

**Open Work Session**  
**March 21, 2017**  
**Council Goals/Priorities**

Mr. Cannon said several items of priorities were turned in by Council members. One that came up quite frequently was a concern that the County Council has over the water and sewer plan, whether they have an authority or not, which is a good goal to address and be mindful of. The question is going to remain, how are they are going to achieve that. He said it is no simple task. He asked if anyone who had made that suggestion had any ideas on how to begin that process. Mr. Dodd said this has been an ongoing concern for developers, the public, people that want to relocate their business in this County, and even the environmentalists, have always weighed in on this. Mr. Dodd said, during MACO this past winter, he talked with some of the people from Somerset and Worcester County, and he thinks they both have a different type of water and sewer operation. One is an authority and another one is a commission. He said they could start by looking at what both those counties have. Mr. Hall said, rather than do something like this, when you are looking at these 20 initiatives, priority of items the Council has, it would be better narrowing them down to about three or four priorities that the Council could address on a realistic basis, rather than take one at a time. If you take the most popular one, like the county water and sewer, it will come to the top number one. Rather than do this with the shotgun effect, just take multiples, and just narrow it down to maybe three or four, and then focus on the three or four items. Mr. Cannon said in asking for any initial input, he was really trying to get to the point to see if they felt if this is a Council goal, or if this is a goal the Executive needs to take on. Mr. Hall said he agrees, it is, but it has to be in conjunction with the County Council, and they may have to initiate it. It may not be on the front burner. Mr. Bob Culver said they had a meeting last week at Greater Salisbury to discuss a plan that the County initiated for failing septics. Mr. Hall said it is important that they work together. Mr. Hall thanked him for bringing them up to date on this and making Council aware that this is taking place. Mr. Strausburg said they did engage George, Miles, and Buhr, a couple of years ago to study the Old Ocean City Road corridor because of the failing septics along that corridor, and the fact that the lots out there are simply too small to meet current requirements on septic. He said their approach to this has been that they first need to look at those areas of the County where they have residential concentrations with failing septics. He said, twofold, they would like to keep people in their homes, and they would like to keep the property base stabilized. He said that is already a pretty tall order. Mr. Strausburg continued, he said that side of the County, close to the City limits, is fairly densely populated, poor soils, poor drainage, and they are having chronic failures. He said their thinking was that they address that first, and how do they best address that, do they work with the City of Salisbury, or do they start along the lines of creating new systems to handle the sewer. In that case, from a logistical standpoint, it

does not make a lot of sense to create a new facility when you already have City infrastructure close by. He said that then leads to a discussion with the City as to how will they go about doing that. One of the first hurdles is the homes in that particular area are very modest homes, people with modest incomes. He said annexation is not very palatable, so they have to have a discussion with the City with regard to under what circumstances could they extend sewer service to those areas, and how would they collectively handle those costs, with a portion of those costs passed on to the citizens. Once you resolve those current issues, impacting current infrastructure, people in homes, then you begin to talk about what is the best way then to address expansion, further out, east and west. That probably does not lend itself to further expansion and extension of the City sewer system, so they have to come up with a new construct. He said that gets fairly complicated with the regulatory approvals that you have to go through, and it is going to be darn expensive. Mr. Joe Holloway said, several years ago, back in the late 1960's and 1970's, he thought it was Pittsville and Willards, the federal government basically told Willards they had to go with City water and sewer because of the soils and the concentration. They wanted Pittsville to go along at the same time, but Pittsville did not have to at the time, so they did not. Mr. Joe Holloway said, at a later date, they came in and said Pittsville had to do it, so Pittsville had to build their own water plant. He asked, at what point in time, on the east side of Salisbury, this area you are talking about, with failing systems, would the federal government come in and say they have to do something. Mr. Strausburg said he did not know, but from the County's standpoint they think it is the time for the County to be proactive. He said that is the reason they engaged George, Miles and Buhr, and that is the reason they met with the City on several occasions. Mr. Joe Holloway said it may have been the state, not the federal government. He asked how involved is the state in this process that you are doing right now. Are they involved in it, to which Mr. Strausburg responded, not at this juncture. Mr. Strausburg said they think service to that immediate area is best delivered through the City, through the existing system. Mr. Strausburg said it becomes a matter of how to pay for it, and what portions of those costs are going to be borne by the people living in those homes, but they are having those discussions. Mr. Cannon said he thought it was a very viable topic. He said, getting back to what Councilman Hall has suggested, he thinks they need to keep this as one of their highest priorities. Mr. Cannon said they need a work session with the Executive Branch to see where they are headed with this. He said about eight years ago or more, he met with Worcester County and Somerset County, at that time the Director of Somerset County asked why did they want to get into this. Mr. Strausburg said it is expensive. Mr. Cannon said it is, and you have to tell the citizens that they will be changing for a septic system that does not cost them any money right now, but now they would have to pay the County. Mr. Cannon said it is almost as difficult as trying to annex property, trying to get permission to annex. Mr. Cannon said then you have to look at what the alternatives are, so if they could schedule this as a work session because this is

