



TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

July 14, 2020

Present – President Corey W. Pack, Vice President Chuck F. Callahan, Pete Leshner, Laura Price, County Manager R. Andrew Hollis and County Attorney Anthony Kupersmith. Councilman Frank Divilio was absent.

- I. Agenda – Mr. Pack requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Agenda of Tuesday, July 14, 2020.
- II. Minutes – Approval of the May 26, 2020 Minutes was postponed to a later date.
- III. Disbursements – Mr. Pack requested and received Council’s unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, June 30, 2020, Tuesday, July 7, 2020, and Tuesday, July 14, 2020.
- IV. Council Reconsideration to Forward a Letter of Support to the Maryland Congressional Delegation for H.R. 7120 – JUSTICE IN POLICING ACT OF 2020 - the letter in support of H.R. 7120 – JUSTICE IN POLICING ACT OF 2020, approved by four members of the Council at their June 23, 2020 meeting, was brought forward for reconsideration. Mr. Pack stated that the Council’s Rules of Procedure provide that only a member voting in the affirmative can bring the matter back before the Council and Mr. Leshner had asked that the item be placed back on the agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Leshner and seconded by Mr. Callahan to bring the matter forward for reconsideration. Prior to offering Sheriff Gamble an opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation and the vote, Mr. Leshner read the following statement into the record:

While it remains clear to me that police reform in America is an important topic and necessary and timely, and that there’s a federal role to be played in that, in my view, this Council made a significant error in advocating legislation without consulting first with our Sheriff and I’ve personally apologized to him for this mistake. Sheriff Gamble has considerable expertise in addressing police abuses and he has recommended a number of matters for police reform. I also think that since Congress is clearly now moving slowly on this, I would prefer that we withdraw our approval of the letter that we authorized on June 23rd and take our time with due consideration and advice of the Sheriff to craft a replacement that did address specific policy issues.

The Secretary then requested to read a statement into the record from Mr. Divilio, who was absent from the meeting. The statement is as follows:

I voiced my concerns regarding sending a letter about federal legislation but ultimately voted in support because I believe everything can be improved. After speaking with our Sheriff, I realized I should not have sent a letter in support. I’ve always prided myself by reaching out and listening to

subject matter experts. I expected to have their guidance during the meeting and ultimately take responsibility for not inviting them there. Thank you, Frank Divilio, Talbot County Councilman.

Mr. Callahan stated that at the June 23rd Council meeting he was led to believe that we were headed in the right direction and stated that he should have brought it up that we wanted to talk to Sheriff Gamble and that was his mistake. He stated that the Council member who got it right, in his opinion, was Ms. Price, and she was the only one who really knew where we were headed on this matter. He stated that he should have followed that lead, but instead was led down the wrong road. He stated that he had spoken with Sheriff Gamble and Major Mergenthaler, and wants to apologize to the Sheriff's staff. He stated that, in his opinion, it probably felt like the Council was not behind them, but that is far from the truth – “we are behind you, we have your back, and we want to be able for you to have a very safe community.” He stated that, in his opinion, all the deputies do a phenomenal job and the Council appreciates it; “you are the people that keep us safe.” He stated that he realizes that a lot of individuals want police reform and there is a lot to it. He stated that he does not want to tell the deputies how to do their job and in his opinion, he feels like the Council was stepping on the deputies' toes. He expressed his appreciation to Sheriff Gamble for speaking with him several times about his opinion of segments of the legislation, both positive and negative. Mr. Callahan concluded his comments by again expressing his appreciation to Sheriff Gamble and his staff for what they do to keep everyone safe.

Sheriff Gamble was provided an opportunity to comment and read the following statement into the record.

