago. 21 So here is what I propose. Instead of a

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1 blanket pause, let's set the standard the rest 2 of the shore follows. Welcome data centers 3 into Talbot County on one condition, developers 4 negotiate real, tangible benefit to our power 5 infrastructure, not just tax revenue. Power 6 the whole community shares in. 7 Specifically, I'd like this Council to 8 direct staff to explore a partnership to bring 9 small modular nuclear reactors to the Eastern 10 Shore built with more capacity than data 11 centers needs, with the surplus sold back on a 12 regional grid instead of walled behind a 13 private meter. 14 This isn't 1979 nuclear technology. 15 Modern SMRs use passive safety systems, a 16 fraction of the footprint, and are operating 17 overseas and under construction in North 18 America. 19 It's not fringe, either. The industry is 20 already moving towards these plants, grid 21 connected instead of isolated.	1 MR. GORMAN: Thank you. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot. 3 MS. MIELKE: Thank you. 4 MR. GORMAN: You're welcome. I also left 5 a copy of my comments for each of you and then 6 I also sourced all of my information as well. 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That would be great. 8 MR. GORMAN: Thank you so much. 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. 10 MR. GORMAN: I'm sorry to keep everybody. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: That's fine. I appreciate 12 that. 13 Okay. Do we need a motion to go out? 14 MR. STAMP: Yeah. Go through the process. 15 MS. MIELKE: So moved. 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion a 17 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the 18 vote. 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
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1 The region already has infrastructure 2 spread the length of the shore, Rock Springs to 3 the north in Cecil County, Vienna in the middle 4 in Dorchester County, and Great Bay Solar 1 to 5 the south in Somerset County. Zoned, 6 connected, and positioned to serve the whole 7 peninsula, not just one corner of it. 8 This is how Talbots leads. New capacity 9 spread across the region that strengthens our 10 grid and brings down costs, not up. 11 I'm not asking for a blank check. I'm 12 asking that Talbot leaders to act like leaders 13 to negotiate instead of retreat and set an 14 example instead of waiting for someone else to. 15 Thank you. 16 And I know that nuclear is a stretch, but 17 it's just to spring ideas, something, you know, 18 just to talk about what could be done and 19 possibilities. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds great. I 21 appreciate --	1 MR. LESHNER: Aye. 2 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 3 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 4 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. 6 (Meeting concluded at: 5:44 p.m.) 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

1 STATE OF MARYLAND

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

8
9 I further certify that the examination was
10 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed
11 from my stenographic notes to the within printed
12 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription
13 in a true and accurate manner.

14
15 I further certify that the stipulations
16 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my
17 presence.

18
19 I further certify that I am not of counsel
20 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,
21 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way
interested in the outcome of this action.

AS WITNESS my hand Notarial Seal this 31st
day of August, 2026, at Easton, MD.



Diane Houlihan
Notary Public

My commission expires September 16, 2029

[& - air]

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