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COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

November 22, 2022; 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Frank Divilio

Corey W. Pack

Laura E. Price

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: We want to welcome</p> <p>4 everybody tonight. What a special night. It's</p> <p>5 the last night of the existing Council. And I</p> <p>6 would encourage everybody to stay here towards</p> <p>7 the end because we got some special things to</p> <p>8 give out and congratulate them and honor the</p> <p>9 people that were honoring the county for the</p> <p>10 last 12 years.</p> <p>11 That being said, let's go ahead and get</p> <p>12 started. Mr. Leshner is going to do the prayer</p> <p>13 for us and let's all please stand for the</p> <p>14 Pledge of Allegiance of the Flag.</p> <p>15 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you,</p> <p>17 Mr. Leshner. That's great. Appreciate it.</p> <p>18 Okay.</p> <p>19 Let's get started here on the agenda</p> <p>20 tonight. We have the agenda of November 22nd</p> <p>21 before us. Are there any additions, deletions,</p>	<p>1 would hope that she gets better soon. Okay.</p> <p>2 All right.</p> <p>3 Next on the agenda is the minutes, the</p> <p>4 minutes before us for October 18th, the 25th of</p> <p>5 October, and the 1st of November. Council has</p> <p>6 had the minutes before them, before us. Are</p> <p>7 there any additions, deletions, or corrections</p> <p>8 to the minutes? Okay. Hearing none, the chair</p> <p>9 moves that the minutes be accepted as unanimous</p> <p>10 consent.</p> <p>11 Next on the agenda here is the</p> <p>12 disbursements. We have the disbursements of</p> <p>13 November 8th, November 15th, and November 22nd.</p> <p>14 Council has had a chance to take a look at</p> <p>15 them. Are there any deletions, corrections, or</p> <p>16 additions to the disbursements?</p> <p>17 MR. DIVILIO: Can we make an addition to</p> <p>18 increase money to us?</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: We should, yes.</p> <p>20 MR. DIVILIO: If not, then I'm good.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: We'll try.</p>
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<p>1 or corrections to the agenda?</p> <p>2 MR. DIVILIO: I'd like to make a motion</p> <p>3 that we move or remove item six, the update</p> <p>4 from Talbot Humane as Patty Crankshaw-Quimby is</p> <p>5 not able to make it with us tonight.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>7 MR. LESHNER: Second.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, we got a</p> <p>9 motion and second.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.</p> <p>13 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>15 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.</p> <p>17 MS. PRICE: Aye.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.</p> <p>19 MR. PACK: Aye.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: And we want to wish</p> <p>21 Ms. Quimby the best. She hurt her knee, and we</p>	<p>1 MS. PRICE: Sorry they didn't approve that</p> <p>2 one.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. So hearing none, the</p> <p>4 chair moves that the disbursements be accepted</p> <p>5 as unanimous consent. Okay.</p> <p>6 Our first proclamation tonight is for the</p> <p>7 Hospice Care Month. If you guys want to come</p> <p>8 on up, that would be great. This is important</p> <p>9 to all of us. So this is a special</p> <p>10 proclamation. Welcome.</p> <p>11 MS. KIRSCH: Thank you.</p> <p>12 MR. CHEKOURAS: Thank you.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Good, good. If you don't</p> <p>14 mind introducing yourself, that would be great.</p> <p>15 MS. KIRSCH: My name is Molly Kirsch. I'm</p> <p>16 the clinical director at Talbot Hospice.</p> <p>17 MR. CHEKOURAS: I'm Chris Chekouras. And</p> <p>18 I serve as the executive director.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great. So I</p> <p>20 want to open the floor to you guys a little bit</p> <p>21 and tell us how things been going.</p>

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1 MR. CHEKOURAS: Well, first, thank you
 2 very much for allowing us to come before the
 3 Council this evening and for the proclamation.
 4 It is a privilege to do the work that we
 5 do and to care for neighbors in our community
 6 during a very difficult time in their life.
 7 So we very much appreciate the support of
 8 the Council. And most importantly, just the
 9 support of our community. Without their
 10 support, without your support, we could not do
 11 the work that we do. So we greatly appreciate
 12 it.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Okay.
 14 MS. KIRSCH: Just to thank you all and
 15 encourage everyone to please, if there's any
 16 member of the community that you feel could
 17 benefit from talking to us or seeing if there's
 18 any of our programs that could fit people in
 19 need, to encourage them to come and seek us
 20 out. We would like to help anyone who needs
 21 our help.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Great, great. Thank you.
 2 Mr. Pack.
 3 MR. PACK: I have nothing. Thank you.
 4 MS. PRICE: (Inaudible) first.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: We can. Mr. Divilio, you
 6 want to go ahead and present the proclamation.
 7 That would be great.
 8 MR. DIVILIO: Susan should read it.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, okay. We'll let her
 10 read it first. We're going too fast here.
 11 Sorry about that.
 12 SECRETARY: Proclamation, National Hospice
 13 and Palliative Care Month, November 2022.
 14 Whereas, for more than 40 years, hospice
 15 has helped provide comfort and dignity to
 16 millions of people, allowing them to spend
 17 their final months at home surrounded by their
 18 loved ones. And as Medicare's first proven
 19 coordinated care model, hospice is a program
 20 that works, offering person-centered
 21 compassionate care, ensuring people dignity,

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1 choice, and quality of life.
 2 And whereas, the hospice model involves an
 3 interdisciplinary team-oriented approach to
 4 treatment, including expert medical care,
 5 quality system control, and comprehensive pain
 6 management as a foundation of care.
 7 And whereas, beyond providing physical
 8 treatment, hospice attends to the patient's
 9 emotional, spiritual, and family needs and
 10 provides family services, like respite care and
 11 bereavement counseling.
 12 And whereas, palliative care delivers
 13 expertise to improve quality of life and relief
 14 from pain, can be provided at any time during an
 15 illness, and hospices are some of the best
 16 providers of community-based palliative care.
 17 And whereas, a growing body of
 18 peer-reviewed research indicates that timely
 19 access to hospice and palliative care can
 20 decrease hospitalizations and emergency room
 21 visits and increase quality of life for

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1 patients and family care givers.
 2 And whereas, every year, more than one and
 3 a half million Americans living with
 4 life-limiting illnesses and their families
 5 receive care from the nation's hospice programs
 6 in communities throughout the United States.
 7 And whereas, hospice and palliative care
 8 organizations are advocates and educators about
 9 advanced care planning that help individuals
 10 make decisions about the care they want.
 11 And whereas, the Centers for Medicare and
 12 Medicaid Services have pledged to put patients
 13 first in all of its programs, including
 14 hospice, ensuring a coordinated and patient-led
 15 approach to care, protecting patient choice and
 16 access to individualized services based on a
 17 patient's unique care needs and wishes.
 18 Now, therefore, be it resolved that we,
 19 the County Council of Talbot County, do hereby
 20 proclaim November 2022 as National Hospice and
 21 Palliative Care Month in Talbot County,

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<p>1 encourage citizens to increase their</p> <p>2 understanding and awareness of care at the end</p> <p>3 of life, and to observe this month with</p> <p>4 appropriate activities and programs.</p> <p>5 Given under our hands in the great seal of</p> <p>6 Talbot County this 22nd day of November in the</p> <p>7 year of our Lord, 2021.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Great. Thank you, Madam</p> <p>9 Secretary. Appreciate it.</p> <p>10 MR. PACK: So moved.</p> <p>11 MR. DIVILIO: So I'd like to thank you</p> <p>12 guys for coming in and Megan Miller for</p> <p>13 bringing this to my attention and getting you</p> <p>14 guys on the agenda.</p> <p>15 This is obviously important to me. My</p> <p>16 stepfather passed away April 1st using Talbot</p> <p>17 Hospice care, and I can't thank you enough for</p> <p>18 the comfort you provided him as well as my</p> <p>19 family during that time.</p> <p>20 One thing that I have some experience with</p> <p>21 palliative care but I know the community does</p>	<p>1 primary physician. So you don't have to give</p> <p>2 up any relationship you have with people you've</p> <p>3 been working within the community for whatever</p> <p>4 illnesses you're seeking treatment for.</p> <p>5 The bereavement program, of course, offers</p> <p>6 bereavement support to families who have lost</p> <p>7 their loved ones on hospice but also is</p> <p>8 available to anyone in the community, whether</p> <p>9 it is a sudden loss or unexpected loss or a</p> <p>10 loss that maybe we supported through another</p> <p>11 program that we have. It's also available to</p> <p>12 community members who have had the unfortunate</p> <p>13 loss of a child or an infant who maybe are</p> <p>14 seeking one-on-one support or group support.</p> <p>15 So it's, again, tailored to the needs the</p> <p>16 community has.</p> <p>17 And we also run a kids support group that</p> <p>18 has a summer camp that's available to anyone in</p> <p>19 the community who has a child that maybe has</p> <p>20 been struggling with a loss that they've</p> <p>21 experienced. And we're working on workshops</p>
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<p>1 not. It's kind of like a new term that seems</p> <p>2 to have rolled out over the last few years that</p> <p>3 is invaluable, but many people don't understand</p> <p>4 that as well as the aftercare that you guys</p> <p>5 provide, the counseling and things like that.</p> <p>6 Would you be able to just briefly address</p> <p>7 sort of what both of those are that you</p> <p>8 provide?</p> <p>9 MR. CHEKOURAS: Take a shot.</p> <p>10 MS. KIRSCH: Our palliative care program</p> <p>11 is for anyone who is facing a life-limiting</p> <p>12 illness that may be taking away from their</p> <p>13 quality of life. So it is for people who want</p> <p>14 to continue seeking treatment or curative care</p> <p>15 but also could benefit from symptom management</p> <p>16 and improve their overall quality of life.</p> <p>17 It's a home-based program. So we come to</p> <p>18 you and listen to what your goals are,</p> <p>19 understand what's important to you</p> <p>20 individually, and our nurse practitioner</p> <p>21 adjusts what needs you have and works with your</p>	<p>1 throughout the year where children can start to</p> <p>2 build a relationship with us and have an even</p> <p>3 more better experience when camp comes around</p> <p>4 in the summertime. So we're working with the</p> <p>5 schools on that as well.</p> <p>6 MR. CHEKOURAS: And I would just add that</p> <p>7 the grief support services that Molly described</p> <p>8 are available to anyone in the community at no</p> <p>9 charge.</p> <p>10 So again, because of the philanthropic</p> <p>11 support that we receive from our community,</p> <p>12 which is just tremendous, we're able to provide</p> <p>13 those services to anyone who needs them.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Great.</p> <p>15 MR. DIVILIO: Excellent. Thank you so</p> <p>16 very much. Your work is just unavailable.</p> <p>17 Again, the palliative care, that's an</p> <p>18 important one to get the word out about because</p> <p>19 there's additional revenue that helps to offset</p> <p>20 the other programs at hospice. So the more</p> <p>21 that people use that, the better financial</p>

