

The Wicomico County Council met in Legislative Session on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in Council Chambers, Government Office Building, Salisbury, Maryland.

In attendance: Larry W. Dodd, Council President; John T. Cannon, Council Vice President; Joe Holloway, Ernie Davis, William R. McCain, Josh Hastings, and Nicole Acle.

Present: Laura Hurley, Council Administrator; Robert Taylor, Council Attorney; Lynn Sande, Executive Office Associate; and Levin Hitchens, Internal Auditor.

On motion by Mr. Hastings and seconded by Mr. Davis, the consent Agenda consisting of the following items was unanimously approved:

- Special Legislative Minutes from August 20, 2020
- Legislative Minutes from September 1, 2020
- Open Work Session Minutes from August 4, 2020 – Discussion on Proposed Legislation Regarding the Employment Status of Certain County Employees
- Open Work Session Minutes from August 4, 2020 – Letter of Support for Whitehaven Heritage Association Grant Application

A proclamation was presented to Ms. Victoria Spice with the Lower Shore Land Trust in recognition of World Rivers Day.

A proclamation was presented to Ms. Michelle Hardy, Director of Behavioral Health Authority, in recognition of Suicide Prevention Month.

A proclamation was presented to Ms. Michelle Hardy, Director of Behavioral Health Authority, in recognition of National Recovery Month.

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**Robert Taylor, Council Attorney**

Mr. Taylor said this morning for Public Hearing they have a total of four different Legislative Bills. He said the first three are the end product of the effort Council authorized several months ago regarding concerns about certain County personnel.

**Public Hearing: Legislative Bill No. 2020-07** – An act to establish regulations regarding service by someone in a position for which confirmation by the County Council is required, including sanctions for serving in such a position without such confirmation, and for aiding and abetting such conduct, by amending the Wicomico County Code to include in Chapter 59, Personnel Rules, an Article III titled “Positions for which confirmation by Council is required,” and Sections 59-16 to 59-19.

Mr. Dodd opened the Public Hearing. There were no public comments. Mr. Dodd closed the Public Hearing.

There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. McCain, seconded by Mr. Holloway, and by roll call vote, Mr. Cannon, aye; Mr. Hastings, aye; Mrs. Acle, aye; Mr. McCain, aye; Mr. Davis, aye; Mr. Holloway, aye; and Mr. Dodd, aye, Legislative Bill No. 2020-07 passed unanimously.

**Public Hearing: Legislative Bill No. 2020-08** – An act to establish a procedure for removal from office for violation of local laws, and that such removal is not subject to judicial review, and to provide for

sanctions for continuing in office after removal by amending the Wicomico County Code to include in Chapter 59, Personnel Rules, as Article IV titled "Removal from Office", and Sections 59-20 to 59-22.

Mr. Dodd opened the Public Hearing. There were no public comments. Mr. Dodd closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Hastings said there is one typo in Section 59-22. He said maybe it is not that important, but it says "he is she shall be guilty of a misdemeanor", and he thinks it should say "he or she". Mr. Dodd asked Mrs. Hurley if they can correct that, to which Mrs. Hurley responded, yes.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Mr. McCain, seconded by Mr. Holloway, and by roll call vote, Mr. Cannon, aye; Mr. Hastings, aye; Mrs. Acle, aye; Mr. McCain, aye; Mr. Davis, aye; Mr. Holloway, aye; and Mr. Dodd, aye, Legislative Bill No. 2020-08 passed unanimously.

**Public Hearing: Legislative Bill No. 2020-09** – An act to prohibit unauthorized increase in the salary for a position stated in the budget, and to establish liability for any excess and sanction for payment thereof by amending the Wicomico County Code to include in Chapter 59, Personnel Rules, an Article V titled "Other Rules", and Section 59-23.

Mr. Taylor said they have had some comments from the Executive Branch that do not pertain to the general purpose of this, which was to prevent the kind of broad or willy-nilly transfer of money into increased salaries just for no particular reason. He said the concerns relate to what he would consider regular salary increases based on primarily educational achievements. He said he suggested, and he thinks the Executive Branch agrees, they can meet and probably work this out fairly quickly, so he would suggest that, at least after the Public Hearing, Council defer action on this Bill until the next meeting.