very beneficial to everyone. He said it is a very high priority of all of the Councils, of the last three Councils. Mr. Matt Holloway said time is of the essence as well, from 2010 to 2014 the Secretary of Planning and the Governor both were quoted as saying this County would never have a County water and sewer system because they thought it would incur sprawl in the County. He said now is the time to try to do it while they have an amicable Governor and Secretary of Planning. He said he thought they could get it done. Mr. Matt Holloway continued, he said if they go back to the old policy, he did not think they will have a chance. Mr. Cannon said depending on what the federal government does as far as contributions to the state, they could be taking advantage of the WIP Programs. Mr. Strausburg said, as it relates to the corridor along Old Ocean City Road, when they are addressing the sewer issue, they also have to address the issue of storm water management because there is no storm water management in that whole sector. He said essentially, every time they have heavy rains, they have some significant issues with the lots in that area holding water, houses being threatened with flooding, because when it was developed there is no storm water management there. He said if you drive down Old Ocean City Road, you will notice that Old Ocean City Road is at a higher elevation than the adjacent lots with no roadside ditches. He said it is not a good situation. He said it would make no sense to go in and provide sewer infrastructure and not address that issue as well. Mr. Joe Holloway said that road being higher is interesting, he said he had a discussion with a gentleman from State Highway. They have been paving that road since the early 1900's and it keeps getting higher and higher, and if you look at the properties, especially in the Parsonsburg area, it runs downhill, and some of the other properties too. Mr. Strausburg said there are multiple issues. Mr. Joe Holloway said he was at the SWED meeting the other day, and he was talking with a fellow, Peter Boser, and he said they were talking about going to the bypass, inside that bypass, is Phase 6. He asked Mr. Strausburg, is that what you are looking at right now. Mr. Strausburg responded that he will bring what was already done to a Council in work session, and Council can see what the study area was. Mr. Joe Holloway said that is fine. Mr. Holloway said, one thing they can take care of right now is the suggestion regarding a letter to the State Highway concerning the high importance of Sixty Foot Road, the traffic light there. He said he was requested by Delegate Mary Beth Carozza that Council and the Executive send a joint letter. There was something that came out in the newspaper a couple weeks ago and, apparently, a state employee made a comment to one of the farmers in Pittsville, that it had been put off. He said he did not think that was correct. Delegate Carozza asked if they could do a joint letter Mr. Joe Holloway asked if the Executive's Office would entertain that idea. Mr. Bob Culver said they talked to the State Highway Administration, and they said they are working on it as fast as they can, as it is still on schedule. Mr. Joe Holloway asked if there was a need to do a letter. Mr. Culver said they would be glad to make a telephone call. Mr. Cannon said it would not hurt to write a letter, if Mr. Joe Holloway could get with

Mrs. Hurley and draft a letter. He asked if Council was in agreement to which Council agreed. Mr. Cannon said they will take that priority off of the list.