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1 support hospice is in. Thank you.
 2 MS. KIRSCH: Thank you.
 3 MR. CHEKOURAS: Thank you.
 4 MR. LESHER: Just thank you for the
 5 important work that you're doing.
 6 I, too, have had friends who have
 7 benefited from your services. And I have great
 8 appreciation for the quality of the facility,
 9 the quality of the staff and the programming
 10 there. It's really an extraordinary asset for
 11 the community.
 12 MR. CHEKOURAS: Thank you.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 14 Ms. Price.
 15 MS. PRICE: I think most of us have
 16 experienced your services. And if you haven't,
 17 I mean it's not a fun thing to go through. But
 18 once they get to that point of palliative care
 19 or hospice care, they may have been in a
 20 nursing home, and there's never enough staff
 21 someplace like that. And the family has -- it

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1 takes a toll on the family.
 2 Because I know that when I experienced it
 3 with both my grandmother and my dad, that we
 4 felt like we needed to be there all the time.
 5 And while it's incredibly sad when you know
 6 you're going to lose that loved one, having
 7 that relief that knowing the care that they're
 8 going to get. And it truly is a gift that
 9 people who work for hospice, what they do. And
 10 I know I've said it probably every year we've
 11 done the hospice thing, but I'm always amazed
 12 at the heart that they have to be able to give
 13 that care and that love and attention to that
 14 individual and relieve the family of what
 15 they've been having to deal with.
 16 So thank you very, very much.
 17 MS. KIRSCH: Thank you.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Price.
 19 Mr. Pack.
 20 MR. PACK: Yes. I will echo the
 21 sentiments of my colleagues that your work is

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1 invaluable here in Talbot County. What you do
 2 to provide comfort to those families and to
 3 those patients that are under your care, goes
 4 without saying.
 5 I, too, had a loved one who had to go
 6 through hospice care some 20 years ago in
 7 Baltimore. So, you know, the services that we
 8 got from the nursing staff, from the
 9 administration staff, answering our questions,
 10 just being in the room with my mother before
 11 she passed, meant a lot to me and my family.
 12 So thank you for all that you're doing
 13 here in Talbot County. And may you continue to
 14 walk in the surface.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: And like my colleagues
 16 said, I want to thank you guys. You guys have
 17 probably touched everybody in the county,
 18 that's for sure, because somebody knows
 19 somebody that's in there or it's a family
 20 member. That we can't thank you enough. You
 21 guys are special.

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1 That's what you have to understand. You
 2 guys are special. It's a hard job to do, and
 3 you're around a lot of people that need your
 4 care. We really thank you a lot.
 5 With that said, Madam Secretary, could you
 6 go -- I got a motion, Mr. Pack.
 7 Do I have a second?
 8 MR. DIVILIO: I'll second.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Got a motion and second.
 10 Could you call the vote, please.
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 16 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 18 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 20 MR. PACK: Aye.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: If you guys don't mind

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<p>1 coming up, Mr. Divilio is going to present to</p> <p>2 you the proclamation. That will be great.</p> <p>3 You want to come on up.</p> <p>4 MR. STAMP: Thank you.</p> <p>5 MR. DIVILIO: Thank you, again.</p> <p>6 MS. PRICE: Thank you.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Appreciate it.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: Thank you for your service.</p> <p>9 Thank you for your service.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Next on the agenda</p> <p>11 is the presentation of Government Finance</p> <p>12 Officers Administrative. Martha, you want to</p> <p>13 come on up. Yup. Tell us how good you've been</p> <p>14 doing.</p> <p>15 MS. SPARKS: This is an annual award that</p> <p>16 the Government Finance Officers Association</p> <p>17 presents for the annual report and audit.</p> <p>18 And I didn't have anything to do with</p> <p>19 this, but I will gladly accept it on behalf of</p> <p>20 my excellent Finance Department. But I do plan</p> <p>21 on continuing the earning of this award in</p>	<p>1 Burton Fishing Pier. Mr. Peper is going to run</p> <p>2 us through the plan. Right, Mr. Peper?</p> <p>3 MR. PEPER: Sure.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. He's smiling, too.</p> <p>5 That's what's good.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Bottom left.</p> <p>7 MR. PEPER: Okay. So the Bill Burton</p> <p>8 master plan. This is something that we had</p> <p>9 started back in December 16, 2019. This was an</p> <p>10 agreement between the State and the county to</p> <p>11 come up with a master plan with regards to the</p> <p>12 Bill Burton Fishing Pier State Park.</p> <p>13 Just something to keep in mind that this</p> <p>14 does not, the pier was not part of this</p> <p>15 project.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: And Preston, would you mind</p> <p>17 explaining to people that really weren't sure</p> <p>18 about that the old bridge has to come down.</p> <p>19 Yup.</p> <p>20 MR. PEPER: So I don't want to speak out</p> <p>21 of turn as far as the State goes with the pier.</p>
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<p>1 future years.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: That's great.</p> <p>3 Madam Secretary, would you mind reading it</p> <p>4 into the record, that would be great.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY: We are pleased to notify you</p> <p>6 that your annual comprehensive financial report</p> <p>7 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021,</p> <p>8 qualified for the Government Finance Officers</p> <p>9 Association's Certificate of Achievement for</p> <p>10 Excellence in Financial Reporting.</p> <p>11 This Certificate of Achievement is the</p> <p>12 highest form of recognition in governmental</p> <p>13 accounting and financial reporting, and its</p> <p>14 attainment represents a significant</p> <p>15 accomplishment by a government and its</p> <p>16 management.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Martha. I</p> <p>18 appreciate it. Good job.</p> <p>19 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Martha.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Next on the agenda is the</p> <p>21 presentation of a master plan of the Bill</p>	<p>1 However, what has happened is obviously the</p> <p>2 pier is closed for structural concerns, for</p> <p>3 lack of better words.</p> <p>4 I don't know what the plans are as far as</p> <p>5 moving forward with the State as far as the</p> <p>6 pier goes.</p> <p>7 My thoughts are is that it's probably less</p> <p>8 expensive to replace it rather than repair it.</p> <p>9 So I don't know if that's the way they're going</p> <p>10 to go.</p> <p>11 Mr. Stamp and I did have an interesting</p> <p>12 phone call the other day as far as the fishing</p> <p>13 pier goes, but it's probably best -- I mean the</p> <p>14 State will be coming back in to discuss this</p> <p>15 with the next Council.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: That's good.</p> <p>17 MR. PEPER: So I'm thinking that they</p> <p>18 would probably have a better idea of --</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>20 MR. PEPER: -- how to handle the pier with</p> <p>21 regard to that.</p>

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Great.

2 MR. PEPER: So.

3 MR. DIVILIO: Is it fair to say that this

4 is not the fishing pier discussion, this is the

5 State Park --

6 MR. PEPER: Correct.

7 MR. DIVILIO: -- discussion? Okay.

8 MR. CALLAHAN: Right.

9 MR. PEPER: Right. So this whole

10 agreement with the State of Maryland and Talbot

11 County, this was just for the park that is --

12 it shares the property with the pier. However,

13 the pier has never been part of that agreement.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.

15 MR. PEPER: So as you can see, this is the

16 master plan that was decided upon. We did a

17 survey of not only Talbot County residents,

18 some of the neighbors adjacent to the park.

19 The State actually did a more extensive survey.

20 They actually -- they're able to reach out to

21 the entire State through various different

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1 social media platforms that they have.

2 So just one thing to keep in mind, a lot

3 of the responses to theirs may not be actually

4 coming from Talbot County residents. However,

5 there are a lot of people that use Bill Burton

6 Fishing Pier State Park that are not Talbot

7 County residents. So that's just something to

8 keep in mind.

9 However, you know, there was a lot of

10 input from the neighbors adjacent to the

11 property. You know, obviously not many people

12 that would have a property next to the park

13 want huge amounts of change.

