



# TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

October 25, 2022

Present – President Chuck Callahan, Vice President Pete Leshner, Frank Divilio, Corey W. Pack, Laura Everngam Price, County Manager Clay Stamp, and County Attorney Patrick Thomas.

- I. Agenda – The Agenda of Tuesday, October 25, 2022 was brought forward for approval. Mr. Divilio made a motion to amend the Agenda to include as Item A. of the County Manager’s Report a *Request From the Talbot County Free Library for a Letter in Support of a Grant Application to the Stories of the Chesapeake for the 2023 Children’s Book Festival*; the motion was seconded by Mr. Leshner. The Council approved the Agenda of Tuesday, October 25, 2022, as amended, by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- II. Disbursements – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, October 25, 2022.
- III. Recognition of New Talbot County Planning Officer, Brennan Tarleton – Mr. Callahan introduced Brennan Tarleton as the new Talbot County Planning Officer. Mr. Tarleton was previously the Assistant Planning Officer. Mr. Tarleton expressed his appreciation to the Council for their support during the transitional phase and stated that he looks forward to working with his staff, the community and the next Council to ensure that his department provides an adequate level of service to the public. Council members expressed their appreciation to Mr. Tarleton and congratulated him on his new position.
- IV. Certificate of Recognition to Lt. Jessica Wolfe, 9-1-1 Trainer of the Year – The Clerk read a certificate of recognition into the record which spoke of Ms. Wolfe having been named Trainer of the Year for 2022 by the Association of Public Safety Communication Officials Mid-Eastern Chapter and having received the annual statewide Marilyn Farndon Excellence in Training Award for her superior commitment and dedication to the training of Public Safety professionals. County Manager, Clay Stamp, and Council members commended Ms. Wolfe for her dedication to the citizens of Talbot County. At Mr. Pack’s request, Holley Guschke, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services Division Chief, 9-1-1 Communications, read the awards into the record.

Mr. Leshner presented the Certificate of Recognition to Ms. Wolfe.

- V. Proclamation: Economic Development Week – October 24 – 28, 2022 – The Clerk read a proclamation into the record in recognition of Economic Development Week which spoke of the importance of economic stability to communities and of those who partner with various entities and work to create, retain, and expand job opportunities in communities throughout Talbot County and the state of Maryland in order to facilitate growth, enhance wealth, and to provide a stable tax base. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved the proclamation by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

Cassandra Vanhooser, Director, Department of Economic Development and Tourism, was unable to be in attendance to accept the proclamation. Council members commented on the Economic Development Commission as an important economic engine for Talbot County.

VI. Introduction of Administrative Resolution:

ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION AMENDING CERTAIN QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS PARK ON THE TUCKAHOE COMMITTEE was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for introduction. Prior to introduction, County Attorney, Patrick Thomas, stated that the purpose of the administrative resolution was to delete the requirement that members of the Committee shall have resided in Talbot County for two years prior to their appointment in order to provide an opportunity for individuals who wish to serve on the Committee, but do not reside in Talbot County, to do so. Mr. Pack stated that several of Mr. Douglass’ descendants do not live in Talbot County and the County does not want to exclude them because of the residency requirement. The administrative resolution was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Divilio, Mr. Leshner, Mr. Pack, and Ms. Price. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved moving the administrative resolution forward for vote By voting 5 - 0 as follows:

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

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

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

The Administrative Resolution is effective immediately.

VII. Public Hearing:

Bill No. 1527, A BILL TO AMEND CHAPTER 11 OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE (ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES) REGRADING HOURS OF SALES ON SUNDAYS, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for public hearing. Prior to the public hearing, County Attorney, Patrick Thomas, stated that the purpose of the legislation is to eliminate the “except on Sunday” language with regard to hours of sale of alcoholic beverages for all classes of licenses; if the legislation is approved, the hours for sale of alcoholic beverages would be the same for each day of the week. Members of the public were then afforded an opportunity to comment on the legislation. Upon motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved moving Bill No. 1527 to third reader by voting 4 – 0 – 1 as follows:

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

Upon motion by Ms. Price, and no objection by the Council, a full reading of the legislation was waived. The Council approved Bill No. 1527 by voting 4 – 0 – 1 as follows:

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

Council comment ensued following the vote.

Bill No. 1527 will become effective as provided for in the legislation.

VIII. Eligible for Vote:

Resolution No. 337, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SALE OF TWO CONTIGUOUS AND ADJACENT PARCELS OF UNIMPROVED REAL PROPERTY: 1) HAVING AN ADDRESS OF 112 S. MAIN STREET, TRAPPE, MARYLAND AND FURTHER DESCRIBED AS TAX MAP 301, PARCEL 1745, CONSISTING OF 4.318 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS; AND 2) HAVING AN ADDRESS OF MAIN STREET, TRAPPE, MARYLAND AND FURTHER DESCRIBED AS TAX MAP 301, PARCEL 1751, TO THE TOWN OF TRAPPE, A MARYLAND MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, FOR THE SUM OF ONE DOLLAR, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. Prior to the vote, Council discussion ensued regarding various facets of the request by the Town of Trappe as well as previous, current, and proposed future use of the property. Ms. Price offered an amendment to the legislation to include a provision that the Town could not sell the subject property for more than One Dollar (\$1.00); Mr. Pack seconded the motion. At Council's request, Mr. Thomas left the room to draft the proposed language for the amendment; Mr. Leshner made a motion to table Resolution No. 337 while the Office of Law drafted proposed language of the amendment as discussed.