Mr. John Hall said, one thing he recommended that he does not see on the list is the air quality monitoring for the Lower Eastern Shore. He said he thinks it is a priority for the constituents after what they went through with the poultry issue. Mr. Joe Holloway said he thought that is a State issue. Mr. Cannon said he knows there is a legislative bill at the State level, but he does not think it passed. Mr. Cannon said, Joan Strang, Vice President of Government Affairs, Maryland Building Industry Association, is here. He asked her if oversight of the emissions from poultry houses, if she knew if the Environmental Protection Agency has the responsibility with the Maryland Department of the Environment. He said he is not quite sure what happened with that. Ms. Strang said she is not sure either. Mr. Cannon said he knows the Secretary was not too pleased with it. He said his comment was, how do you deal with the funding issues, as it is going to be more of an encumbrance on the State. Ms. Strang said they are finding anything that has funding attached to it is getting stalled. Mr. Cannon said, it is a matter of fact that the bill is suggesting that the responsibility of the Environmental Protection Agency be transferred to the State, which means more funding, more staff, etc. Mr. Culver said he met with Secretary Schrader about this air quality control bill, and he said they would look into it.

Mr. Cannon said some of the other items on the agenda are issues concerning the liquor dispensary. He knows it has come up before with the Councils in the past, as to whether or not they should privatize the liquor dispensary, just to address to see if everyone wants to have that listed as a priority or not. Mr. Joe Holloway said he hears more from the civic organizations about being able to buy directly from the distributors. He said he hears more of that than he does from citizens not wanting to shop at their dispensaries. He said the dispensaries are doing a great job. That is the issue he hears with the liquor dispensaries, as he does not hear complaints from citizens that they want a private liquor store, nor does he hear from people, some of the private clubs being able to buy directly from the wholesaler. Mr. Joe Holloway said that could be something worked on separately. Mr. Kilmer said that may be because private citizens, although they are not supposed to, can go out of state to purchase, whereas businesses legally cannot do that. Mr. Holloway said they do have quite a large sale volume to private citizens, so not everyone is leaving town to do that. Mr. Cannon said he thought that was the role that Worcester County took, and he thought they privatized the wholesale industry first and then the rest of it crashed. They could not maintain a profit with the dispensaries without the wholesale. He said eventually they had to move to total privatization because they got in a bind by releasing the wholesale. Mr. Joe Holloway clarified the wholesale was propping up the retail. Mr. Cannon said that will be something they have to decide to do as a Council. Mr. Hall said it seems like this issue comes up every couple of years.

He said the timing is bad on it prior to the budget, and suggested this be looked at after the budget. Mr. Hall said he thought it is worth discussion because every couple of years things change. Mr. Cannon said everybody asks, why is the government in the liquor business. Mr. Joe Holloway said some of the smaller clubs do not want it changed because they cannot buy enough from the wholesalers to get the discount, six of one, half a dozen of the other there.

Mr. Cannon said another item on the agenda is economic development, which is broad. He said he thought they need to break it down to more specific criteria. Mr. Matt Holloway said that ties into one of his suggestions, work with the City to establish incentives for business locations within City limits that the County can offer, because whatever happens in the City is also good for the County too. To have a conversation and look at what other municipalities and counties are doing together for relocation incentives. Mr. Culver said the County dropped its inventory tax. They talked with the City, and they are not quite ready. Mr. Matt Holloway said, like in hindsight, Perdue Agribusiness, relocating to Delmar, and that was the State, Governor Markel gave them two million dollars in cash to move up to Delmar. He was wondering if there was something that the County and City could have done together to keep that business. He said if they just had a toolbox, be prepared to make those kind of moves. Mr. Matt Holloway said, maybe someone knows nationwide if counties are doing some other things. Mr. Joe Holloway said he understands they are having a company move from Seaford into Wicomico County. Mr. Strausburg said, on economic development, he thinks one of the most immediate things that the County can do, they are underway with, that is the development of the airport campus. He said that can have a tremendous impact on economic development in the County, and it is really within their control to do that. Not to telegraph what is coming, but they are going to see some requests in this years' budget that targets the development of the airport on a more aggressive basis than they have seen in the past. The airport is a really underdeveloped asset, and they have a period of time here where they can act. He said if they do not act, it is going to bypass them. Mr. Cannon said he agrees 100%. He said a concern of his too is, it seems what is being stonewalled to a degree is the development of the industrial park next to the airport, as well as the one across the street, which was put together 10-15 years ago. Mr. Strausburg said one of the issues there is the sewer line that was run to the airport campus is a dedicated sewer line, and it is for the use of the airport and any adjacent County property. The water line that the City has agreed to run is also a restricted line for the airport and for adjacent County property. He said he thinks, in this instance, the County is the developer, so we want to develop our own property. He said they are fronting the money to bring this infrastructure to the airport campus, and they see it as a tremendous economic asset. They do not want to develop it before they begin to spread out. Right now they do not have the authority from the City to tap those proposed water lines or the existing sewer line. He said he hates to muddy the water right