14 Mr. Divilio and I had multiple

15 conversations with them. It's one of those

16 things where it's a quiet park, it's a quiet

17 neighborhood. They didn't necessarily want to

18 see wholesale changes. They didn't want to see

19 things that would bring large amounts of groups

20 or large amounts of people, a lot of noise type

21 of thing. Obviously like outdoor concerts were

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1 not something that they were real amenable to.

2 They wanted it to stay more in its rustic

3 nature. They wanted it to be more passive.

4 They wanted it to be, you know, more along

5 those lines.

6 So as you can see, a lot of the trails

7 that are at this park are already there. This

8 park actually has trails. It's got a stone

9 revetment along the entire southern part.

10 The big question is on the Bolingbroke

11 Creek side. There is quite a bit of erosion

12 that's going on on that side. And that's

13 something that was touched on in the survey

14 also with the State and the county as far as

15 trying to shore that up because it is -- we are

16 losing, I can't remember the number that they

17 used on our tour, several feet, if not more,

18 every year that is actually eroding away from

19 that. So that's something that probably needs

20 to be shored up.

21 But a lot of the different things were,

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1 you know, a more permanent -- portable rest

2 rooms are not the most glamorous thing.

3 However, that is kind of the norm when it comes

4 to parks. The thought was to maybe having a

5 more permanent rest room.

6 Along with that, obviously with the pier

7 not being there anymore or not being usable,

8 one of the things that people wanted was some

9 kind of fishing pier of some sort to be able to

10 get out on the water. Obviously, we're not

11 going to construct a pier nearly to the extent

12 of that. It was more of like a fishing

13 platform. So just different things like that.

14 A playground in the front area. You know,

15 not necessarily a very, very large playground,

16 but at least some kind of playground in that

17 front green space area. There's already picnic

18 areas there. There's already, like I said,

19 there's already trails.

20 A lot of people, even though the pier is

21 not there anymore, it's not that it's not

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1 there, it's not useable anymore, there are
 2 still a lot of people that fish from the shore.
 3 There's a lot of families that are down there
 4 fishing. So you know, the whole water access
 5 to that park is still very important as far as
 6 that goes.
 7 So this is just some of the ideas that
 8 were thrown out there as far as part of the
 9 master plan. Obviously, a more permanent rest
 10 room. This is what you would see at more of
 11 your State Parks, more of your National Parks
 12 as far as rest rooms go.
 13 Natural playgrounds. Again, these are all
 14 just examples. You know, some people thought
 15 it would be better to have a natural
 16 playground, meaning more with your logs and
 17 something that was more tied to the rustic
 18 nature of the park versus the traditional metal
 19 posts and plastic playground. So playground
 20 was obviously an important part.
 21 Picnic areas are already there. Not

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1 widely used.
 2 Again, an ADA secondary fishing piers.
 3 This was very important obviously because the
 4 pier is no longer useable.
 5 There is a small wetlands within this
 6 property. The thought was to have some kind of
 7 boardwalk that wound through that. This is
 8 obviously not from this park. So educational
 9 signage and the wetland trails.
 10 Again, there actually is a pretty
 11 extensive trail system at this park. It's
 12 actually done quite well. They're wide.
 13 They're probably six feet wide most of them.
 14 They're not just foot trails.
 15 The State has done a very good job of
 16 keeping those clear, keeping those open. I
 17 think they've tried to close down some of them
 18 just to, you know, so there weren't trails
 19 quite so much. But again, this is one just to
 20 keep those trails open and then keep it as a
 21 natural surface.

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1 Kayak launch obviously was a big one as
 2 far as water access goes. So kayak launch
 3 could be done. A kayak trail. We've got water
 4 trails here in Talbot County all over, a lot of
 5 them in the Bay Hundred area, Bellevue. The
 6 thought process is that there could be a kayak
 7 trail that would go from the park and go up
 8 Bolingbroke Creek. Probably not going to want
 9 to go across the Choptank, but you could go up
 10 Bolingbroke Creek.
 11 And then breakwaters as far as we need to
 12 find some way to slow that hard water hit on
 13 the back side of the park. So the thought was,
 14 you know, install breakwaters and then a living
 15 shoreline obviously.
 16 I know a lot of people have brought up
 17 swimming. There is no swimming allowed there
 18 currently. It's not a great -- because of
 19 where it is situated on that Choptank River,
 20 it's not real safe as far as that goes. So
 21 traditionally they have done no swimming. A

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1 lot of people still wade. A lot of people
 2 still do some areas in a little bit of the cove
 3 areas, but it's not quite covered enough in my
 4 opinion. I probably wouldn't support as far as
 5 swimming in that just because of the liability
 6 and the chance that something could possibly go
 7 wrong.
 8 Demonstration areas. This is one that DNR
 9 actually was interested in. Making some of
 10 that front area a little less manicured grass
 11 and leave it a little bit more rustic, a little
 12 bit more wild. Do a pollinator planting
 13 possibly or something like this with a
 14 demonstration area.
 15 So like I said, I think the big thing with
 16 this park is that almost all of the surveyors
 17 wanted to keep it more passive. They wanted to
 18 keep it a quiet park. They didn't necessarily
 19 want a lot of development there.
 20 I know at the beginning, you know, there
 21 were a couple of people that wanted food

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1 trucks. Somebody wanted an amphitheater.
 2 Those are not things that, you know, probably
 3 really are real conducive to that park.
 4 It does have limited parking. So you
 5 know, if you add too many amenities to
 6 something that already has limited parking,
 7 you're going to have to really take a good look
 8 at your parking as far as that goes.
 9 And that is the presentation as far as the
 10 master plan goes.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great. Discussion.
 12 MR. DIVILIO: So Preston, I'd like to
 13 thank you for taking the time to meet with the
 14 community up there. You held a meeting at the
 15 site and listened to the concerns from the
 16 community.
 17 And when we put a plan together like this,
 18 there's boards are set up with lots of ideas.
 19 There was a Ferris wheel that was on one of the
 20 ideas, amusement parks and all kinds of things
 21 just to get people to start brainstorming

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1 ideas.
 2 And of course, instantly the community
 3 assumed all of those were guaranteed in there
 4 that, you know, coming from Cambridge, you got
 5 to ride the Ferris wheel as soon as you get to
 6 Talbot County.
 7 But you did an excellent job listening and
 8 reporting back to them, keeping them in the
 9 loop of when to vote, when to send e-mails in,
 10 and how to communicate with the State. And
 11 that's how we have this great park.
 12 And if you look at what they recommend
 13 closest to the houses, is a living shoreline.
 14 It's quiet. I mean that's exactly what
 15 Mr. Pack and I said from the beginning. We
 16 would like to have a passive park.
 17 The one question I did receive is why, why
 18 would the county want to get involved with this
 19 when it's the State's. And it's so that
 20 there's local control. As you've seen with the
 21 fishing pier, it's done, it's going away.

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1 When the county has parks, it provides
 2 additional access to the water. When you're
 3 putting families, individuals, kids in our
 4 water, they're catching the fish, they're
 5 kayaking out, they're tasting it, they're
 6 touching it, they're going to care more about
 7 it. That's when you learn to really love the
 8 water and respect the environment here.
 9 And we've heard consistently that there
 10 aren't enough access points to the water, even
 11 to the point when individuals demanded access
 12 over private property to get into the water
 13 here and it was granted to them.
 14 This would be local eyes. It would be
 15 managed by -- our Sheriff's Department would be
 16 the phone call for this. You wouldn't be
 17 calling a State ranger, whose office was there
 18 but their territory was serving the park in
 19 Dorchester County, the Tubman. I mean that's
 20 not ideal when an emergency comes up.
 21 So I know that it's going to be a

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1 challenge for our Sheriff's Department. It's
 2 going to extend people to the farthest tip out
 3 to that side of the county. But this is just
 4 an invaluable resource.
 5 I love seeing this Council add as many
 6 parks as we've added and water access while
 7 keeping it passive and showing the community
 8 the benefits of Talbot County. Walking through
 9 the woods, seeing the natural birds, seeing
 10 what's naturally here and appreciate it.
 11 That's how you get people to respect the area.
 12 And for the folks who live in towns who
 13 can't get to experience this. We hear all the
 14 time about I want a dog park. Well,
 15 unfortunately, nobody is willing to fund it,
 16 you know. But here is an opportunity to take
 17 your dog out to walk, you know.
 18 If you want to live on big waterfront
 19 property, you can't always afford it. This is
 20 your chance to experience it, have a nice
 21 picnic, and then go back to your house.