The House of Representatives voted to pass what is commonly referred to as the Justice in Policing Act of 2020. This letter details my opinions on some of the 134 page bill. There are many news articles that attempt to summarize the bill as well as talking points that some would have you believe. To fully understand any proposed legislation, I chose to actually read the entire bill, I did it three times actually, so I could fully understand it since there is a possibility that some of it might become law. I chose to read the entire bill, not to trust a reporter's rendition or talking points from a political party. I would encourage this Council and anybody watching to actually read the entire bill before making any decisions that will impact this community directly. While I won't address every aspect of the bill, that would require me to write about a 200-page dissertation, I am providing my opinion on parts of the bill that would be most detrimental to the citizens of our county, the safety of our police officers, troopers, and deputies, and the likelihood that qualified, intelligent police recruits will disappear from the landscape if this entire bill will become law. As you all know, there's already a severe shortage of applicants, both locally and nationally, for policing. Basically the first five pages of the bill deal with definitions. Page six of the bill deals with holding police accountable in courts. That's what's in quotes. And it talks about revising section 242 of Title 18 of the United States Code. Currently the United States Code Section 242 reads: it makes it a crime for a person acting under color of any law to willingly deprive any person of a right or privilege protected under the Constitution of the laws of the United States. For the purpose of Section 242, acts under color include any acts not only done by federal, State or local officials within their lawful authority, but and also of acts done beyond the bounds of that official's legal authority, if the acts are done while the official is purporting to, or pretending to, act in the performance of his or her official duties, persons acting under the color of the law within the meaning of this statute, including police officers, prison guards, and other law enforcement officials, as well as judges, care providers in public health facilities and others who are acting as public officials. It is not necessary that the crime be motivated by animus towards race, color, religion, sex, handicap, financial status, or national origin of the victim. The offense is punishable by a range of imprisonment up to a term of life or the death penalty, depending on the circumstances of the crime.

Sheriff Gamble stated that the law, if enacted, will change the word “willfully” to “knowingly” or “with reckless regard” and highlighted what the bill would and would not do. Council discussion ensued with Sheriff Gamble.

Ms. Price stated that although she did not read the entire bill, but knew that it was a bad idea. She suggested, as she had done at the June 23rd meeting, to let Washington work through the legislation, which is approximately 60% to 70% the same being proposed by both parties; then once finalized, the Council may offer its support.

Mr. Pack stated that his remarks are directed at those who voted in the affirmative on June 23, 2020 for a letter of support to be sent to the federal delegation on H.R. 7120 and read the following statement into the record:

As it pleased me initially to have your support for a national bill seeking police reform, it has come to my attention that several of the affirming members are now reconsidering their position on the matter before casting their vote on reconsideration of the letter. I would like to take a few moments to speak to you as to why national police reform is too important to me, as it is to many other people and persons of color in America. I would also like to express to each of you my sincere apology if, at any time during the June 23rd meeting, my words offended you. It was not my intention to make any of you feel pressured or urged to casting your vote. My words may have been delivered in a forceful manner, but at no time was I attempting to belittle or shame you to casting your vote for national police reform. I mean that sincerely. I had made my intentions clear to the Council and to the public during the June 9th meeting of my desire for a joint letter of support of H.R. 7120. Right or wrong, I assumed that prior to the June 23rd meeting that members of the Council would review the legislation and be prepared to discuss the merits of the Act. During the conversation surrounding the letter, it was suggested that Council seek the input of the sheriff prior to issuing the letter. My reaction to the suggestion was not an attempt to diminish the advice of the Sheriff, but my reaction stemmed from my feeling that members of the Council did not understand the pains that persons of color have been subjected to at the hands of individuals sworn to protect them. If you recall, in my address to Council on June 9th, I praised the Sheriff for his actions here in Talbot County in recruiting people of color, his hiring of Deputy Brian Ortez, the first Spanish-speaking officer in the Department’s history. My statement was not meant to diminish the role of the Sheriff or the State’s Attorney. On the contrary, I consider them both an invaluable part of this county. If you may recall, during the March 10th Council meeting, a majority voted to send a letter of support to a proposed amendment on HB1300, a blueprint for Maryland’s future. This legislation, as you know, deals with funding for Maryland schools. The Council’s letter of support was affirmed without any input or consultation from the school Superintendent. I’m sure that those affirming members of the Council were not showing any disrespect to the Superintendent when casting their vote. My support for national police reform is not an emotional reaction or my yielding to the chants of protesters. My support is based on documented accounts of unarmed persons of color being killed by uniform officers that has been happening with increased frequency, in my opinion. My support for police reform is based on my concern for the safety of my 30 year-old son living in Atlanta, my brothers living in Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Texas, and other family and friends who do not reside in Maryland but in states where police accountability and oversight are not as controlled and regulated as they are here in Maryland. My support for police reform is based on my desire to see the elimination of the use of chokeholds on citizens of any color. My support for police reform is to improve training on racial, religious, and discriminatory profiling by law enforcement. My support for police reform is for the establishment of a national police misconduct registry to root out individuals who are unfit to serve. My support for police reform is for the creation of local commissions or a task force to help communities to develop just and equitable public safety approaches. My support for police reform is to see mandatory use of