IX. Presentation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Non-Profit Grant Recommendations for Funding – Mary Kay Verdery, Talbot County Grants Administrator – Ms. Verdery stated that the County had previously conducted a community survey to obtain feedback on proposed distribution of the \$7.2 million in funding received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). She stated that the recommended categories for funding included broadband, emergency medical services, and fire company assistance as well as \$250,000 for Talbot County non-profits including organizations focusing on economic recovery, health and human services, housing and projects which assist the underserved. She stated that sixty (60) applications were received totaling \$1.2 million in requests; the applications were reviewed by a nine-person committee for recommendation to the Council with 16 applications ultimately selected for funding at 75%. Ms. Verdery stated that if approved by the Council, staff will work to develop sub-recipient agreements with each of the selected non-profits; Council discussion ensued with Ms. Verdery. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Ms. Price, approval of the distribution of ARPA funding to non-profit entities as recommended was brought forward for vote. Mr. Callahan recused himself from voting. The

Council approved the distribution of ARPA funding to non-profit entities as recommended by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

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

Council members expressed their appreciation to Ms. Verdery for her work to oversee distribution of the grant funding.

X. County Manager’s Report:

A. Request from Talbot County Free Library – Requested Council approval of a letter in support of the Talbot County Free Library’s grant application to the Stories of the Chesapeake in the sum of \$5,000; if approved, the funding will be utilized for the 2023 Children’s Book Festival at the Talbot County Free Library – Easton branch; no County funding is required. Dana Newman, Director, Talbot County Free Library, stated that the Children’s Book Festival is the annual kick-off for the Library’s summer reading program; the Festival features well-known authors and illustrators of children’s literature to promote reading and to encourage children to want to read; the theme of the 2023 Children’s Book Festival will be *All Together Now*. Scotti Oliver, Assistant Director, Talbot County Free Library, stated that the grant, if approved, will be matched by funding from the Library Foundation and Friends of the Library. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved forwarding a letter in support of the grant application by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

B. Request from Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers – Requested Council approval of Critchlow Adkins Children’s Centers’ grant application to the Maryland State Department of Education for a *Maryland Rebuilds Grant* in the sum of \$290,613; no County funding is required. Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved forwarding a letter in support of the grant application by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

C. Bid No. 22-15, TALBOT COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER GYMNASIUM ADDITION – Requested Council’s approval of the Department of Parks & Recreation Director’s recommendation to Award Bid No. 22-15 to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Willow Construction, in the sum of \$4,740,000; a total of five bids were received. Preston Peper, Director, Department of Parks & Recreation, stated that the

funding for the project, including design and feasibility study costs, can be encumbered through Program Open Space funding allotments either previously awarded or to be provided in future year; Council discussion ensued with Mr. Peper. Upon motion by Mr. Pack, seconded by Mr. Divilio, the Council approved the award by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

At Council’s request, Mr. Peper provided an update on replacement of the ice rink floor at the Talbot County Community Center. He stated that all the concrete and sand have been removed; preparations are in process for the new ice plant, and the new ice rink floor is scheduled to be installed in the near future.

- D. Talbot County Commission on the Aging – Requested Council approval for the appointment of Christina Wingate-Spence to a three-year term on the Talbot County Commission on the Aging; said term will expire on April 1, 2025. Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved the appointment by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

- E. Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe Committee – Requested Council approval for the appointment of the following individuals to the Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe Committee: Kenneth Morris (descendant of Frederick Douglass); Professor Dale Green (Morgan State University and descendant of Frederick Douglass); Marci Ross (State of Maryland Department of Commerce Office of Tourism); Corey Pack (Frederick Douglass Honor Society); Richard Marks (citizen); the Honorable Mark Turner (Commissioner – Town of Queen Anne); Harriette Lowery (citizen); County staff representatives on the Committee are Cassandra Vanhooser, Director, Department of Economic Development and Tourism and Preston Peper, Director, Department of Parks & Recreation. Upon motion by Mr. Divilio, seconded by Ms. Price, the Council approved the members of the Committee as presented by voting 4 – 0 – 1 as follows:

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

- XI. Eligible for Vote Continued – Resolution No. 337, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SALE OF TWO CONTIGUOUS AND ADJACENT PARCELS OF UNIMPROVED REAL PROPERTY: 1) HAVING AN ADDRESS OF 112 S. MAIN STREET, TRAPPE, MARYLAND AND FURTHER DESCRIBED AS TAX MAP 301, PARCEL 1745, CONSISTING OF 4.318 ACRES OF LAND,