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1 So I really want to thank Preston for
 2 doing a great job of listening and making sure
 3 the State kept this as a passive park and
 4 really respected the landscape here.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.
 6 MR. LESHER: Just thank you for pulling
 7 this together.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Ms. Price.
 9 MS. PRICE: Thank you for a great
 10 presentation. A lot of hard work as always.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Pack.
 12 MR. PACK: Yes. I also want to give my
 13 kudos to Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio and
 14 her department with DNR.
 15 This was on the books some time ago to
 16 work with the county for a master plan for Bill
 17 Burton Park before Preston took over our Parks
 18 Department. And for whatever reason, it kind
 19 of laid flat. We never acted upon it.
 20 And when Secretary Riccio approached us
 21 again about the idea of going in with an MOU on

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1 Bill Burton Park, we jumped at it. I think it
 2 was an opportunity to expand our park services
 3 into a region in the county that needed it.
 4 This park is basically unutilized except
 5 for those people that ride back there on a
 6 Friday night to do whatever they do on Friday
 7 night.
 8 But as far as the general nature of this
 9 park, as Mr. Divilio was speaking to, it's not
 10 used to its full capacity. And this would
 11 allow us to address some of those passive
 12 recreational needs in the county, give more
 13 water access.
 14 One of the things that came about during
 15 COVID when all the beaches were shut down
 16 statewide was people wanted to get into the
 17 water. You know, it was during the summer
 18 months, and they weren't able to.
 19 So this will allow the county to at least
 20 have that one more water access point.
 21 And being under local control does give it

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1 I think a bit more attention than under State
 2 control.
 3 So you're absolutely right. That point
 4 area that we spoke about in the back room has
 5 to be addressed. The erosion there is quite
 6 significant. And I'm hoping that the next
 7 Council does address that and get that shored
 8 up.
 9 Preston, thank you very much. Great,
 10 great job.
 11 MR. PEPER: Thank you.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Preston, thank you.
 13 Appreciate everything.
 14 MR. PEPER: Can I get one more minute?
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.
 16 MR. DIVILIO: No.
 17 MR. PEPER: So I wanted to take this
 18 opportunity to congratulate Mr. Callahan,
 19 congratulate Mr. Leshner on being reelected.
 20 The county is lucky to have you guys back on
 21 the Council again.

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1 At the same time, I want to thank
 2 Mr. Pack, Ms. Price, and Mr. Divilio, two of
 3 which, Ms. Price and Mr. Divilio, both served
 4 on the Parks and Rec Board. You guys were
 5 always supportive. You were always open-minded.
 6 I said in the last Park Board, you know,
 7 Mr. Divilio was quite often available for a
 8 phone call, sometimes a tirade-laced phone call
 9 just out of frustration. Ms. Price might have
 10 gotten a couple of those, too.
 11 But it's one of those things that I think
 12 as far as Parks and Recreation goes, not only
 13 the three of you that are no longer going to be
 14 on it, but the two of you, there's been big
 15 moves within Parks and Rec in the last couple
 16 of years. You know, the gym is finally going
 17 to be in place, you know, we're getting an A
 18 court pickle ball court put in, the turf has
 19 been redone. There's a lot of things that have
 20 wanted to be done for many years even before I
 21 got here that I don't think would have been

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1 able to have been accomplished without your
 2 leadership and your support.
 3 So with that, again, I want to
 4 congratulate you guys for getting back on and I
 5 would like to thank the three of you for all
 6 your support as far as Parks and Recs goes in
 7 the years that I've been here.
 8 MS. PRICE: Thank you, Preston.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot, Preston.
 10 Really appreciate it.
 11 MR. PEPER: Thank you.
 12 MR. DIVILIO: Preston, can you tell my
 13 family out there to come on in when you go out
 14 there?
 15 MR. PEPER: Sure.
 16 MR. DIVILIO: Thank you.
 17 MR. PACK: Do we need to vote on this?
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: No.
 19 MR. PACK: On the master plan? No.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: No. Okay. Next on the
 21 agenda is consideration of the ARPA money for

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1 Doverbrook Apartments redevelopment. I'm going
 2 to go ahead and turn that over to Mr. Leshner
 3 and help us with that.
 4 MR. LESHER: Thank you. As Council has
 5 seen with the request from the Talbot County
 6 Housing Authority, the staff committee
 7 dedicated to recommendations on the ARPA funds,
 8 American Rescue Plan Act funds, has reconvened
 9 to make a recommendation on this.
 10 And this, of course, is the project on
 11 Dover Street that has approximately 50 housing
 12 units, built in 1971, getting toward the end of
 13 its useful life. Actually it's well past the
 14 end. And the Housing Authority has made the
 15 determination that it is more feasible to
 16 replace it than to renovate it. And they have
 17 done what they needed to do in rounding up the
 18 largely federal funding to make this happen.
 19 However, what we have all experienced over
 20 the past year or so is the escalation of
 21 construction costs, both labor and construction

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1 materials. And now, also the cost of borrowing
 2 funds is going up.
 3 And so the project with the funding in
 4 place now has a delta and they have come to the
 5 Town of Easton and they have come to the county
 6 with requests for allocations to help fill that
 7 delta. The request was for a full \$1 million.
 8 The staff committee on this is forwarding
 9 the recommendation that we fund this to
 10 \$250,000, provided that Easton, the Town of
 11 Easton does the same.
 12 The Town of Easton did meet last night.
 13 The Town of Easton has allocated that \$250,000.
 14 So that condition has been met.
 15 There was staff concern also that this
 16 project be vetted, that we look at the fine
 17 print. The Town of Easton staff has been doing
 18 that, and the town is comfortable enough to be
 19 offering that funding. Their funding is not
 20 contingent on ours, but the recommendation was
 21 that county funding be forwarded only if Easton

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1 were in this as well.
 2 And so that is the recommendation before
 3 us, is to allocate of the remaining
 4 \$2.1 million in county ARPA funds, that
 5 \$250,000 of that amount, roughly one-eighth of
 6 that amount, be allocated toward the Doverbrook
 7 project.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 9 MR. PACK: Mr. Leshner, Mr. Callahan.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.
 11 MR. PACK: I know we have Mr. Bibb here
 12 with us, and we do have a slide presentation in
 13 our packet. Did we want to hear from him and
 14 the public to see this?
 15 MR. LESHER: I'm certainly open to that if
 16 Council wishes to --
 17 MR. PACK: -- Mr. Bibb can walk us through
 18 it a bit before we vote.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup.
 20 MR. PACK: I mean this is a major project.
 21 MR. LESHER: It is.

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1 MR. PACK: John, why don't you come on up.
 2 I support it. And I think that, again,
 3 this property is well over, what, 40 years old?
 4 MR. BIBB: Fifty-one.
 5 MR. PACK: Fifty-one. Well over 51.
 6 Thanks, Don.
 7 So getting people decent housing is
 8 important.
 9 MR. LESHER: And it is, I should add, one
 10 of those priorities for which ARPA funds are
 11 specifically appropriated.
 12 MR. PACK: Absolutely.
 13 MR. LESHER: So this is an appropriate
 14 allocation of that funding.
 15 MR. PACK: Thank you guys for allowing
 16 Mr. Bibb to come forward.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.
 18 MR. BIBB: Good evening, ladies and
 19 gentlemen. My name is Don Bibb. I'm the
 20 executive director of the Housing Commission of
 21 Talbot.

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1 I wanted to first let you know that my
 2 co-presenter who was supposed to be here had a
 3 family emergency. His young son had to be
 4 rushed to the emergency room. So his apologies
 5 for not being here.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure, sure.
 7 MR. BIBB: And I also want to take the
 8 opportunity to, again, thank President
 9 Callahan, Councilman Leshner for your service
 10 and continued service moving forward. And for
 11 the other members of the Council, thank you for
 12 your service.
 13 I know, Mr. Pack, we know each other from
 14 way back when, way back when. We were all both
 15 a little younger.
 16 But anyway, thank you all for your
 17 service.
 18 And again, thank you for the consideration
 19 of assisting us with this much-needed project
 20 in the county and in the Town of Easton. As
 21 you know, the Doverbrook project is one of the

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1 federal housing projects here in Talbot County.
 2 It consists of 50 units right now.
 3 Under the revitalization plan, we'll be
 4 tearing down this 50 and replacing back 64. So
 5 we'll be adding 14 new units to the project.
 6 As President Callahan and Councilman
 7 Leshner have alluded to, that project has really
 8 outlived its useful lifespan. We've maintained
 9 it the best we can, but at this point in time
 10 moving forward, in order to meet the needs of
 11 the community and to, as someone once told me,
 12 take away the institutional appearance of
 13 housing on Dover Street, we can put back
 14 something that's more pleasing to the community
 15 and the fabric of the community.
 16 We have solicited probably back in 2018,
 17 we partnered with Pennrose Development, which
 18 is a national tax credit development company.
 19 I've done other deals with them on the Eastern
 20 Shore down in Salisbury. We've done two
 21 projects with them under the RAD program.

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1 This particular project is going to be
 2 funded under the Streamline Voluntary
 3 Conversion Program with HUD.
 4 We did receive in 2019 nine percent tax
 5 credit award, which if you all know anything
 6 about affordable development, tax credits,
 7 especially at nine percent, are the golden
 8 ticket to making something work and make it
 9 continue to be affordable.
 10 You have to bear with me because I'm not
 11 used to doing this.
 12 We have the agenda today is the project
 13 team, the existing site conditions, which if
 14 you know anything about the Doverbrook project,
 15 it has storm water issues and has for a very
 16 long time. And over time as 50 has developed,
 17 it's added more to the dilemma on the back side
 18 of the property.
 19 The challenges to building workforce
 20 housing -- and I want to back up. I don't like
 21 the term workforce or affordable. I like to

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1 use the term attainable because those other
 2 designations have much to interpret depending
 3 on where you're living.
 4 The challenge is putting together the
 5 finance. You know, because the deal is you've
 6 got to try to make and maintain it as an
 7 attainable option for folks that are living in
 8 those communities. So as we pursue and garner
 9 all the support and the funding, it's critical
 10 to create those partnerships to really that
 11 type of housing.
 12 The budget, as Councilman Leshner alluded
 13 to, has grown a little bit out of control given
 14 the nature of COVID, construction costs, and
 15 obviously the other thing that we're dealing
 16 with is relocation efforts.
 17 We've got the aerial view of the
 18 Doverbrook project. I think everyone probably
 19 knows where it's located. It is a fairly
 20 decent site. And I think what we're going to
 21 be putting back is going to be extremely

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1 desirable to the community.
 2 We have site drainage issues, as you can
 3 see from these pictures. We continue to invest
 4 the capital fund monies we get from the federal
 5 government every year, which averages out about
 6 to \$283,000, which not only covers the
 7 Doverbrook project, but also the other federal
 8 properties in St. Michael's.
 9 So with that money, we have to maintain
 10 capital product of 126 federal housing units.
 11 And in today's economy with the cost, it
 12 doesn't go very far.
 13 So with this project total construction
 14 price around \$23 million, the reinvestment back
 15 into the town and the county is substantial,
 16 and the fact that it's going to add 14 more
 17 additional units for individuals of lesser
 18 means to live in.
 19 MR. PACK: Can you spin that, Don? Just
 20 spin that. If you spin that wheel, it will go
 21 faster. There you go.