force reporting for all police agencies across the nation. My support for police reform is to see neighborhoods and law enforcement work together to deal with those who perpetrate criminal behavior. My support for police reform is for the mandatory administrative leave for any police officer involved in the death of a citizen, for the officer's mental health wellbeing as well as for the healing of that community. But Councilmen, if your vote for H.R. 7120 was not out of a genuine concern for social reform, then I respectfully ask for you to reconsider. And Councilmen, if your vote for H.R. 7120 was not based on your understanding of the legislation, I again respectfully ask that you reconsider. And Councilmen, if your vote for support of H.R. 7120 was out of fear of being labeled intolerant or racially insensitive, I again respectfully ask that you reconsider your vote. And if your support for H.R. 7120 was a show of respect for me, as humbling as that may be, I would again ask that you reconsider your vote. Concerning H.R. 7120, it has been approved by the U.S. House of Representatives and the legislation is now being sent to the U.S. Senate, where its future is uncertain. Here in Maryland, the State Legislature has convened a work group on police reform focused on accountability and transparency. I am sure that we can expect them to propose police reform legislation for the upcoming legislative session. Should this occur, it is my hope that this Council, as well as the Maryland Association of Counties, will take an active role in the creation and implementation of statewide police reform. Councilmen, leadership requires courage, and courage comes from our moral convictions and our moral center that binds us together and shapes our communities. When we know that something isn't right, it is our moral responsibility not just to speak up but to do what we can to fix it. In closing, perhaps we need to develop more consistency when we are asked or are considering sending a letter regarding any pending State or federal legislation. I would again wish to apologize to any member of the Council who may have been offended by my actions. Yet, with or without the support letter for H.R. 7120, I personally will continue working, even across party lines if necessary, to see that national police reform in America becomes a reality. This is too important of an issue, and I will not, and cannot, stay silent when I know that we can be a better nation. I cannot, and will not, be silenced by fear or intimidation when I know that communities of color depend and rely on trustworthy and faithful community police officers.

The Council approved supporting the motion to reconsider not sending the letter to the federal delegation by voting 4 – 0 – 1 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Abstained
Mr. Divilio – Aye (via absentee ballot)
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

V. Introduction of Administrative Resolution:

AN ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL FOR TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND, REQUIRING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TALBOT COUNTY DIVERSITY STATEMENT; PROVIDING FOR THE INCLUSION OF SUCH STATEMENT IN THE COUNTY EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK; AND, REQUIRING A WRITTEN ACKNOWLEDGMENT FROM EACH COUNTY EMPLOYEE AND BOARD, COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE MEMBER THAT THEY HAVE RECEIVED, READ, AND UNDERSTAND THE DIVERSITY STATEMENT was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, Mr. Pack stated that he had offered the resolution for introduction at the Tuesday, June 9, 2020 Council meeting. He stated that, in his opinion, the creation of a diversity statement would speak volumes to the county as to who we are, what we stand for, and to ensure that individuals hired by the County understand that

we are a county that supports diversity of all types. Mr. Hollis expressed his full support for development of a diversity statement and the inclusion of same in the County’s employee handbook. Council discussion ensued. A motion was made by Mr. Callahan to introduce the administrative resolution; the motion was seconded by Mr. Leshner. The Council approved the administrative resolution by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Divilio – Aye (via absentee ballot)
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

The Administrative Resolution is effective immediately.

VI. Public Hearings:

Resolution No. 289, A RESOLUTION TO PLACE A QUESTION ON THE BALLOT AT THE NOVEMBER 2020 GENERAL ELECTION TO AMEND § 205 OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CHARTER TO ESTABLISH TERM LIMITS FOR TALBOT COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing. Mr. Pack, the sole sponsor of the legislation, requested Council’s consideration to table Resolution No. 289; there was no objection.

Bill No. 1447, A BILL TO AMEND CHAPTER 11 OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE (ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES) TO ALLOW THE BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSE COMMISSIONERS TO ISSUE A LICENSE FOR ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION OF BEER TO CLASS 5 BREWERIES AND ALLOW FOR LOCAL LICENSURE FOR CLASS 6 PUB-BREWERIES AND CLASS 7 MICRO-BREWERIES, was read into the record by the Clerk, brought forward for public hearing, and the public was afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation.