Mr. Dodd opened the Public Hearing. There were no public comments. Mr. Dodd closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Dodd asked if they need a motion to postpone this, to which Mr. Taylor responded, no, he does not think they need a motion, but he should check with Mrs. Hurley to make sure. Mrs. Hurley said, at this point the Bill is still active and is not dead yet, so they can just schedule it for the next meeting. Mr. Dodd asked if Council needs to vote on it today, to which Mrs. Hurley responded, no, they do not. She said she thinks the general consensus is that Mr. Taylor and Mrs. Oland are going to be meeting to discuss the language that is in the Bill. There was no further discussion.

**Public Hearing: Legislative Bill No. 2020-10** – An act to authorize borrowing as required by Section 507.F.3 of the County Charter not to exceed \$2,928,292 for a water main and related facilities to furnish water service to the Salisbury-Ocean City Wicomico Regional Airport, and, for that purpose, the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds and notes constituting debt for which the faith and credit of the County is pledged, the appropriation of funds and levy of taxes for payment thereof, and certain other related action and duties.

Mr. Taylor said, just so everybody is aware, this is the borrowing portion of the money that was approved by the State Board of Public Works last fall for the water main extension, and that approval also includes \$1.5 million dollars as a grant. He said the total cost of the project, assuming all of this money is spent, plus a local share, would be in the range of about \$4.5 million dollars.

Mr. Dodd opened the Public Hearing. There were no public comments. Mr. Dodd closed the Public Hearing.

There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. McCain, seconded by Mr. Davis, and by roll call vote, Mr. Cannon, aye; Mr. Hastings, aye; Mrs. Acle, aye; Mr. McCain, aye; Mr. Davis, aye; Mr. Holloway, aye; and Mr. Dodd, aye, Legislative Bill No. 2020-10 passed unanimously.

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**Laura Hurley, Council Administrator**

Mrs. Hurley said there are several Public Hearings on the Agenda this morning. She said a Public Hearing notice was published in the Daily Times and posted on the website for each Public Hearing listed.

**Public Hearing: Resolution No. 92-2020** – To Amend the Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Budget and Fiscal Year 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Plan to add a Project to be Described therein as “Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Truck”, and to Amend Resolution No. 47-2020 to Reallocate the Project Funding in the CARES Grant in the amount of \$412,026 as follows: (1) from the UAS Hangar Interior to the Local Share of the ARFF Truck in the amount of \$344,000, and (2) from the \$820,000 available for Operating and Maintenance Expenses to the ARFF Truck Local Share in the amount of \$68,026; to Allocate Project Funding from a Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) Grant in the Amount of \$315,000 for the ARFF Truck. Mrs. Hurley said Council held a Work Session on this request on September 1, 2020, and there is an updated Resolution on the Council table for Council consideration.

Mr. Dodd opened the Public Hearing. There were no public comments. Mr. Dodd closed the Public Hearing.

There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. McCain and seconded by Mr. Hastings, Resolution No. 92-2020 was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Hurley said the Airport Manager is here with his Assistant if Mr. Dodd wants to allow him to do a quick introduction. Mr. Tony Rudy, Airport Manager, came before Council and introduced Mr. Christopher Davidson as the new Assistant Airport Manager. Mr. Davidson said he has been here for four weeks, and is quite enamored with this area. He said there is a lot happening here, and it is very exciting to be a part of this growth they are currently experiencing, and what they are going to push forward. He said he is happy to be here. Mr. Dodd welcomed Mr. Davidson to Wicomico County, and said Council appreciates him coming to this County. He said they like people who come here and appreciate what Wicomico County has. Mr. Hastings then suggested Mr. Davidson tell the public about his background, or how he ended up here, to which Mr. Davidson responded, he grew up in Nashville, Tennessee. He said he left there for about 22 years while he was in the Marine Corps. He said he was in aviation the entire time as a pilot and a mechanic, and working with the airport portion of the Marine Corp. He said he retired back to Tennessee and started running an aviation airport just outside of Nashville, and when this opportunity came along he could not pass it up.