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1 MR. BIBB: Here we have some existing
 2 conditions at the community. Obviously, the
 3 community building itself is part of the
 4 renovations, which maintains not only the
 5 community space for the community, but as well
 6 as the offices for the Housing Commission.
 7 We have run out of space. The new
 8 building is going to add in additional space on
 9 the community building. We're going to be
 10 adding an addition onto the left side of the
 11 building, which is going to be used for
 12 community meetings. The interior of the
 13 existing building is going to be renovated to
 14 add in additional storage space and the offices
 15 for the Housing Commission. It's going to be a
 16 1,000 square foot addition.
 17 Here is the architect's rendering of what
 18 the new community is going to look like.
 19 Now, if you know anything about the
 20 projects that we have done down in Salisbury,
 21 if you remember the old Booth Street federal

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1 housing project which sits right on Route 50
 2 going into the business district of Salisbury,
 3 they were the old federal units that sat right
 4 next to the armory. And there was a total of
 5 100 units there. We ended up tearing down the
 6 first 50 and we built the Stone Grove Crossing
 7 project, which received awards nationally for
 8 its design and (inaudible) back into the
 9 community.
 10 This new project is going to mirror
 11 substantially the architectural design that we
 12 used up in Salisbury.
 13 There is the Stone Grove Crossing there.
 14 That was back in 2017. We completed those 50
 15 units within a 14-month period. And it was a
 16 reinvestment back into the community of at that
 17 time \$19 million into a very blighted
 18 neighborhood section in Salisbury.
 19 As I said, the community building floor
 20 plan, adding the 1,000 square foot addition
 21 onto the left side of the building. And as you

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1 can see, the inside has various office space
 2 and maintenance shop.
 3 Increases the affordable housing stock in
 4 the county. As I said, the reinvestment back
 5 of that magnitude is substantial.
 6 And of course, the nine percent tax
 7 credits. If you know anything about the
 8 Doverbrook project, we applied in 2018 for the
 9 credits. We didn't get awarded because of the
 10 qualification allocation plan, qualified
 11 allocation plan that the State uses for
 12 awarding tax credits. We understand that it's
 13 going to be a continued increase at the State
 14 level of looking at much larger size projects
 15 in the future because of the investment back
 16 into the community and adding substantially
 17 larger size projects back into reinvestment.
 18 And they're talking at least 125 to 140 unit
 19 sized projects.
 20 This project, if we were to lose the
 21 nine percent credits, could substantially be in

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1 jeopardy of getting funded again.
 2 As I said, the challenges we look at is
 3 the site constraints. We had to deal with a
 4 lot of reconfiguration on the site. Low income
 5 housing tax credit requirements, which become a
 6 bit cumbersome process to go through, but we
 7 need them in order to make that project
 8 attainable for folks.
 9 Again, affordable housing. We got
 10 challenges putting the funding together to make
 11 this happen.
 12 Unit constraints. Under the program we're
 13 using, we have to replace one for one what
 14 we're taking down. And we wanted to be able to
 15 add back in. So reconfiguration was a little
 16 bit of a challenging issue, but the architect
 17 came up with it.
 18 HUD requirements, program requirements.
 19 We're going from public housing designation
 20 under this process to a project based voucher
 21 program. So it's also a programmatic change,

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1 which is a benefit to the residents as well as
 2 the Housing Commission.
 3 Let me see. We do have all of our
 4 entitlements in place with the town to begin
 5 construction as soon as we are able to close.
 6 So it's a shovel-ready project at this point in
 7 time.
 8 It's interesting to note that everyone
 9 knows the affordable housing shortage here in
 10 Talbot County. I mean I know I've been
 11 involved in that whole issue for the past 27
 12 years, and it hasn't gotten any better. It
 13 continues to grow and to be a continued
 14 problem. But anything that we can do to add to
 15 the stock of housing is important.
 16 The vacancy rate for the Town of Easton as
 17 of the fourth quarter of 2021 was less than
 18 one percent. We have 36 families that we are
 19 in the process of trying to relocate in this
 20 process. We can't begin construction until
 21 they are relocated.

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1 The challenge has been finding suitable
 2 units for them to move to. Everyone who is an
 3 existing resident out there will receive what
 4 they call a tenant protected voucher, which
 5 they can take and go and seek a landlord that's
 6 willing to take the voucher and be housed for
 7 upwards of a 12-month period.
 8 We hired a relocation specialist, who is
 9 working with the families on a one-on-one
 10 basis, but I know it's been a bit of a
 11 challenge since they came on board back in May.
 12 Construction costs, as Councilman Leshner
 13 alluded to, have just continued to escalate.
 14 We see slight fluctuations month to month. But
 15 for the most part, it's been a substantial
 16 increase to the point that we found ourselves
 17 in this shortfall.
 18 And of course, until we are able to go to
 19 closing, we have that flapping in the wind
 20 interest rate rise, and it's raised
 21 substantially probably in the past six months.

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1 Yes. When we started the project in 2018,
 2 we were at 3.84 percent. And right now,
 3 6.75 percent as of October on the current
 4 interest rate.
 5 Here's evidence of the budget evolution
 6 from back in early 2021 and where we are today.
 7 You can see the equity that I talked about, the
 8 value associated with those nine percent
 9 credits. Brings a tremendous amount of equity
 10 into these projects.
 11 There's a summary of where we fall right
 12 now with the \$2.6 million gap.
 13 There's our schedule, the process that
 14 we've gone through to date. Obviously
 15 construction start is probably going to be
 16 pushed back. We don't anticipate, keeping
 17 fingers crossed, that we'll be able to relocate
 18 everybody probably into the end of the first
 19 quarter of next year.
 20 That's it.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds great. All

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1 right.
 2 MR. LESHER: Just one quick question that
 3 I think arose in the staff discussion on this.
 4 The eligibility for current Doverbrook
 5 residents to the voucher-based program,
 6 eligibility requirements will be more or less
 7 the same or how --
 8 MR. BIBB: It's going to be the same.
 9 I mean HUD's programs are typically
 10 mirrored in their eligibility requirements.
 11 And because we are going from a public housing
 12 program platform to a voucher-based platform,
 13 there will be a requirement to be
 14 re-eligiblized, if you will, going from one
 15 program to the next.
 16 MR. LESHER: Thank you.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Divilio.
 18 MR. PACK: Just real quick. Looking at
 19 your timeline there, Don, is there any thought
 20 of trying to rotate the current residents where
 21 you're doing half the residents --

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1 MR. BIBB: We looked at staging the
 2 project. It's cost prohibitive.
 3 MR. PACK: It's cost prohibitive?
 4 MR. BIBB: It is cost prohibitive, yes.
 5 MR. PACK: So you're trying to get
 6 everybody out and then tear everything down at
 7 one time. But just trying to find housing for
 8 those individuals is going to be a challenge.
 9 MR. BIBB: That's why we hired a
 10 specialist, who is familiar with this.
 11 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 12 MR. DIVILIO: Well, I, for one, appreciate
 13 the work that you're doing, not only improving
 14 it but expanding it and making a large
 15 improvement to the community center, which will
 16 be vital for individuals that we've gone out
 17 there before to talk about trying to do
 18 financial literacy classes, things like that.
 19 And they're very receptive to it. They just
 20 don't have much of the space to do anything.
 21 So I'm glad to see that.

