



For Immediate Release

Easton, MD – April 27, 2023

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Talbot County Council Meeting Highlights, April 25, 2023

The Talbot County Council held their regularly scheduled meeting on April 25 with all Council members present.

The County introduced Sarah Kilmon, the new Communications Manager. Sarah is the first person to hold this role for Talbot County and is charged with developing the County's public image through social media, web presence, and more. Sarah grew up in Talbot County and is honored to be able to serve her peers and neighbors in a new capacity. After two years serving in the Office of Senator Johnny Mautz, she is enthusiastic to join the County in the new role and to stay a little bit closer to home.

The County also presented two proclamations: First, employees from the Judy Center and other community-based childhood service groups received a proclamation recognizing "Maryland Month of the Young Child", which was coordinated by the Governor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families and the Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children. The proclamation spoke of the importance of communities supporting the needs of young children and their families.

Secondly, to honor National Library Week, the Council presented a proclamation to Library Board President Susan Sherman, Assistant Director Scotti Oliver, Board Treasurer Mary Pellicano, and Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator Sabine Simonson. The proclamation spoke of the freedom to read and obtain information as one of America's founding ideals. It also spoke of the many services professional staff and volunteers at libraries throughout the nation provide to all citizens in their respective communities - all free of charge.

In other business:

- Council members Callahan, Stepp, Mielke, and Haye introduced legislation to amend Chapter 190 of the Talbot County Code, regarding the expansion of structures utilized for nonconforming uses. A public hearing on Bill No.1530 was scheduled for Tuesday, May 23rd at 6:30 p.m.
- The County Manager reminded Talbot County residents that there are vacancies on several boards/committees/commissions. All vacancies can be located on the County website: [Boards and Committees Vacancies - Talbot County, Maryland \(talbotcountymd.gov\)](https://www.talbotcountymd.gov/boards-and-committees-vacancies)
- Council voted 5-0 to approve [Bill No.1528](#) which amends Chapter 190 to amend sections of the Zoning Ordinance concerning marine uses, docks and other riparian structures.

- Brian LeCates, Director of Emergency Services, asked the Council to approve [Resolution No. 341](#) which will increase the 911 fee for Talbot County from \$0.75 per month to \$1.50 per month. The increase will help offset the increasing operational costs of the County's 911 Center, and aims to fund technology advancements for the system. The 911 fee was last increased in 2004.
- Micah Risher, Manager, Easton Airport, provided an update on the Airfield Modernization Program. The project is designed to improve the Runway Safety Area (RSA) and to modernize airfield technologies, not only making the Airport safer, but more attractive to new business. The largest runway at the airport, Runway 4/22, will shift 1,900 feet southwest of its current location creating an increased Runway Safety Area (RSA). This shift is being made possible through the 2017 purchase of the Talbot County Business Center which will be demolished next year. During this project, approximately 80% of the airfield will be reconstructed over the span of 6 to 8 years at a projected total project cost of \$52 million.

The Council unanimously approved having the Airport apply for and accept funding from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA), which, if approved, will cover 90% and 5% of the project cost, respectively. Easton Airport will pay the remaining 5%.

Council unanimously voted to award Bid No.23-04, PACKAGE 1: IMPROVE RUNWAY 4 RSA, EASTON/NEWNAM FIELD AIRPORT (ESN), and unanimously voted to award the price proposal for professional engineering and construction phase services submitted by Airport consultant, AECOM, for Bid No. 23-04; both awards are contingent upon receipt of FAA and MAA grant funding.

Construction is expected to begin in October 2023. For more information about the project, visit the Easton Airport website: [Projects - Easton Airport](#)

- Ray Clarke, County Engineer, outlined his request to apply for and accept grant funding from the Maryland Department of the Environment Bay Restoration Fund in the sum of \$30,000. He stated that the funding is available to the County due to the Region II (St. Michaels) Wastewater Treatment Plant having achieved an effluent quality on an annual basis which is less than 3.0 mg/l of Total Nitrogen and 0.3 mg/l of Total Phosphorus. Mr. Clarke noted if the Plant continues to comply within their annual discharge permit, additional funding may be available from the State. The Council unanimously approved the request.
- The County Manager requested Council approval to have the County transfer its tax-exempt housing bond allocation or mortgage credit certificates in the sum of \$1,557,360.00 to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. In turn, the state will use the allocation to issue bonds to fund housing programs or to issue mortgage credit certificates. Council unanimously approved the request.

The next meeting of the County Council will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. The Council will be holding two public hearings on the FY24 Annual Budget: at 2 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room located at 11 North Washington Street, Easton, MD 21601, and 7 p.m. in the Easton Elementary School Cafeteria located at 307 Glenwood Ave, Easton, MD 21601.

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Library Leadership receives proclamation for National Library Week. From left, Sabine Simonson, Pete Leshner, Scotti Oliver, Mary Pellicano, and Susan Sherman