**Public Hearing: Resolution No. 93-2020** – Recommending the Approval for the Sale of a Land Preservation Easement from Delmarva Farms, LLC, and Rural Integrity Land, LLC.

Mrs. Hurley said the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation’s primary purpose is to preserve productive agricultural land and woodland to provide for the production of food and fiber, and this is accomplished by landowners voluntarily applying to sell an easement on their property that restricts

development. She said Council held a Work Session on the application from Delmarva Farms, LLC, as well as the next four agenda items, which also pertain to the sale of land preservation easements, at the September 1, 2020 Council Meeting.

Mr. Dodd opened the Public Hearing. There were no public comments. Mr. Dodd closed the Public Hearing.

There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Holloway, Resolution No. 93-2020 was approved. Mr. Hastings abstained.

**Public Hearing: Resolution No. 94-2020** – Recommending the Approval for the Sale of a Land Preservation Easement from Porter Mill Properties, LLC.

Mr. Dodd opened the Public Hearing. There were no public comments. Mr. Dodd closed the Public Hearing.

There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. McCain and seconded by Mr. Holloway, Resolution No. 94-2020 was unanimously approved.

**Public Hearing: Resolution No. 95-2020** – Recommending the Approval for the Sale of a Land Preservation Easement from McCain Farms, LLC.

Mr. Dodd opened the Public Hearing. There were no public comments. Mr. Dodd closed the Public Hearing.

There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Holloway, Resolution No. 95-2020 was approved. Mr. McCain abstained.

**Public Hearing: Resolution No. 96-2020** – Recommending the Approval for the Sale of a Land Preservation Easement from MARVIC Associates, LLC.

Mr. Dodd opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Victor Laws came to the podium and said he is one of the four owners. He said his two first cousins and his brother are also the owners of MARVIC Associates. He said they would appreciate Council's approval, and, if they have any questions, he would be happy to answer them.

There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. Hastings and seconded by Mr. Holloway, Resolution No. 96-2020 was unanimously approved.

**Public Hearing: Resolution No. 97-2020** – Recommending the Approval for the Sale of a Land Preservation Easement from William D. Todd, Jr. and Mary J. H. Todd.

Mr. Dodd opened the Public Hearing. There were no public comments. Mr. Dodd closed the Public Hearing.

There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. McCain and seconded by Mr. Davis, Resolution No. 97-2020 was unanimously approved.

**Public Hearing: Resolution No. 98-2020** – Authorizing the Acting County Executive to Apply and Accept a Grant Award in an amount up to \$1,027,708 from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community

Development through the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG-CV) for Activities to Prevent, Prepare for, and Respond to the Coronavirus Crisis.

Mrs. Hurley said there is an updated Resolution on the Council table that clarifies that this Resolution is to apply and accept the grant award.

Mr. Dodd opened the Public Hearing. There were no public comments. Mr. Dodd closed the Public Hearing.

There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. Hastings and seconded by Mr. Davis, Resolution No. 98-2020 was approved. Mr. Cannon and Mrs. Acle abstained.

**Submission of a Reappointment to the Wicomico County Local Management Board:** Mrs. Hurley said this Board is to promote a safe, healthy, and stable environment for all Wicomico County children and families.

**Resolution No. 99-2020** – Confirming the Reappointment of Ernest F. Davis as a Member to the Wicomico County Local Management Board.

Mr. Dodd thanked Mr. Davis for his commitment to this. He said he has had a couple of conversations with him, and he seems to be passionate about this.

There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. Hastings and seconded by Mr. McCain, Resolution No. 99-2020 was unanimously approved.

**Resolution No. 100-2020 (SM)** – Authorizing Feature Flooring, Inc. as a Sole Source Vendor for the Purchase and Installation of JetRock Products in the Detention Center, and to Waive the Formal Competitive Bidding Process for the Purchase and Installation of said JetRock Products during the Fiscal Year 2021.