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1 And when the government recognizes
 2 something is 50 years old and ready to tear
 3 down and rebuild and works this quickly, I just
 4 wish you could tackle the Bay Bridge project
 5 right after this.
 6 But no. I did speak with Mr. Lesher
 7 earlier. I appreciate that the group came back
 8 and recommended that you asked for a million
 9 and we came up with 250 and the town came up
 10 with 250. The town met quickly to do that, to
 11 provide the match. And it sounds like there
 12 may be some additional funds available.
 13 I would ask that the next Council stays
 14 focused on this and for you to follow back up
 15 with them and see as the project progresses,
 16 see if there's additional money as things get
 17 closer to budget time, what's left and
 18 available. Because I don't believe they're
 19 using ARPA money. They're coming out of their
 20 affordable housing.
 21 MR. LESHER: The Town of Easton is their

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1 affordable housing fund, right.
 2 MR. DIVILIO: So it's nice seeing multiple
 3 buckets be available for this.
 4 So I'm happy to make a motion to support
 5 the recommendation of providing the 250,000 of
 6 ARPA funds for the Doverbrook apartments.
 7 MR. PACK: Second.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 9 MS. PRICE: So one of the questions that I
 10 had you have about a \$2.6 million differential
 11 right now. And with Easton's money and
 12 assuming Talbot County's money, you're still
 13 left with a little more than \$2 million.
 14 How do you expect to be able to close that
 15 gap?
 16 MR. BIBB: We are trying to reach out to
 17 as many organizations as we can to get the
 18 deficit covered.
 19 Obviously we'll have to go back to the
 20 State. This particular project is not unique
 21 to the projects that were awarded tax credits

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1 back in 2019. All of them are substantially
 2 deficit in getting to closure. So the State
 3 recommended that we come out to the local
 4 entities and ask for assistance. And then
 5 we'll probably have to go back to the new
 6 governor and see what type of additional
 7 funding that we can secure from CDA.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 9 MR. BIBB: We're determined to make this
 10 happen.
 11 MS. PRICE: So do you go forward or do you
 12 have to have every penny in place before you --
 13 MR. BIBB: We do. In order to close with
 14 HUD and CDA, we have to have commitments for
 15 the entire amount.
 16 MS. PRICE: So that could also delay your
 17 start as well?
 18 MR. BIBB: It could, yes.
 19 MS. PRICE: But have you already relocated
 20 some of the families or you've just found
 21 places for them?

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1 MR. BIBB: We are in the process of
 2 relocating some of the families here in Easton
 3 down to our St. Michael's communities, which we
 4 have vacancies that we have been sort of
 5 stockpiling, if you will, in the anticipation
 6 of trying to address the original 50 households
 7 that we had to relocate.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary, we
 9 got a motion and second to go ahead and give
 10 them the money.
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 16 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 18 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 20 MR. PACK: Aye.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Don.

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1 MR. BIBB: Thank you all so much. Really
 2 appreciate it. I'll keep you updated as we
 3 progress on this.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: That would be great.
 5 MR. PACK: Thanks, Don. Good job.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Thanks a lot. Okay.
 7 Next up is Mr. Stamp.
 8 MR. STAMP: Good evening, Council.
 9 First items I have for you are board and
 10 committee appointments.
 11 The first one is a recommendation to
 12 appoint Mr. Chris Kleppinger to the Economic
 13 Development Commission. That is a
 14 recommendation being forwarded by the
 15 commission to you.
 16 MS. PRICE: So moved.
 17 MR. PACK: Second.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, got a
 19 motion and second to put Mr. Kleppinger on the
 20 Economic Development.
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 3 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 5 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 6 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 7 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 9 MR. PACK: Aye.
 10 MR. STAMP: The next item, we're
 11 requesting the appointment of Jim Corson to the
 12 Planning Commission.
 13 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.
 14 MR. PACK: Second.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 16 second to put Jim Corson on the Planning
 17 Commission. Madam Secretary, could you call
 18 the vote.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.

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1 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 3 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 4 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 5 MS. PRICE: Abstain.
 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 7 MR. PACK: Aye.
 8 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Council.
 9 The first item we have this evening is a
 10 request from the library, Talbot County Free
 11 Library, to utilize FY23 contingency funding
 12 for replacement of a door key card access
 13 control system and replacement of the digital
 14 camera surveillance system at the Talbot County
 15 Free Library Easton branch.
 16 This was a capital project that wasn't
 17 able to be completed in FY22 because of the
 18 delay in being able to obtain equipment.
 19 There are adequate funds to cover the
 20 contingent request. The request is the amount
 21 of \$67,703.

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1 MR. PACK: Is the equipment available at
 2 this time do you know?
 3 MR. STAMP: It is.
 4 MR. DIVILIO: Make a motion to approve.
 5 MR. PACK: Second.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Got a motion and
 7 second to put the door key system in effect at
 8 the library. Madam Secretary, could you call
 9 the vote, please.
 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 13 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 15 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 17 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 19 MR. PACK: Aye.
 20 MR. STAMP: We'd like to invite Andy
 21 Hollis, executive director of Upper Shore

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1 Aging, Childlene Brooks from the Talbot County
 2 Senior Center to come up if you don't mind.
 3 We have a request from the Upper Shore
 4 Aging and Talbot County Senior Center for
 5 additional funding for bus passes.
 6 Specifically they're requesting Council approve
 7 and allocate \$2,450 to Upper Shore Aging,
 8 Incorporated to purchase an additional ten bus
 9 passes per month through the end of the fiscal
 10 year.
 11 And they are here to add any detail.
 12 MR. DIVILIO: Make a motion to approve.
 13 Then you can spend all your time telling us how
 14 great we are.
 15 MS. PRICE: Come on. We can make him beg
 16 just a little bit. Come on.
 17 MS. BROOKS: Good evening, everyone.
 18 Thank you all so much for allowing us to come
 19 before you.
 20 As you know, I guess about 12 or 13 years
 21 ago, my predecessor came before the Council and

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1 asked for funding for bus passes because there
 2 was one person that was reported walking to
 3 dialysis. And you know that just couldn't
 4 happen.
 5 Now I'm up to about 35 people that are
 6 going to either chemo, dialysis. Some of them
 7 need transportation to go to work and things.
 8 We require that they ride the bus at least
 9 three times a week or nine times a month in
 10 order for it to be cost effective to us.
 11 When the bus prices went up, a lot of
 12 people were put in turmoil because they just
 13 did not have that extra money to pay for the
 14 bus passes. And so I've been receiving calls
 15 on a regular basis asking for help with bus
 16 passes.
 17 I am a person that I can't turn people
 18 down. I figure out how I can get the money
 19 somewhere, somehow, even if I have to take it
 20 out of Andy's paycheck.
 21 MR. HOLLIS: She has no problem saying

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1 that to me.
 2 MS. BROOKS: But seriously, I mean these
 3 people call me and they're desperate. They
 4 need to get to where they want to go.
 5 So we're just asking for your support for
 6 this additional funds so that I won't have to
 7 worry when somebody calls and says I need a bus
 8 pass, I need to be able to get to dialysis, I
 9 need to be able to get to chemo, I need to be
 10 able to get to work.
 11 And that's it.
 12 MR. HOLLIS: So I think we were hoping as
 13 COVID started on a downhill decline, though it
 14 certainly is not gone or over, that we would
 15 see the economic stability return. And that's
 16 not what's happening to those who are in the
 17 lowest economic earning in the county, the
 18 poor, which we don't talk about very much, the
 19 low income, the people that just don't have any
 20 other option other than to use this bus transit
 21 system for the senior center, for shopping, for

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1 doctors, for dialysis.
 2 So I just want to commend you regardless
 3 of your vote because you have stepped up time
 4 and time again to help those people, in my
 5 world, seniors in particular. And you don't
 6 get much credit for it. It's not a real sexy
 7 ask. And I understand that. But you have
 8 never, ever backed down from the obligation to
 9 the seniors in this community. So I sincerely,
 10 sincerely appreciate that and you need to be
 11 aware of that.
 12 MS. BROOKS: And I echo that. I cannot
 13 thank you all enough for the support that you
 14 have given to me and the senior center, but
 15 most especially to the seniors in Talbot
 16 County, because they would not have a lot of
 17 the resources that they have if it was not for
 18 the support that you all have given us.
 19 MR. HOLLIS: Absolutely.
 20 MS. BROOKS: And I'd like to echo the
 21 comments earlier congratulating Mr. Leshner and

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1 Mr. Callahan on being reelected. And I guess
 2 congratulating the three of you that are coming
 3 off and starting a new venture. But I'm hoping
 4 that a couple of you know that you're still
 5 going to be asked to volunteer, come out and
 6 help us out when we need help.
 7 But thank you, thank you, thank you so
 8 much for everything that you have done for
 9 especially since I've been at that center, most
 10 especially since I've been the manager there.
 11 MR. HOLLIS: I'm not going to say anything
 12 nice until after you vote.
 13 MS. BROOKS: You have to be nice to them
 14 before they vote.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary.
 16 MR. DIVILIO: So I'll make a motion to
 17 approve.
 18 MS. PRICE: Second.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Got a motion and
 20 second to provide additional bus passes to the
 21 senior center.

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1 MS. PRICE: Will we have time for
 2 discussion after the vote or do we do it now?
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. That's up to you.
 4 MS. PRICE: If he's not going to say
 5 anything nice, I'm not either.
 6 No. Before we do, I mean both of you have
 7 been amazing. And I just want to thank Andy.
 8 And in particular, that first term of office
 9 when you were sitting up here at that seat over
 10 there that I made you sit in because you had
 11 picked this one and I wanted this one.
 12 Anyway, you've always advocated for
 13 seniors and the Meals on Wheels and all of
 14 those things. And I didn't understand a lot of
 15 that. And it was you who really brought that
 16 understanding and that advocacy always.
 17 And here you are in your new role doing
 18 the very thing that you advocated for, you
 19 know, 12 years ago. So I just want to thank
 20 you for that time together and certainly as
 21 county manager as well, but especially when you

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1 were up here.
 2 MR. HOLLIS: Well, I appreciate that.
 3 Our whole motivation is we're scared of
 4 Childlens. So that's why we do the things we
 5 do.
 6 But yes. It's a very good cause. You're
 7 a tough act, kiddo.
 8 MS. PRICE: And Childlens, you, too. I
 9 mean you've been here since the get-go. I knew
 10 you before I was on the Council. And so thank
 11 you also as well for all that you do here.
 12 MS. BROOKS: Thank you.
 13 MS. PRICE: And being steadfast.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 17 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 19 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 20 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 21 MS. PRICE: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 2 MR. PACK: Aye.
 3 MS. BROOKS: Thank you.
 4 MR. HOLLIS: Thank you, Council.
 5 And just real quick. I had the honor and
 6 the privilege of being with you when you began.
 7 And I didn't expect it, but it's really an
 8 honor and a privilege to be here as it comes to
 9 an end as well.
 10 And you know, you accomplished so much
 11 beyond what the public sees at your meetings
 12 twice a month and that they're not aware of.
 13 And you really carried the water and fought the
 14 good fight. And you just deserve a word of
 15 credit.
 16 And I say that both as a professional and
 17 as a resident of Talbot County who is really
 18 proud of the five of you and the job you've
 19 done. So thank you very much for everything.
 20 Appreciate it.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.