Bill No. 1448, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1366, THE APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO BLACK DOG ALLEY;

Bill No. 1449, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE REPLACEMENT OF THE EASTON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TRACK;

Bill No. 1450, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE A NUTRIENT CREDIT PROGRAM;

Bill No. 1451, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL SECURITY CAMERAS FOR THE ST. MICHAELS HIGH SCHOOL;

Bill No. 1452, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1393, THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS PARK ON THE TUCKAHOE LOCATED AT 13213 LEWISTOWN ROAD, QUEEN ANNE, MARYLAND;

Bill No. 1453, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1404, THE APPROPRIATION FOR A SEWER SYSTEM FOR THE FERRY POINT MARINA AND SURROUNDING AREAS;

Bill No. 1454, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1430 AND BILL NO. 1362, THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE REGION II (ST. MICHAELS) SEWER REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENTS;

Bill No. 1455, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A NEW TELEPHONE AND PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM FOR THE WHITE MARSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL;

Bill No. 1456, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1420, THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE RENOVATION OF CLASSROOMS AT THE EASTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (DOBSON BUILDING) FOR THE EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM;

Bill No. 1457, A BILL TO AMEND BILL NO. 1422, BILL NO. 1335, AND BILL NO. 1317, THE APPROPRIATION FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND UPGRADES OF GOLDSBOROUGH NECK ROAD AND AIRPORT ROAD;

Bill No. 1458, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE IMPROVEMENTS TO SKIPTON CREEK LANDING BOAT RAMP;

Bill No. 1459, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE RESURFACING/REPAVING OF THE EASTON HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT;

Bill No. 1460, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE A GYMNASIUM ADDITION TO THE TALBOT COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER; and

Bill No. 1461, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE RESURFACING/REPAVING OF THE ST. MICHAELS SCHOOL PARKING LOT, were read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing. Prior to the public hearing, Mr. Pack stated that Bill Nos. 1448 through 1461 are capital enabling legislation. He stated that no funding will be spent on the projects outlined in the legislation, if approved, but does allow Council to have the projects already approved should further action be taken at a later date. Ms. Price requested that Bill No. 1450 be pulled and considered for approval at another meeting. The public was then afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation.

Bill No. 1463, A BILL TO AMEND ARTICLE III OF CHAPTER 64 OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE (DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES) TO ADD NEW DEFINITIONS FOR “SINGLE-FAMILY DETACHED DWELLING” AND “OTHER RESIDENTIAL”, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing. Prior to the public hearing, Anthony Kupersmith, County Attorney, stated that the purpose of the legislation is to provide a more specific definition for the types of residential dwellings outlined in the legislation which would be assessed different impact fees, depending upon which type of residential dwelling is being constructed. He stated that Bill 1463 would provide for lower development impact fees if multiple small houses are being constructed on a single lot which could potentially encourage affordable/workforce housing in Talbot County. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Kupersmith and Angela Lane, Finance Director. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Callahan, Bill No. 1463 was brought to third reader. Upon motion by Ms. Price, and no objection by the Council, a full reading of the legislation was waived. Mr. Pack requested that the motions be pulled back when it was ascertained that the public hearing had not yet been held. The public was then afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Leshner, Bill No. 1463 was brought to third reader. Upon motion by Ms. Price, and no objection by the Council, a full reading of the legislation was waived. The Council approved Bill No. 1463 by voting 4 – 0 – 1 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Divilio – Aye (via absentee ballot)
Mr. Callahan – Abstain
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

Upon motion by Mr. Callahan, seconded by Mr. Leshner, Bill Nos. 1448, 1449, and 1451 through 1461 were brought to third reader with the Council voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

Upon motion by Ms. Price, and no objection of the Council, a full reading of Bill Nos. 1448, 1449, and 1451 through 1461 was waived.

The Council approved Bill Nos. 1448, 1449, and 1451 through 1461 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Divilio – Aye (via absentee ballot)
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

Bill Nos. 1448, 1449, and 1451 through 1461 become effective as provided for in the legislation.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Callahan, Bill No. 1447 was brought to third reader with the Council voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

Upon motion by Ms. Price, and no objection by the Council, a full reading of the legislation was waived.