MORE OR LESS; AND 2) HAVING AN ADDRESS OF MAIN STREET, TRAPPE, MARYLAND AND FURTHER DESCRIBED AS TAX MAP 301, PARCEL 1751, TO THE TOWN OF TRAPPE, A MARYLAND MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, FOR THE SUM OF ONE DOLLAR, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS - County Attorney, Patrick Thomas, presented Amendment No. 1 to Resolution No. 337 which had been drafted at Council's request. He stated that the amendment would add language to Section 3 of the resolution, adding a condition that the Town could not sell the property for more than \$1. He then read Section 3 into the record as follows:

Subject to the foregoing findings, the County Council hereby authorizes the County Manager and the Council president to sell and convey the Property to the Town for the sum of One Dollar, to execute and deliver a deed to the Town in a form and manner approved by the County Office of Law *containing the express condition set forth in 2(c) above and also containing the express condition that the Town shall not sell the Property for more than One Dollar*, and to do and perform such other, additional, and further acts and things as may be necessary to properly and fully convey the Property to the Town in accordance with the terms of this Resolution.

The amendment was introduced by Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, Mr. Pack, and Ms. Price and Council discussion ensued. The Council approved the amendment by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

Resolution No. 337, as amended, was then brought forward for vote. The Council approved Resolution No. 337, as amended, by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

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

Resolution No. 337, as amended, is effective immediately.

XII. Public Comments: Members of the public were provided an opportunity to comment on topics of interest to them.

XIII. Council Comments:

Mr. Divilio – No comments.

Mr. Leshner – No comments.

Mr. Pack – Mr. Pack stated that he is unable to be in attendance at the Maryland You Are Beautiful ceremony on November 1<sup>st</sup> but he wanted to say to all the nominees whose names were submitted that it is always tough for the Council to choose a winner because of the level of volunteerism that we have in Talbot County. He stated that in an interview earlier today with a gentleman who had spent some

time overseas in Europe the gentleman, stated that, in his opinion, Europe does not see the type of volunteerism that we have in the United States. Mr. Pack stated that, in his opinion, Talbot County is a model of volunteerism of individuals who are willing to give of their time and talents to help others and expressed his appreciation to Maryland You Are Beautiful nominees for all they are doing. Mr. Pack concluded his comments by stating that tickets to the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on Thursday are still available, should anyone wish to go.

Ms. Price. Ms. Price stated that this was our last legislative meeting although we still have two meetings in November to tie up loose ends. She stated that after 12 years, it is hard for her to believe that this Council voted on its last piece of legislation.

Mr. Callahan – No comments.

XIV. Upon motion by Mr. Divilio seconded by Ms. Price, the Council voted to adjourn and to reconvene on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. in Open Session for the Council meeting and at the conclusion of the meeting to immediately adjourn into Closed Session for discussion of legal, personnel and real estate matters as listed on the statement for closing the meeting, by voting 5 - 0 as follows:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:01p.m.

The transcript of the October 25, 2022 County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

XV. Summary of Closed Session Held on October 25, 2022:

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

Time of closed session: 5:00 p.m. to 5:35 p.m.  
Place of closed session: County Council Office  
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: Callahan, Divilio, Leshner, Pack, Price  
Members opposed: None  
Abstaining: None  
Absent: None

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

<b>Topic Description</b>	<b>Statutory Authority</b>	<b>Reason for Closed Session Discussion</b>	<b>Persons Present</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>
To discuss appointment to various County boards and committees	GP § 3-305(b)(1)(i)	Public discussion would discourage individuals from volunteering to serve	Chuck Callahan, Frank Divilio, Pete Leshner, Corey Pack, Laura Price, Clay Stamp, Jessica Morris	No action

**CASH STATEMENT 10/25/2022**

BALANCE 10/18/2022	92,349,133.03
TOTAL ADP PAYROLL PPE 10/17/2022	(2,500.00)
CIGNA CLAIMS PAID THRU 10/17/2022	(148,907.50)
BAY RESTORATION FEE RETURN JUL-SEP 2022	(493,256.26)
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BONDS OF 2022	(550.00)
MACLEOD LAW GROUP LLC/REFUND-MARY'S COURT	24,293.94
DEPOSITS	760,056.64
CHECKS	(523,760.41)
ACH DISBURSEMENT(S)	(47,576.91)
WIRE TRANSFERS	(6,053,410.90)
VOIDED CHECK(S) #	
<b>BALANCE 10/25/2022</b>	<b><u>85,863,521.63</u></b>

**INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT**

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		3.08%	20,500,000.00
BAYVANGUARD BANK			10,251,321.19
<b>TOTAL INVESTED</b>			<b><u>30,751,321.19</u></b>



**PETTY CASH BALANCE**

**18,105.00**

**GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS**

**116,632,947.82**