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1 MS. PRICE: Thank you, Andy.
 2 MR. STAMP: Ready to go?
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.
 4 MR. STAMP: Okay. Great. Thank you.
 5 Next item I have is requesting Council
 6 letter of support from the Tilghman on the
 7 Chesapeake Homeowners Association application
 8 for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
 9 Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Innovation
 10 Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grant. I need
 11 to breathe in the middle of that. There needs
 12 to be an acronym.
 13 They're applying for this grant in the
 14 amount of \$980,000. There's no county funds
 15 required.
 16 And we do have a couple of folks here to
 17 add any further detail there. Thank you.
 18 MS. ROANE: This is -- I'm Anne Roane.
 19 I'm the long-range planner for Department of
 20 Planning.
 21 This is for the implementation of a living

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1 shoreline that's being proposed on Tilghman
 2 Island. And it's being spearheaded by the
 3 community association.
 4 There's some serious erosion that's
 5 happening, and as we all know. And the county
 6 received a grant I think in 2021 or 2020 I
 7 think, it was before me, from DNR for the
 8 design. And they hired a consultant. And that
 9 design has been ongoing and there have been
 10 numerous public meetings, community outreach.
 11 The consultants are about 70 percent complete
 12 with the design work.
 13 So when this opportunity came up through
 14 the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, this
 15 would be for the construction. And it is a
 16 non-matching grant. However, the community
 17 association is going to be applying for DNR
 18 funding to provide a match so that we can have
 19 the complete -- there's a million dollar cap on
 20 National Fish and Wildlife grant, and that
 21 won't be enough to complete the construction.

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1 So this is the beginning. The DNR grant
 2 is due in December. And they can be running
 3 concurrently. So we're crossing our fingers
 4 that we get both of them.
 5 It's a very enthusiastic community. We
 6 see this as a model project that can be
 7 replicated regionally. And that's -- I'm here
 8 to answer any questions.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I appreciate it.
 10 MR. DIVILIO: No. I think it's great.
 11 I'd be happy to make a motion in support that
 12 we send the letter to the NFWCBSF for the INSR
 13 grant.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Do I have --
 15 MR. LESHHER: I'll second.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Madam Secretary,
 17 motion and second to do what Mr. Divilio said.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 21 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.
 2 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 4 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 6 MR. PACK: Aye.
 7 MR. STAMP: Thank you.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys.
 9 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Mr. Divilio.
 10 MS. ROANE: Thank you very much.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys. I
 12 appreciate it.
 13 MS. ROANE: Thank you for getting it on
 14 the agenda.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup.
 16 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Mr. Divilio, for
 17 condensing that.
 18 The next item that I have to bring to your
 19 attention is Easton Utilities is requesting a
 20 letter of support for an application to the
 21 Connect Maryland FY23 Network Infrastructure

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1 Grant program to further extend broadband in
 2 the county.
 3 No county funds are required.
 4 MR. DIVILIO: Make a motion to approve.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. And we got a motion
 6 and second to help Easton Utilities --
 7 MS. PRICE: Second.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. We got a motion and
 9 second, Madam Secretary, to support a grant
 10 fund letter for Easton Utilities.
 11 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 13 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 14 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.
 16 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 18 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 20 MR. PACK: Aye.
 21 MR. STAMP: And Council, I have Mr. Matt

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1 Dafoe is here, if you'd like to come forward,
 2 from Choptank Electric Cooperative and Choptank
 3 Fiber, LLC. They're requesting a letter of
 4 support for an application to Connect Maryland
 5 FY23 Network Infrastructure Grant program.
 6 No county funds are required. And Matt is
 7 here to add any detail for you.
 8 MR. DAFOE: Good evening.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.
 10 MR. DAFOE: Thanks for having me.
 11 Similar to the Easton Utilities' request,
 12 we're looking at areas up in the Queen Anne's
 13 area of the county where we are currently
 14 already deploying fiber optics in Queen Anne's
 15 County and Caroline. So our mapping has shown
 16 that we can enter a number of locations,
 17 unserved locations, in a very short period of
 18 time.
 19 These grants normally have a three-year
 20 period where you need to have them completed.
 21 We've completed our grants that we currently

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1 are undertaking in 14 months in Queen Anne's,
 2 Caroline, and Somerset County. So we're ready
 3 to do a little bit more work, establish a small
 4 footprint in the county, and hit those
 5 locations in very short period of time.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds great.
 7 MS. PRICE: So are these different areas
 8 than where Easton Utilities is hitting, because
 9 obviously the Maryland State Broadband is not
 10 going to overlap --
 11 MR. DAFOE: Yes.
 12 MS. PRICE: -- on top of each other?
 13 So this is a different area?
 14 MR. DAFOE: The way the application and
 15 the grant process works, you submit your
 16 application to this Office of Statewide
 17 Broadband. Director Rick Warden then releases
 18 those applications and KMZ files. And those
 19 Internet providers can then challenge each
 20 other saying oh, no, this area is going to be
 21 served. And then the State will make a

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1 determination based on the application.
 2 MS. PRICE: Okay.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 4 MR. LESHHER: I know that Easton Utilities
 5 and, help me what Atlantic Broadband is now
 6 called.
 7 MS. MORRIS: Breezeline.
 8 MR. LESHHER: Breezeline. Provide cable
 9 services that, for example, broadcast these
 10 meetings to the public. And they're similarly
 11 available over the Internet.
 12 Is that a service that Choptank ultimately
 13 will be providing --
 14 MR. DAFOE: -- fiber optic straight to the
 15 home where the individual can have then the
 16 Wi-Fi in their home to stream services like
 17 YouTube or Hulu or whatever it may be.
 18 We are not getting into the franchise
 19 business of cable, like TV, Internet.
 20 MR. LESHHER: Thank you.
 21 MR. CALLAHAN: Anybody else? Okay.

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1 MR. DIVILIO: To the best of your
 2 knowledge, will this do anything detrimental to
 3 the current Easton Utilities grant?
 4 MR. DAFOE: To my knowledge, no. And
 5 again, the State will make a determination if
 6 that would be the case.
 7 MR. DIVILIO: Okay.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 9 MR. DIVILIO: I'll make a motion to
 10 approve.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 12 MR. PACK: Second.
 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Madam Secretary, we got a
 14 motion and second to help them with the grant.
 15 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 16 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 17 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 18 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 19 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshher.
 20 MR. LESHHER: Aye.
 21 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.

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1 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 3 MR. PACK: Aye.
 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 5 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Matt.
 6 MR. DAFOE: Thank you so much. Appreciate
 7 your time.
 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.
 9 MR. STAMP: Council, the next item I have
 10 is a request from the Department of Emergency
 11 Services. You have Brian LeCates here, your
 12 director.
 13 Brian, would you like to come up? And
 14 Geneva, would you like to come up with Brian?
 15 And Geneva Schaffle, who is your emergency
 16 management coordinator.
 17 The Department of Emergency Services is
 18 requesting Council approval to utilize
 19 emergency management performance grant funds to
 20 contract with the University of Maryland Center
 21 for Health and Homeland Security to rewrite the

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1 Talbot County Emergency Operations Plan to
 2 facilitate a plan exercise.
 3 The request is to piggyback on a Prince
 4 George's County contract in the amount of
 5 \$100,178.
 6 No county funds are required. And Brian
 7 and Geneva are here to answer any questions.
 8 MR. LeCATES: Thank you, sir.
 9 Good evening.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening.
 11 MR. LeCATES: So I think Clay summed it up
 12 pretty well. We are requesting just permission
 13 to utilize existing grant funds that we were
 14 already allocated through the State of Maryland
 15 to rebuild our Emergency Operations Plan. So
 16 this is an all hazards plan. It addresses
 17 anything from manmade or natural disasters. It
 18 really just outlines how we're going to respond
 19 to it and how we're going to recover from it.
 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Right. And the last one
 21 was in '18, correct?