The Council approved Bill No. 1447 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Divilio – Aye (via absentee ballot)
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

Bill No. 1446, A BILL TO AMEND CHAPTER 190 OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE (ZONING, SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT) TO IMPROVE AND CLARIFY THE PROCESSES FOR LICENSURE AND OVERSIGHT OF SHORT TERM RENTALS IN THE COUNTY; AND TO AMEND THE STANDARDS FOR SAFETY FOR LICENSURE, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing. Prior to the public hearing, Miguel Salinas, Assistant Planning Officer, briefed the Council on the process by which the legislation had been developed. He stated that the Short-Term Rental Review Board had held several work sessions beginning in August 2019, received numerous comments from the public, followed by additional work sessions to discuss and consider the comments made. He stated that the Short-Term Rental Review Board forwarded a letter to the County Council in mid-November 2019 with their recommendations to the short-term rental regulations; the County Council then held work sessions with the Short-Term Rental Review Board and received comments

from the public. Mr. Salinas stated that the language included in Bill No. 1446 is the result of a straw poll vote by the Council in January 2020. He stated that the Planning Commission, by a vote of 4 – 1, recommended that the Council approve the legislation after consideration of three amendments: that the short-term rental owner or license applicant be present at new application hearings before the Short-Term Rental Review Board; that notification to property owners within 1,000 feet be required regardless of the zoning district; and the recommendations to the minimum safety standards as proposed by staff. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Salinas, Brent Garner, Permits Manager/Building Official, and Mike Duell, Chief Code Compliance Officer. The amendments, known as Amendment 1 to Bill No. 1446, were introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Mr. Pack, and Ms. Price. The public was then afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation and the amendment. Public comment on Bill No. 1446 and the amendment will remain opening until the close of business on Friday, July 17, 2020.

VII. County Manager's Report:

- A. Request from Roads Department – Requested Council approval to have the Roads Department utilize FY21 Capital Outlay funding for the sole source purchase of a stone chipspreeder in the sum of \$350,000 from Chesapeake Supply and Equipment of Felton, Delaware. Warren Edwards, Roads Superintendent, outlined the reason for the request and the lead-time for manufacture of the machine being requested. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved the purchase by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshner - Aye

- B. Entrance to Talbot County Repurposing Center – Warren Edwards, Roads Superintendent, stated that the shoulder of the roadway approaching the Repurposing Center is severely deteriorated and is in need of upgrading. He stated that because the entrance has been in existence for over 30 years, a permit from the State is not required for an upgrade as long as the work is done by the County and a contractor is not used. He stated that the Roads Department has funding in its budget for the entrance upgrade and he outlined the work to be done and anticipated cost of same if it were to be done by a contractor. Mr. Edwards stated that his department will repave the shoulder and several feet into the entrance at a cost of \$14,000. No action was required by the Council.

- C. Requests from Easton Airport:

Requested Council approval to have Easton Airport apply for and accept grant funding from the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) in the sum of \$291,851.81 for Phase 1 of the Runway 4-22 Obstruction Removal Project at Easton Airport; the request represents 75% of the total cost of the project;

Bid No. 20-06, RUNWAY 4-22 OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL - PHASE 1
EASTON/NEWNAM FIELD AIRPORT (ESN) – TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND
Requested Council approval to award Bid No. 20-06 to the low bidder, RJO Services LLC in the sum of \$388,785.75;

Requested Council approval to accept Airport consultant, AECOM's Price Proposal for professional engineering and construction phase services for Phase 1 of the Runway 4-22 Obstruction Removal Project at Easton Airport in the sum of \$56,676. Upon motion by Mr.

Callahan, seconded by Ms. Price the Council approved the requests as outlined by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshler - Aye

- D. Request from Easton Airport – Requested Council approval to accept Airport consultant, AECOM’s Price Proposal for professional engineering services for the design of the pavement maintenance project in the sum of \$14,756. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved the Price Proposal as outlined by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshler - Aye

- E. Request from Easton Airport – Requested Council approval of the Airport Manager’s recommendation to enter into a contract with Delmarva Petroleum Services for replacement of the diesel and MOGAS fuel pumps at the Airport in the sum of \$14,971.26. Upon motion by Mr. Leshler, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved the recommendation by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshler – Aye