now until they get the water line to the campus, they have the discreet development plan for the airport campus, and begin to executive that plan. Mr. Cannon asked when they are laying the line should they have larger pipes, to which Mr. Strausburg responded, it is a 12-inch line. Mr. Cannon asked in laying that line, are they accounting for anticipation of expansion in the future, as he hopes they keep an eye out for. Mr. Strausburg said, okay. Mr. Joe Holloway said when they ran that sewer line to the airport, they put in sewer only down Mt. Hermon Road, but if they put water in at the same time, they could have put a bigger pipe in. He said of course, that is hindsight, they made a mistake, let's look at that this time. Mr. Strausburg said remember it is the amount of capacity, and again the City is going to look at this as extending that water service outward. The further out you go, the more issues you are going to have with pressure, more taps, so the City quite rightly, is most interested in City infill, how does the City make use of that water, how does the City make use of that sewer. He said he thought that is a dragon they do not want to slay just yet, but Mr. Joe Holloway's point is well taken. Mr. Strausburg said, his understanding is that the line has been properly sized but he will revisit that with Mr. Botic and Mr. McAllister. Mr. Dodd said he agreed with Mr. Strausburg 100%. He said he would love to see that airport enlarged and the campus developed more. He said that goes back to County water and sewer, as they are too dependent on the municipalities and, at some time, the County needs to do something on its own. He said he knows it is expensive, but it is going to be more expensive when the County does not do it. He loves the idea of expanding the airport.

Mr. Cannon said the other item on the agenda was presented by Vice President Dodd, which suggested Fire and EMS laws of Wicomico County. Mr. Dodd said as they all know, the situation going on with the volunteers at Station One. They have a Fire Service Agreement, and they have who is responsible for signing or giving districts to the volunteer stations. He said Council has nothing on their laws. He said he is hearing a lot, and he is sure Council is hearing things about what is going on with the County and the City. He said they need to form a commission at some point to get some ideas, and possibly codify some of these issues, thoughts and concerns going on with the fire service. Mr. Kilmer said Mr. Dodd is exactly right, looking at the County Code right now for fire emergency, it is not real detailed, especially when you get into situations, which they are finding themselves in now. Looking in the future where volunteer services are aging and having trouble attracting new recruit. He asked what is the future of fire and EMS service in the County. He said it is better to start figuring this out now than to wait 20 years and have a situation where all of the sudden nobody can serve out in the rural areas of the County because they do not have volunteers. Mr. Matt Holloway asked Mr. Dodd if he was picturing a formal work group, to which Mr. Dodd said he thought that was the way to go. He said he has talked to the Executive about looking at some of the surrounding counties on the shore, and see what they are doing, look at some of their laws, and see how they are

operating. Mr. Matt Holloway asked, are you looking at appointing people to a committee. Mr. Dodd asked Mr. Bob Culver what he thought. Mr. Culver said he would welcome that very much with his experience on the Council and a firefighter. Mr. Dodd said a work group is a good term for it, work group, would possibly be a start. They could look for some volunteers. He said he would also like to go to the surrounding counties and see how they are operating. He said from Wicomico on, they all have a different way of running things.

Mr. Cannon said Councilman Kilmer made note of the repeal of the Speed Camera Law. Mr. Kilmer said the County does not have a speed camera contract right now, so the law is on the books, and they do not have a contract. In general, he said he would not mind seeing that law repealed totally. He said he thinks they should talk with Sheriff Lewis about this first. He said Sheriff Lewis was very supportive of it when it was enacted. Mr. Kilmer said it would be premature to do anything with that. Mr. Matt Holloway said he was going to say that is another thing they could cross off right now. Mr. Culver said it is a state law, they really cannot take it off of the law. Mr. Kilmer said they have a County law that enables them to do it. He said they cannot choose a State law, but they can remove a law that allows Wicomico County Government to do that. Mr. Culver said Mike Lewis, the Sheriff, was in favor. Mr. Wilber said they do have legislation. Mr. Kilmer asked, did the County pass a law to enable it. Mr. Matt Holloway said they did legislation not a resolution. Mr. Kilmer said that was the last Council, he thinks. He said he appreciates the fact that it is not operating, but what happens when there is another government that wants to do it and redo the contract.