Mrs. Hurley said this is for the purchase and installation of a kitchen floor using the JetRock products at the Detention Center, and Feature Flooring, Inc. is the original installer of the JetRock products in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Mr. Nick Rice, Purchasing Manager; Ms. Ruth Colburne, Director of Wicomico County Detention Center; and Mr. Pate Matthews, General Services Supervisor, came before Council.

Mr. Davis asked what the JetRock Product is, what is so significant about this product, and why is it the only product they can use in this kitchen, to which Mr. Rice responded, he will let Ms. Colburne and Mr. Matthews touch on the reasons why this product was selected, but once the product was selected, it came down to the vendor who installs this product in their region. Mr. Matthews responded, it is not the only product they can use, but it is the most efficient product. He said they can supply a turnkey operation where they will come in and remove the appliances and fixtures, put their product down, put everything back in place, and they are saying it will take two days. Mr. Rice clarified, two to three days, so very little downtime, as well as the fact that part of that is they do not have to actually remove the existing floor, they float it right over the top of the floor that is there now. Mr. Matthews said this is a trowel down product much like a concrete slurry. He said it is not an epoxy, so there is not a significant odor problem. He said, after discussion and doing some research on the product, it is really the most efficient and effective product they can use in that application. He said the Detention Center prepares

1,000 meals a day, so, in the meantime, at 1,000 meals a day, they are going to have to make arrangements for kitchen services if another company was in there and had them down for a week. He said, the way they understand this process is that they will still be able to work in the kitchen because this is going to be done after hours, so they will still be able to work in the kitchen when they need to use the kitchen, and it should not interrupt service to an extent that would be detrimental to the facility. He said that is really it in a nutshell. Mr. Davis asked if they have used this same type of surface before, to which Mr. Rice responded, Wicomico has not. Ms. Colburne said she has in Caroline County in their kitchen. She said it is a seamless poured trout floor that is textured to prevent slipping, so it is very good for germ prevention, and very easy cleanup with dishwashing liquid and water. She said they come in and they have a gas fitter, a pipe fitter, a plumber, and a certified electrician. She said they can come in and remove everything, put half the floor down, put the stuff back in, put the other half of the floor down, and put the stuff back in with very little downtime for the kitchen itself, which is imperative when they have an area that is occupied all of the time, and they cannot stop feeding the inmates. Mr. Matthews said the primary reason for the selection is the company is the only authorized installer of this product on the East Coast, so that was another contributing factor.

Mr. Hastings said he is curious who would be a competitor of Feature Flooring, Inc., to which Mr. Rice responded, as they said, they are the only product they know that works in this way, so he guesses that is why they would be the sole source provider of it. He said, out of the research they have done, they have found nothing like this product for a facility like the jail. He explained, it would be different if it was a facility that was not being used 24/7, but there are, obviously, different needs in the Detention Center they would not find in other County buildings. Mr. Hastings asked if Mr. Rice is saying that this particular company is the only one that does these kinds of installations in this region, to which Mr. Rice responded, they are the only ones who can do this product. He said the manufacturer specifies vendors in each region, and Feature Flooring is the vendor in their region for the product they selected, so it was a two-step process. He said the product was first, and once they decided they liked the product and wanted to move forward, the manufacturer then dictates what vendor they can use based on their area.

Mr. Dodd said it seems like every time Council gets something it is sole source vending, and he cannot remember the last time they have opened something up for bids, to which Mr. Rice responded, he can. He said, if Mr. Dodd wants, he can get him a list of all the bids they do throughout the County. Mr. Dodd clarified, he is just saying he does not remember. Mr. Davis said Council never sees them, that is the problem. He said, with this, Mr. Rice said he talked to another person, so Council would like to see who he talked to. He clarified, they are not saying they do not trust him, but they would like to see some other bidding or something. He said he understands they are saying this is a good product, but there has to be something else out there. Mr. Rice said he is confused by the question. He then asked if Mr. Dodd is asking if they actually do bids in the County because he comes to Council for sole source, to which Mr. Dodd responded, with all of this tied together, it seems like everything that comes in front of Council is for a sole source vendor. Mr. Rice explained, they do not bring actual bids before Council because they are not required to bring the bids in front of Council. Mr. Holloway clarified, the rest of the bids they do are not required to come before Council, but they have to bring the sole source to Council, to which Mr. Rice responded, correct. He said the reason they are bringing these to Council is because the Charter states, if they are supposed to do a formalized bid, which is anything over \$25,000, and they deem it a sole source, they are required to have Council approval. He clarified, for anything over \$25,000 that he bids out formally, as long as it has been budgeted, Council approval is not required.