- F. Request from Easton Airport – Requested Council approval to extend the current contract with Airport consultant, AECOM, for an additional six (6) months, through 2020, under the current contract terms. Micah Risher, Manager, Easton Airport, stated that due to COVID-19, time ran out before a Request for Proposals for consultant services could be developed. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved the contract extension by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshler – Aye

- G. Request from Easton Airport – Requested Council approval to proceed with the drafting of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Airport consultant services for the next five (5) years. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved moving forward with the RFP by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshler – Aye

- H. Announcement by Easton Airport – Mr. Risher stated that his office had received notification from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that \$1.6 million in reimbursement costs to the Airport related to recent aviation easements, wetland mitigation and Forest Conservation Act expenditures and requested by Easton Airport in Airport Improvement Project (AIP) funding has not yet been approved and the Airport is still competing for funding. Mr. Risher cited the loss of airline revenue due to COVID-19 which funds such projects. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Risher who stated that should no AIP funding be allocated, he will provide additional details on the anticipated impact to Easton Airport at a later date.
- I. Request from Talbot County Circuit Court – Requested Council approval of a request from Judge Kehoe to upgrade the CourtSmart system in the courtrooms at a cost of \$25,282; the current equipment is at end-of-life and needs to be replaced in order to migrate all courtroom hearings to a cloud-based environment. Mr. Hollis stated that funding for the project had been allocated in the FY21 Capital Outlay budget. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved the request by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

- J. Request from Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers – Requested Council approval to forward a letter in support of Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers application to the United States Department of Agriculture for a Community Facilities Grant in the sum of \$52,000; if approved, the funding will be used to help offset the costs of furnishings, computers, and supplies for the Center’s new classroom at the new Easton Elementary School; no County funding is required. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Callahan, the Council approved forwarding a letter in support of the grant application by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

- K. Request from Asbury United Methodist Church – Requested Council approval to forward a letter in support of Asbury United Methodist Church’s grant application to the Maryland Historical Trust in the sum of \$100,000; if approved, the funding will be used to make repairs to the historic structure. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved forwarding a letter in support of the grant application by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Pack – Aye
Mr. Callahan – Aye
Ms. Price – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye

- L. Upcoming Public Hearings – Mr. Hollis stated that the Council has several public hearings scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2020 and Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at the Easton High School Auditorium. He stated that the Talbot County Health Officer is on record recommending against them in terms of the COVID-19 pandemic as the number of cases of COVID-19 in Talbot County are increasing. He stated that the Talbot County Sheriff has indicated that he will not be providing deputies at a venue that is not sanctioned by the Health Officer. Mr.

Hollis stated that he wanted to be on the record that the Health Officer says that the public hearings should not be held in person at the high school.

VIII. Public Comments: Members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on matters of interest to them.

IX. Council Comments:

Mr. Callahan – No comments.

Ms. Price - Ms. Price expressed her appreciation to those who had shown her their support over the past few weeks. She stated that she appreciated the outreach and that it is much appreciated.

Mr. Leshner - No comments.

Mr. Pack - Mr. Pack stated that the Council will reconvene on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, which has been declared a Special Legislative Day, at 4:30 p.m. in Open Session and immediately adjourn into Closed Session for discussion of legal, personnel and real estate matters as listed on the statement for closing the meeting, and for the regularly scheduled meeting at 6:00 p.m. He stated that the July 21, 2020 meeting was to have taken place at the Easton High School Auditorium; however, after consultation with the Health Officer and hearing her concerns, the county's positivity rate, (7.7%) and the number of confirmed cases approaching 200, it is the Health Officer's opinion that the Council not hold the public hearing at the auditorium at the present time. Mr. Pack stated that the details of perhaps a virtual public hearing scheduled for July 21st will need to be worked out. He stated that the Council is also scheduled to hold a public hearing at the Easton High School Auditorium on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 and that, in his opinion, the positivity rate, as well as the confirmed rate of COVID-19 cases will still be high on the 28th and that public hearing will probably need to be virtual as well.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

The transcript of the July 14, 2020 County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

X. Summary of Closed Session held on July 14, 2020:

1. Statement of the time, place, and purpose of the closed session:

Time of closed session: 4:50 p.m. to 5:50 p.m.