Mr. Cannon said Councilman Kilmer had proposed a fee waiver for non-profit organizations doing community service. He said he knows that has come up numerous times. Mr. Kilmer said, the fact that they do it for this group or that group, or Council does not do it. He said it is kind of at the whim of the Council. He said there needs to be a policy. If these fees are to be waived, what are the parameters and things like that, and not basically up to the whims of the County Council to have someone come before them and beg for a waiver of fees, as that is not a good system. He said people need to know whether or not they are going to be charged. Mr. Kilmer said Council has waived fees in the past. He said he was talking with Councilman Joe Holloway, and he said with the past Council there was a resolution that did not pass for some groups. He said they need consistency on this sort of thing. They cannot pick one group that gets it, one group does not, one group got it last year and they expect it this year and they do not get it, things like that. Mr. Joe Holloway said he thought they should have a work session for waiver for non-profit organizations. He said he would be in favor for folks that are out there building wheelchair ramps and things like that, but non-profits also build churches and hospitals, so you have to set a limit on where you want to set your waivers. A no exception on this would be good, and

get some input from what some other counties are doing. Mr. Kilmer said it cannot disappear for all non-profits, as there are non-profits in the City that use plenty of things that should be paying as much as anybody else. Mr. Kilmer said, it would be good for the west side, Allen's group is cleaning up the trash, they do not have any money, or building wheelchair ramps, things like that. Something that applies broadly so the people know that they can apply for this and get it, that they have some certainty, rather than wondering if they are going to get it or not. Mr. Cannon said they have building permit waivers and dump fee waivers. Mr. Kilmer said that is something to discuss, the sort of fees that get charged to these groups. He said they hear about it when someone complains to them. Mr. Joe Holloway said in the end, the County is doing inspections, and they are inspecting. Mr. Kilmer said or they just say there are no waivers, and people stop asking them for waivers. He said there should be a clear policy. Mr. Cannon asked Mr. Kilmer if he is suggesting they have no waivers whatsoever, to which Mr. Kilmer said he was simply saying that they need to consider all of the options.

Mr. John Hall said they need to be brought up to date on the condition of the Enterprise Funds, and the direction of the Enterprise Funds from the County Executive. Mr. Cannon said they are establishing what the Council likes and does not like, and they need to break down all of these topics into work sessions and start having them as work sessions over the next few months. Mr. Strausburg agreed. Mr. Cannon said these work sessions cannot be heard without the Executive Branch as part of this process. Unequivocally, it has to be part of the process, Council cannot be running down this on their own. They will break down these topics and start putting them in as work sessions. Once they evaluated some that the Council does not want to address. It looks like they are going to address 99% of them, and then they can actually have work sessions over the next several months to iron all of this out. Mr. Strausburg said, by way of clarification, they have three enterprise funds, Tourism, Solid Waste, Nursing Homes, and Airport. Airport, again they will visit this during the budget cycle, but it is a matter of what they want the airport to look like. If they stick to a rationale or a mentality that the airport truly has to operate as an enterprise fund, the airport is going to look like it looks right now in another ten years. Mr. Strausburg said they do not have the funding stream at the airport that we need to really develop the airport campus the way it should be developed. He said, essentially, they have one air carrier there, they have four flights a day, that is your revenue stream. He said they have all of this infrastructure on the campus that has not been attended to very well over the past several decades, which lends itself to further development. He said if they wait for federal grants, Passenger Facility Charges (PFC's) from airline flights, they cannot keep up with it. They have to look at different funding sources. He said with regard to the Tourism account, they have Council representation on the Tourism Board. He said he would hope that when council members attend Civic Center meetings, Parks and Recreation, Tourism, meetings that they bring that information back to the County Council. He said



certainly they also have the budget, but if at any time Council wants to have a work session to find out what is going on inside any department, they are happy to sit down and talk about it. Mr. Hall said that was the reason for bringing it up, to be brought up to date.