Mr. Holloway said he understands all of the reasoning, and it makes a lot of sense, but he thinks it would be to the taxpayers' advantage if this was researched more. He then asked if they are saying this is the only company that does this, and there is no other product in the world or country that works like this, to which Ms. Colburne responded, there are other products, but most products are designed for a restaurant setting where they are actually closed, and the Detention Center is not. She said there are very few agencies that wish to come into a Detention Center, especially now in the COVID-19 era, and be prepared to work during the hours they can allot to them understanding that they are never closed, and they are always occupied, and that particular aspect of the process is the key. She said they can find another company that can do the floor, but they are not going to find many companies, in her experience, that are able to accommodate a 24/7/365 occupied building that must continue to produce meals and be prepared to come in and get the product down, do a quality job, and be out within two or three days so that they have a limited amount of downtime, and she does not have a riot. Mr. Holloway asked, so now they are going to have a riot if they do not approve this, to which Ms. Colburne responded, she is not saying that, and she can research other products. Mr. Holloway clarified, he was being facetious.

Mr. Rice said, as the Warden stated, she does have experience with this product and this company from her Caroline County days, so there is a background history there that knows the product. He said the product is specific. He said, when this came across his desk the first time, as he said, he researches everything before he brings it to Council. He said he saw it was a kitchen floor, so he got Mr. Matthews involved, but then, as they started diving down, there are reasons why the product is superior, and then, when they do it that way, the sole source vendor is dictated by the manufacturer. He said he can write a spec, but if he writes a spec so specific to what the Warden needs in the jail, he is then, basically, inhibiting other vendors from even bidding based on the restrictions he put in the spec. He said there are times where it is in the County's benefit to not go through the formalized bidding process, and this is one of them.

Mr. Taylor said he has a comment that might be helpful to everybody, which is that they can get a list of the RFPs on the County's website. He said they can go on there, and he follows it monthly. He said he guesses it would be possible when an RFP is issued to just put the County Council or Administrator on the list for distribution, and then they would know each time one is issued, but what is on the website is pretty comprehensive.

Mr. Taylor said the other thing he thinks Council would want to know is whether there is an estimate on this or a quote from the company they are going to use because it has not been mentioned, to which Mr. Rice responded, he does not have that off the top of his head, but they have a proposal from the vendor itself. Mr. Holloway asked if an RFP was put out on this, to which Mr. Rice responded, no. He explained, as he said, it came across his desk as a sole source request, and then they researched it from there. Ms. Colburne said Caroline County bid out the floor, to which Mr. Rice responded, but that has been too long to be able to utilize that contract.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Mr. McCain and seconded by Mr. Hastings, Resolution No. 100-2020 (SM) was unanimously approved.

**Resolution No. 101-2020** – To Approve Kevin Karpinski, Esquire, and Karpinski, Cornbrooks, & Karp, P.A. as Special Legal Counsel for Wicomico County on Matters Relating to a Fraternal Order of Police Grievance of Military Time Credit in the DROP Program.

Mrs. Hurley said, in accordance with Charter Section 507-F, the County Executive may, with approval of Council, employ special legal counsel to work problems of an extraordinary nature when the work to be done is of such magnitude as to acquire services in addition to those regularly provided by the Department of Law, and the Acting County Executive is requesting to hire Kevin Karpinski as special legal counsel.

There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. McCain and seconded by Mr. Davis, Resolution No. 101-2020 was unanimously approved.