Place of closed session: Talbot County Free Library Meeting Room, 100 West Dover Street, Easton

Purpose of the closed session: To consider various matters as set forth in the statement for closing the meeting

2. Record of the vote of each member as to closing the session:

Names of members voting aye: Pack, Callahan, Leshner

Members opposed: None

Abstaining: None
 Absent: Divilio, Price (arrived at 4:55 p.m.)

3. Statutory authority to close session and listing of each topic actually discussed, persons present, and each action taken in the session:

Topic description	Statutory authority	Persons present	Action taken
Discuss negotiations for proposed acquisition of property for a public purpose near Town of Oxford	GP § 3-305 (b) (3)	Corey Pack, Chuck Callahan, Laura Price, Pete Leshner, Andy Hollis, Anthony Kupersmith, Jessica Morris	No action
Legal advice regarding Maryland Department of Aging – Capital Grant for St. Michaels Senior Center	GP § 3-305 (b) (7)	Same as above	Staff to obtain more information
Update on legal enforcement regarding Chesapeake Bay Balloon Festival	GP § 3-305 (b) (7) and (8)	Same as above	No action
Legal advice regarding Public Information Act inquiry from The Star Democrat	GP § 3-305 (b) (7)	Same as above	No action

CASH STATEMENT 6/30/2020

BALANCE 6/23/2020	23,681,371.39
TOTAL ADP PAYROLL PPE 6/12/2020	(620,781.97)
TOTAL ADP ELECTION PAYROLL PPE 6/12/2020	(13,825.00)
DEFERRED COMP DED PPE 6/12/2020	(17,791.87)
PENSION DED PPE 6/12/2020	(38,261.82)
DEFERRED COMP PPE 6/12/2020 PLAN 401(A)	(7,116.40)
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 6/22/2020	(41,677.77)
ELECTION BOARD PPE 6/2/2020	(10,220.64)
ELECTION BOARD PPE 6/9/2020	(1,504.97)
ENTERPRISE LEASE PAYMENT JUNE 2020	(8,966.68)
USDA/RD QTRLY BOND PMT #92-03	(9,478.60)
DEPOSITS	753,178.88
CHECKS	(896,866.87)

BALANCE 6/30/2020	22,768,057.68
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INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.25%	20,500,000.00
1880 BANK			10,132,954.88

TOTAL INVESTED	30,632,954.88
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PETTY CASH BALANCE	15,570.00
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<u>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>	53,416,582.56
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CASH STATEMENT 7/07/2020

BALANCE 6/30/2020	22,768,057.68
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TOTAL ADP PAYROLL PPE 6/30/2020	(13,369.78)
DEFERRED COMP DED PPE 6/30/2020	(990.00)
PENSION DED PPE 6/30/2020	(736.49)
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 6/29/2020	(88,174.07)
ELECTION BOARD PPE 6/16/2020	(9,371.03)
JULY 2020 RETIREE HEALTH INS PLAN #727	(30,696.00)
WF/GF EQUIPMENT LEASE PMT	(128.00)

DEPOSITS	6,144,038.98
CHECKS	(3,157,277.78)
VOIDED CHECK(S) #340661, 342424	763.59

BALANCE 7/07/2020	25,612,117.10
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INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.23%	20,500,000.00
1880 BANK			10,132,954.88

TOTAL INVESTED	30,632,954.88
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PETTY CASH	<u>15,570.00</u>
BALANCE	
<u>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>	<u>56,260,641.98</u>

CASH STATEMENT 7/14/2020

BALANCE 7/07/2020	25,612,117.10
TOTAL ADP PAYROLL PPE 6/26/2020	(627,874.77)
DEFERRED COMP DED PPE 6/26/2020	(17,791.87)
PENSION DED PPE 6/26/2020	(37,948.02)
DEFERRED COMP PPE 6/26/2020 PLAN 401(A)	(7,116.40)
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 7/9/2020	(132,815.74)
STATE REPORT 6/2020	(10,212.42)
RETURNED ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS	(19,221.54)
DEPOSITS	2,547,148.44
CHECKS	(1,379,678.07)
VOIDED CHECK(S) #339794	57.42
BALANCE 7/14/2020	<u>25,926,664.13</u>

INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		0.23%	20,500,000.00
1880 BANK			10,132,954.88
TOTAL INVESTED			<u>30,632,954.88</u>

PETTY CASH	<u>15,570.00</u>
BALANCE	
<u>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>	<u>56,575,189.01</u>