Mr. Joe Holloway said they have the airport that is an enterprise fund. They have an Airport Advisory Board, you have Tourism, which is an enterprise fund, they have an advisory board or commission, and you have the landfill, they do not have an advisory board or commission. Mr. Joe Holloway said you have these enterprise accounts that have advisory boards, and then you have one enterprise that does not. Mr. Strausburg said he thought the difference was that Tourism is really a business enterprise, and the Airport is more of a business enterprise. He said Solid Waste is really a technical operation. He said he had not thought about it, but his initial response is he is not sure what an advisory board would bring to the table with an operation that is so regulated and so technical. It is a different animal out there. He said actually Council acts as the advisory board for them.

Mr. Hall said in regards to tourism initiatives, they recognize tourism as being the second largest generator of income in Wicomico County after agriculture. He said, at one point, it was supposed to surpass agriculture. Agriculture does not have the opportunity to grow, and tourism is continuing to grow at a very fast rate. He said they showed somewhere around 13% growth and income generated in tourism over the past year, which is sizeable. In order for them to continue to compete and continue to grow in this enterprise area, he thinks there needs to be some stronger initiatives and some stronger direction. He would like to see a plan coming from the County Executive, a plan that increases these initiatives. Mr. Strausburg said that is the role of the advisory board. He said, tourism is not actually the second largest economic driver in the County, Education and Health are ahead of Tourism. They have advisory boards, and they have Council representation on those advisory boards. Mr. Strausburg said the Tourism Department develops a strategic plan every year that is approved and passed upon by the advisory board and sent to the Executive. He said, again, if you want a work session, wherein advisory board members and Tourism staff come in and have that discussion with Council, that is fine. He said he believes the conduit for that information is in place. Mr. Hall said he agrees the conduit is in place, maybe he missed those meetings being the representative on that advisory board, but he has not seen those strategic initiatives come through, so maybe they do need a work session to bring them up to date on the strategic initiatives. Mr. Cannon said they do have boards, the boards sit and they evaluate what they are doing and they move on, and the Council does not have any knowledge for the most part of what is being done or said. They do not follow up like they should on getting that information from the council members sitting on those board. He said they could do that but going one step further, not only

updating the Council on what the boards discussions were, but having work sessions with those individual boards just to get a feel for where it goes. Mr. Strausburg said they would be happy to do that.

Mr. Hall said there have been some initiatives throughout the state on solar fields and the impacts on the farmers. He said not putting the cart before the horse, but it is something that they should investigate in the future, again after the budget session. Mr. Joe Holloway asked what kind of impact are you talking about for the farmers. Mr. Hall said, looking at other issues around the state. Mr. Hall said apparently the resident citizens feel the solar firms are taking up valuable agricultural land. Although they believe in the right to farm and think the right to farm is a good idea, when they put a solar farm on them they have eliminated that right to farm. They need to look at some definitions of what they want to look at in the future. Mr. Joe Holloway said the solar fields could be removed at an expense. Mr. Kilmer said he did think that there was some interest in looking at this issue. Talking to some landowners and things like that. He said they may be having some folks approach Council about this. Mr. Cannon said keep in mind what Councilman Kilmer and Councilman Hall are saying here. He said there are talks behind the scenes as far as what the County needs to do. He said this is one of those huge apples, you cannot take a small bite, because as soon as you open up the floor on discussions regarding property rights and land values, etc. it is huge. He said they need to be very careful, and they need to approach this with some idea of where they want to go seriously before they take it on. Mr. Matt Holloway said he would wait and see what comes out of the State Legislature. He said he is also reminded of 2009 when the folks who wanted to downzone the County were coming out with pictures of houses all over the County that they were going to turn into some kind of metropolis. He said this is a self-regulating industry. The grid can only support so many solar farms. You will not see all agricultural fields covered with solar fields. He said it was a matter of actual electrical grid, rather than how many solar fields they can fit in the County. Mr. Joe Holloway said they are also talking about taking away some rights from farmers, some of them right now are experiencing \$3.60 for corn, as they are not making much money. If they can subsidize their income, like subsidizing their income with poultry farms. Mr. Joe Holloway said a farmer would not take all of their land to put in solar fields, but they would like to put some on it. He said as far as regulating, he does not see taking that route. He said he does not see taking property rights away from the people either. Mr. Hall said he is not in favor of taking property rights away, just looking at the issues that affect the property owners. Mr. Joe Holloway said he agrees with Mr. Matt Holloway that they need to follow the state regulations right now.