**Resolution No. 102-2020** – Confirming the Appointment of Pamela B. Oland as the Director of Finance for Wicomico County, Maryland.

There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. McCain and seconded by Mr. Holloway, Resolution No. 102-2020 was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Pam Oland came to the podium and thanked Council. She said she appreciates the opportunity Council is presenting to her, and she hopes she can provide Council information as they request it, and to the best of her ability.

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**Robert Taylor, Council Attorney**

**Legislative Bill No. 2020-06** – An act to amend the 2020 Operating and Capital Budget to Increase the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center Budget in the amount of \$530,000 by transferring \$200,000 from the Recreation and Parks Prior Year Fund Balance; by transferring \$75,000 from the Recreation and Parks Current Year Budget Savings; and by transferring \$255,000 from the General Fund Contingency.

Mr. Taylor said this is a continuation of this particular Bill, and he has expressed his concerns that he does not think the way it is prepared is appropriate under the Charter.

There being no discussion, on motion by Mr. McCain, seconded by Mr. Davis, and by roll call vote, Mr. Cannon, aye; Mr. Hastings, aye; Mrs. Acle, aye; Mr. Holloway, aye; Mr. Davis, aye; Mr. McCain, aye; and Mr. Dodd, aye, Legislative Bill No. 2020-06 was unanimously approved.

**Introduction: Legislative Bill No. 2020-11** – An act to authorize and empower Wicomico County, Maryland to borrow on the faith and credit of Wicomico County, Maryland an aggregate principal amount not exceeding Sixteen Million, Four Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand, Six Hundred Fifty-Four Dollars (\$16,437,654), and to evidence such borrowing by the issuance and sale from time to time for one or more series of general obligation bonds of the County.

Mr. Taylor said this is what they would normally call their annual bond Bill.

Mrs. Hurley said they can have the Public Hearing for this Bill on October 20, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Mrs. Oland asked if it is possible to have it at the first meeting in October given the fact there are three weeks between, to which Mrs. Hurley responded, she will take a look at the calendar and get back to Mrs. Oland on that. Mrs. Oland clarified, the reason being is the timeframe to try to get these funds with the 60-day enactment. She said there are three weeks between this meeting and the next meeting, so, if they could have the Public Hearing and second reading so, if it passes at the first meeting, then the 60 days run out at the beginning of December. Mrs. Hurley said, looking at the calendar, she thinks that is possible because it only has to be advertised twice, so they would be able to do it October 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Oland said she appreciates that. She explained, timing wise, they need these funds for some of the projects for the school system, so they have a plan that the timing then works to be able to advertise them, issue them, have them be closed, and have the funding available. Mr. Dodd then asked, to clarify, the Public Hearing will be on October 6, to which Mrs. Hurley responded, yes, at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Mr. McCain and seconded by Mr. Holloway, Legislative Bill No. 2020-11 was unanimously introduced.

**Public Comments:**

Mr. Bruce Robson came to the podium and said he wants to express his continued discouragement at the process for the County Executive procedure. He said they, as Americans, with great and justified pride talk about being a country rule of law, but it seems to him it is not just the rule of law, but respect for the system. He said, if they lose respect for their systems, their democracy, their County is in trouble, big trouble. He said he feels like the way this has progressed really leaves for a lack of trust. He said he spoke a couple of weeks ago, and he is sure Council has heard a lot, so they probably do not remember, but he hears so many people say, what is going on behind the scenes? He said they hear nothing, and what they do hear is so weak as to encourage the thought that there is something going on here, which is not good. He clarified, he personally does not believe that is the case, but when he hears things like, "Well, I'm voting for this person and he is going to keep his other job, but other County Executives have done that", or when he hears things like "I'm embarrassed to change my mind", and then the one that really stuck with him was Mr. Dodd when somebody at that Friday meeting implied there is something bad going on here, and the only response was this is not the place to debate that. He then asked, where is the place to debate the integrity of this group? Where is the place? He said, if they lose the trust of this County, then governing is very difficult. He said he would like to hear what their reasoning is for not talking about it, and for making the decisions they make. He said he does not know. He then asked, is somebody planning to run for County Executive in two years? He said he is sort of dense, so it took him a while to think about this, but maybe there is something, or some deal about who gets to be President or Vice President. He asked, are they comfortable with these sorts of thoughts and ruminations? He said he would ask that the transparency be ramped up, let the public know what is going on, and why they make the choices they do. He said respect the system, it is not just a rule of law. He said this country, they say the wonderful American experiment, has been around for 250 years, and one of the only ways that it will continue is if they have a respect for the system, and their leaders have to join in that respect.

