



# TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

## MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING

October 25, 2024

Present – Vice President Pete Leshner (via Zoom), Keasha N. Haythe (via Zoom), Dave Stepp, County Manager Clay Stamp, and County Attorney, Patrick Thomas. President Callahan and Council Member Lynn Mielke were absent.

### I. Introduction of Administrative Resolution:

AN ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AN EMERGENCY BURNING BAN THROUGHOUT TALBOT COUNTY DUE TO PROLONGED OR UNUSUAL CONDITIONS THAT ARE CONDUCIVE TO THE EASY START AND SPREAD OF FIRE was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to the introduction, Brian LeCates, Director of Emergency Services, Sonny Jones, Chairman of the Talbot County Fire Chiefs Committee, and Phil Starkey, President, Talbot County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association provided an overview of the request for the burn ban due to the abnormally dry conditions in the mid-shore region with no appreciable precipitation in the weather forecast. The Burn Ban Committee met and voted to request the Council adopt a thirty (30) day burn ban. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council voted 3-0 to accept the absentee ballots submitted by Mr. Callahan and Ms. Mielke as follows:

Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Ms. Haythe – Aye

The Council approved the Administrative Resolution by voting 5-0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye (by absentee ballot)  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Aye (by absentee ballot)  
Ms. Haythe - Aye

### II. County Manager's Report:

Request from the Department of Public Works to Award Change Order for Phase 1-B of Bid No. 23-11, EXTENSION OF SEWER FROM THE REGION II (ST. MICHAELS) WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, TO THE MOUNT PLEASANT AREA, UNDER BROAD CREEK, AND TO THE VILLAGES OF BOZMAN AND NEAVITT, AS OUTLINED IN RESOLUTION NO. 250 – Ray Clarke, County Engineer, requested Council consideration to award Spring and Associates a change order up to \$150,000 to address an unforeseen issue with the directional drilling under Broad Creek for the extension of sewer to the villages of Bozman and Neavitt as outlined in Resolution No. 250. The contractor has completed approximately 88% of the project but has discovered cemented sands and hard clay approximately 50 feet down and approximately 240 feet from the end of the directional drilling on the Scotts Lane side. Mr. Clarke noted there is urgency to the request as the contractor is prohibited from working after December 15, 2024, due to an environmental deadline imposed by Maryland Department of the Environment. There are sufficient funds in the contingency budget and Mr. Clarke recommended Council approval contingent on a detailed labor cost breakdown is provided. Mr. Clarke further noted that there is a

risk of the boring hole collapsing without the piping being installed. Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council voted 3-0 to accept the absentee ballots submitted by Mr. Callahan and Ms. Mielke as follows:

Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Ms. Haythe – Aye

By a motion made by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the request was brought forward for vote and failed by a vote of 2-0-3

Mr. Callahan – Aye (by absentee ballot)  
Mr. Stepp – Abstain  
Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Ms. Mielke – Abstain (by absentee ballot)  
Ms. Haythe – Abstain

By a motion made by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Mr. Stepp, Council voted 3-0 to schedule a special meeting at a date to be determined next week in order for Mr. Clarke to provide additional information about the project and the request as follows:

Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Ms. Haythe – Aye

Upon motion by Mr. Stepp, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council voted to adjourn and to reconvene next week at a date/time to be determined.

Mr. Leshner – Aye  
Mr. Stepp – Aye  
Ms. Haythe – Aye

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

The transcript of the October 25, 2024, County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.