Mr. Joe Holloway said he has been getting some other questions from the bus contractors on what the Board of Education is doing with privatizing their bus fleet as it seems like it is growing, and some of the contractors are concerned out

there. He said some of the contractors would like Council to take a look and get some answers from the Board of Education on where they are going with that. Mr. Dodd asked Mr. Joe Holloway if he knew how many buses they have right now. Mr. Joe Holloway said he has heard different numbers. Mrs. Hurley said Council did not put school buses on the Board of Education agenda. Mr. Dodd asked Mr. Davis if he knew how many buses they have to which Mr. Davis said, twenty-four. Mr. Holloway asked if that has grown in the past two years, to which Mr. Davis said, yes. Mr. Cannon said they can bring this to their attention today, at least let them know this is a priority and however Council wants to initiate it this afternoon. Mrs. Hurley said Council requested some information from the Board of Education regarding transportation, and that is why they did not want to have the discussion this afternoon because Council has not received the information yet. Mr. Cannon said they will remind them to make sure they are aware of it.

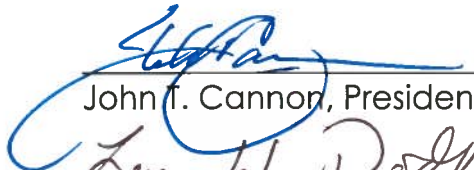
Mr. Joe Holloway requested to speak about bid preferences for local contractors. He said their purchasing agent has brought that up. He said he thinks that is something they can work with the County Executive on. He said he probably had the same questions that he has. He said maybe in the future they could look at that. Mr. Cannon said there are two issues there. One is using 10% of your contractors that are local, the other part of that is if the bid is within 10%, bids may be up to \$50,000 then there would be preference to a local contract. Mr. Cannon said he did have some information that he could give them that Dave Ryan sent just recently. Mr. Kilmer said, Nick Rice's answers were good enough for some members.

Mr. Cannon said, Mr. Davis had mentioned countywide water and sewer, and expansion at the airport, which are two good points that they are going to keep on the list. He said Mr. Matt Holloway mentioned the expansion of the rural legacy area. Mr. Matt Holloway said, they have talked before about that and Frank McKenzie is working on it. Right now they have the Quantico Creek Rural Legacy Area that they are talking about expanding, maybe keeping the same name. Another rural legacy area is over the Paleo Channel protection area, but also incentive for more protection of farmland, another tool in the toolbox for ways to reserve farmland in the County. He said he thought it was in the works now. He said he knows Frank McKenzie reached out to several landowners, and they got positive responses back with people who are willing to join in the rural legacy areas. He said he thought it was something that they may want to have a work session on and keep on the radar.

Mr. Matt Holloway said he also had a priority to establish a better working relationship with the Executive. He said that should be their top priority. He said maybe they could achieve more of these skills. Mr. Cannon said having work sessions together as two bodies, he thought that would be a big improvement. Mr. Matt Holloway said, and working with the City that falls in the same basket as

economic development. Mr. Matt Holloway said he categorized these all into five different areas. 1) County Water and Sewer; 2) Airport/Economic Development; 3) Workgroup to Codify the Fire and EMS Regulations; 4) Speed Camera Repeal; and 5) Fee Waiver for Non-Profits. He said the ones that were borderline, if there was a Council consensus on where they are with tourism initiatives, solar fields, and local contractor bid preference. Mr. Cannon said he appreciated everyone's input and they will put this together, in addition to what Mr. Matt Holloway anticipated to the next highest priorities. Mr. Cannon said they will put this together and will gear up as far as work sessions and where they are going in the next two months.

**Open Work Session**  
**March 21, 2017**  
**Council Goals/Priorities**

  
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John F. Cannon, President

  
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Larry W. Dodd, Vice President, District 3

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ernest F. Davis, District 1

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Marc Kilmer, District 2

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John B. Hall, District 4

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Holloway, District 5

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Holloway, At-Large

  
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Laura Hurley, Council Administrator