**Council Comments:**

Mrs. Acle thanked Delegate Anderton for coming to their meeting today, and said she appreciates him being there. She said she wanted to congratulate Mrs. Oland and the Assistant Airport Manager for taking their new roles. She said she also just wanted to put out there that, if anyone in the Quantico area is interested in joining the Quantico Historic Heritage Society, they are reforming their organization, so please email her at her County email address and she will connect them.

Mr. Hastings said some of the projects Council approved today with agricultural land are really positive to see. He said that is a lot of good acreage and a lot of good projects, and he wants to make sure that is continued to be a part of the Wicomico County ethic for a long time to come.

Mr. Hastings said this month is Wicomico Goes Purple, and it is good to see a lot of folks out there, and the website wicomicogoespurple.com has a lot of information on there, but a lot of folks have been putting out the lights, so it is really nice to continue to see.

Mr. Hastings said, with COVID, 194,000 Americans have now died from this disease, and more than 1,800 Wicomico residents of which nearly 50 have died. He said he takes his mask off for the moment, but, for anyone who is watching, Council does continue to take this seriously. He said he just wanted to make sure to point that out. He said Wicomico County does have the highest positivity rate in the State at the moment, and then their neighboring County Worcester for the last three weeks has been the highest rate of cases anywhere, so it is still a big issue, this disease, here on the Lower Shore, and hopefully folks in the public continue to take that seriously also.

Mr. Hastings said, with the County Executive process, Mr. Robson had some good comments. He said it is always important for transparency. He said, regardless, transparency needs to be at all levels of government from local to federal, and the American people are not seeing that as they should.

Mr. McCain said two weeks ago the Maryland Board of Public Works approved some significant funding that will be coming to Wicomico County for Pirate's Wharf, and that project will soon be moved forward. He said part of that project is a small boat soft launching ramp for small craft, kayaks, canoes, etc. He said he would like to see Council have a Work Session to consider naming that launching ramp in remembrance of County Executive Culver. He said Mr. Culver was very active and very much in the forefront of the development of Pirate's Wharf, and also had a long history of boating on the Wicomico River, so he thinks this could be an appropriate form of remembrance they could do as a Council.

Mr. McCain said he would also like to see Council schedule a Work Session on County sewer, and the issue around failing septic, as that is becoming such a huge issue. He said, as someone in the real estate business, it is just amazing how many times over and over again this problem comes up. He said he just dealt with a homeowner selling their property that is a 50-year old house, and of course they tested the septic system and it failed, so they are now looking at a \$30,000 septic bill because, unfortunately, they cannot go back with a standard system, and where they are located they have to go with a large mound system. He said they have no room on the property, they are having to move buildings, and so it just turns into this major ordeal. He said Council has been talking about this for a long time. Mr. Dodd said he asked Mrs. Hurley to get an update from Mr. Psota on the County water and sewer study, and they were supposed to meet on Friday, but Mr. Psota cannot be there, so they are going to schedule another meeting date for next week, so that is a priority. He then asked Mrs. Hurley to make a note of the Work Session Mr. McCain requested for Mr. Culver's name, to which Mrs. Hurley responded, yes.

**Council President Comments:**

Mr. Dodd said, at this time, the Council has received two applications for the County Executive vacancy in round two, Mr. Carl Anderton, Jr. and Mr. Lawrence Pate Matthews, and they also have a request for two applications that were sent out, and they have to be postmarked by September 14, 2020.

Mr. Dodd said also this morning he got a phone call from Mr. John Hilton from the Volunteer Firemen's Association, and he stated they are meeting regularly again on the Tuesday nights when they have their Council meetings, so they extended an invitation to the Councilmembers if they want to start attending again. He said it will be at Westside tonight, so he knows Mrs. Acle will be there.

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. McCain, seconded by Mr. Davis, and unanimously approved, the Legislative Session was adjourned at approximately 11:05 a.m. to go into Open Work Sessions followed by a Closed Work Session pursuant to General Provisions Article, Section 3-305(b)(1) to discuss the appointment to a position that this Public Body has jurisdiction, and Administrative Closed Sessions pursuant to General Provisions Article Section 3-104 to receive an update on Internal Auditor projects, and to discuss the applicants for the County Executive position.

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The Wicomico County Council met in a Closed Work Session on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at approximately 1:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, Government Office Building, Salisbury, Maryland.

In attendance: Larry Dodd, Council President; John Cannon, Vice President; William R. McCain, Ernest Davis, Joe Holloway, Josh Hastings, and Nicole Acle.

Present for the Closed Work Session: Laura Hurley, Council Administrator; Robert Taylor, Council Attorney; and Lynn Sande, Executive Office Associate.

The purpose of the Closed Work Session was to discuss the appointment to a position that this Public Body has jurisdiction. No formal action was taken.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Mr. Holloway, seconded by Mr. Hastings, and unanimously approved, the Closed Work Session was adjourned at approximately 1:40 p.m. The legal authority for the Closed Work Session is General Provisions Article, Section 3-305(b)(1).

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The Wicomico County Council met in an Administrative Closed Session on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at approximately 1:40 p.m. in Council Chambers, Government Office Building, Salisbury, Maryland.

In attendance: Larry Dodd, Council President; John Cannon, Vice President; William R. McCain, Ernest Davis, Joe Holloway, Josh Hastings, and Nicole Acle.

Present for the Administrative Closed Session: Laura Hurley, Council Administrator; Robert Taylor, Council Attorney; Levin Hitchens, Internal Auditor, and Lynn Sande, Executive Office Associate.

The purpose of the Administrative Closed Session was to discuss the Internal Auditor project updates. No formal action was taken.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Mr. Holloway, seconded by Mr. Hastings, and unanimously approved, the Administrative Closed Session was adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m. The legal authority for the Administrative Closed Session is General Provisions Article, Section 3-104.

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The Wicomico County Council met in an Administrative Closed Session on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at approximately 1:45 p.m. in Council Chambers, Government Office Building, Salisbury, Maryland.

In attendance: Larry Dodd, Council President; John Cannon, Vice President; William R. McCain, Ernest Davis, Joe Holloway, Josh Hastings, and Nicole Acle.

Present for the second Administrative Closed Session: Laura Hurley, Council Administrator; Robert Taylor, Council Attorney; Levin Hitchens, Internal Auditor, and Lynn Sande, Executive Office Associate.

The purpose of the second Administrative Closed Session was to discuss the applicants for the County Executive position. No formal action was taken.

There being no further discussion, on motion by Mr. Holloway, seconded by Mr. Hastings, and unanimously approved, the Administrative Closed Session was adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m. The legal authority for the Administrative Closed Session is General Provisions Article, Section 3-104.

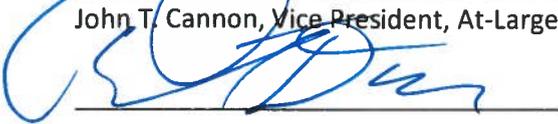
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Larry W. Dodd, President, District 3



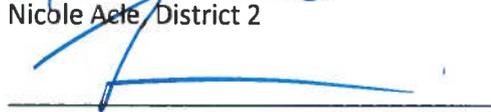
John T. Cannon, Vice President, At-Large



Ernest F. Davis, District 1



Nicole Acle, District 2



Josh Hastings, District 4



Joe Holloway, District 5



William R. McCain, At-Large



Laura Hurley, Council Administrator