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1 MR. LeCATES: '14 was the last complete
 2 rewrite. So it's kind of a living document.
 3 And as things change in our community, we
 4 change things around. But the last complete
 5 rewrite was in 2014.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 7 MS. PRICE: And how often should it be
 8 done?
 9 Our Comprehensive Plan is done every ten
 10 years.
 11 MR. LeCATES: Yeah.
 12 MS. PRICE: More often?
 13 MR. SCHAFFLE: It should be done about
 14 every five years I feel like is a natural
 15 planning cycle.
 16 This was due to be rewritten the year that
 17 the pandemic hit. The only thankful thing is
 18 we've learned so much from the pandemic. I
 19 think it will encompasses a lot more into our
 20 rewrite. So that is a benefit.
 21 MR. LeCATES: It would be changing again

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1 anyway.
 2 MS. PRICE: Right. I mean it's a blessing
 3 in disguise, right?
 4 MR. LeCATES: We learned a lot during the
 5 pandemic.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Stamp.
 7 MR. STAMP: So I would just echo what both
 8 Geneva and Brian said.
 9 We've had a unique opportunity in the last
 10 couple of years. We learned a great deal, and
 11 that's going to inform us in the way we do
 12 business. Not just in Talbot County, but this
 13 is occurring all over the country, frankly.
 14 But this is an opportunity to leverage
 15 grant funds that are in place to, for lack of
 16 better words, up our game in being able to
 17 respond to emergencies.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 19 MR. LESHAR: I just want to commend the
 20 staff for identifying these grant funds for
 21 this purpose.

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1 I know that we looked at other possible
 2 sources that might have been a little closer to
 3 home, and commend you for the creativity that
 4 you exercised in identifying this source. So
 5 thank you for doing that.
 6 MR. LeCATES: Thank you, sir.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Have a motion?
 8 MR. PACK: Yeah. So moved.
 9 MS. PRICE: Second.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
 11 second to go ahead for help with grant funds to
 12 rewrite the Emergency Operation Plan. Madam
 13 Secretary, could you call the vote.
 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 17 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 19 MR. LESHNER: Aye.
 20 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 21 MS. PRICE: Aye.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 2 MR. PACK: Aye.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 4 MR. LeCATES: Thank you for your
 5 consideration.
 6 MR. CALLAHAN: No problem.
 7 MR. LeCATES: While I'm here, I would like
 8 to echo what a lot of other folks have said.
 9 This Council has been very supportive of
 10 Emergency Services over the years.
 11 Congratulations to Mr. Leshner and
 12 Mr. Callahan for their new positions on the
 13 Council. And congratulations to the other
 14 folks, you guys that are leaving the Council
 15 under your own fruition.
 16 So we really appreciate all the support
 17 over the years. Emergency Services is in a
 18 different place in this county because of the
 19 Council and what you guys -- you guys learned
 20 about our needs and were able to help us with
 21 those over the years. So it truly is

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1 appreciated. So thank you.
 2 MS. PRICE: Emergency Services is in a
 3 different place because of you and Mr. Stamp
 4 and Geneva and your whole group.
 5 We just decided to listen. All we do is
 6 allocate the funds.
 7 You all do it, everything, and do a
 8 spectacular job at it. So thank you very much.
 9 It's been an honor to work with you.
 10 MR. LeCATES: Thank you. Well, I
 11 appreciate you guys listening and responding
 12 and generously funding us when we needed it.
 13 MS. PRICE: We know all about those
 14 eight-minute maps.
 15 MR. LeCATES: Yes. You've learned all
 16 about them. So thank you, again.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, guys.
 18 Appreciate it.
 19 MR. STAMP: Council, I only have one more
 20 item. I ask Ray Clarke, your county engineer,
 21 to come forward.

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1 Request from the Department of Public
 2 Works to award Bid Number 22-11 for the
 3 replacement of the Royal Oak pump station.
 4 As you read in your agenda packet,
 5 requesting Council approval to award Bid 22-11
 6 to the lowest bidder, Retallack & Sons, in the
 7 amount of \$1,536,000.
 8 A total of five bids were received.
 9 The award will be contingent on review and
 10 approval by the Maryland Department of the
 11 Environment.
 12 Ray Clarke is here to add additional
 13 details. Ray.
 14 MR. CLARKE: Just to let the Council know,
 15 this is actually associated with the request we
 16 made about a month ago requesting the Council
 17 reject all the bids.
 18 Ultimately, we had one bidder that did not
 19 rebid this project. The other four did.
 20 And ultimately, the low bidder, which was
 21 Miles Retallack, is actually a local firm.

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1 We've done work with them, and we're looking
 2 forward to working with them on this project.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 4 MS. PRICE: Did the amounts change?
 5 Or --
 6 MR. CLARKE: Yes, ma'am.
 7 MS. PRICE: The scope of work was a little
 8 bit different, but the amounts are different?
 9 MR. CLARKE: The amounts changed.
 10 Actually the low bidder was probably about
 11 just over \$100,000 less than the previous low
 12 bidder from last time.
 13 MS. PRICE: Right. Thank you.
 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Any other questions? Okay.
 15 Is there a motion?
 16 MS. PRICE: So moved.
 17 MR. DIVILIO: Second.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: We got a motion and second
 19 to take the low bid from Miles Retallack.
 20 Madam Secretary, would you call the vote,
 21 please.

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1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.
 4 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.
 6 MR. LESHER: Aye.
 7 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
 8 MS. PRICE: Aye.
 9 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
 10 MR. PACK: Aye.
 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Great.
 12 MR. CLARKE: And I'll echo everybody else.
 13 It was a pleasure working with all of you.
 14 Thank you very much.
 15 MS. PRICE: Thank you, Mr. Clarke.
 16 MR. CLARKE: Mr. Callahan, Mr. Leshner, as
 17 well as the other members that were elected,
 18 congratulations.
 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.
 20 MR. DIVILIO: Mr. Clarke, it just wouldn't
 21 be a Council meeting unless we talked about

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1 some poop.
 2 MR. CLARKE: We're here.
 3 MS. PRICE: I can assure you that is not
 4 the reason any of us ran for public office.
 5 MR. CLARKE: I give you new reasons.
 6 Right?
 7 MR. STAMP: Thank you, Ray.
 8 So before I conclude the county manager's
 9 report, I would like to thank you. It's been
 10 an honor to serve the five of you as your
 11 county manager.
 12 Congratulations, Chuck, and
 13 congratulations, Pete, on your successful
 14 campaign. I look forward to working with you
 15 the next four years.
 16 And to Corey and Laura and Frank,
 17 congratulations. Job well done.
 18 MR. PACK: Thank you.
 19 MR. STAMP: What I would say is that I
 20 think when you look back in time, the last four
 21 years has been a difficult time for our

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1 country, for our state, and our community. And
 2 the last two years has been very difficult.
 3 And the individuals that stepped forward and
 4 said that they wanted to serve their community
 5 were you. And you were the only game in town
 6 that was listening.
 7 And people came in and they had issues and
 8 they were tough issues. But every time you
 9 met, you listened, you did your best, and you
 10 served your community. I commend you for that.
 11 And the final thing I'd like to say is
 12 that you did a lot. I mean I can go down a
 13 whole list of things that you did over the last
 14 four years.
 15 But I can tell you the last two years,
 16 you've done some things that are pretty
 17 amazing. One of the things that we're having a
 18 challenge with not just here but everywhere is
 19 stability of the workforce. We know in Talbot
 20 County we have a lot of senior leaders that
 21 were going to be retiring. So we had to

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<p>1 stabilize and bring new talent in. And you</p> <p>2 helped do that.</p> <p>3 You helped put together a package to</p> <p>4 ensure that we retain good help and that we can</p> <p>5 recruit good help.</p> <p>6 You made decisions to allow us to move</p> <p>7 forward on leveraging new technologies, even to</p> <p>8 the degree of helping Emergency Services</p> <p>9 implement a, what am I thinking, ultrasound.</p> <p>10 Ultrasound technology, we're one of the first</p> <p>11 in the State to implement ultrasound technology</p> <p>12 in the back of a paramedic unit to early</p> <p>13 diagnose critical illness or injury so that</p> <p>14 they could better triage patients. You did</p> <p>15 that.</p> <p>16 Implementing infrastructure projects.</p> <p>17 Bought a new building for our Health</p> <p>18 Department, bought a new Sheriff's Office,</p> <p>19 expanded the EMS service to add a sixth crew to</p> <p>20 make sure we can maintain eight-minute response</p> <p>21 time for critical emergencies. I could go on.</p>	<p>1 first.</p> <p>2 MR. STAMP: You want to have all the</p> <p>3 Council come down here?</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>5 MR. STAMP: If all the Council could come</p> <p>6 down.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>8 Okay. Mr. Pack.</p> <p>9 MR. PACK: Yes, sir.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Congratulations.</p> <p>11 MR. PACK: Thank you.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: You've got, let's see,</p> <p>13 2012, '14, '15, '16, '19, and '20. It's been a</p> <p>14 pleasure.</p> <p>15 MR. PACK: Thank you.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: I really appreciate</p> <p>17 everything.</p> <p>18 MR. PACK: Thank you.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Congratulations. I do want</p> <p>20 to say that it's been a pleasure really. On</p> <p>21 your wings sometimes. We know we've battled it</p>
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<p>1 But you should be proud of the work that you</p> <p>2 did.</p> <p>3 And again, I thank you and it's been my</p> <p>4 honor to serve you as your county manager.</p> <p>5 That completes the county manager report.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Stamp.</p> <p>7 That's well said.</p> <p>8 I appreciate everything you guys have</p> <p>9 done, too. It's an honor to spend four more</p> <p>10 years with you, too. You might not think the</p> <p>11 same. But for me, it is. All right.</p> <p>12 So do we want to move?</p> <p>13 MR. STAMP: Yeah.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Do we want to do --</p> <p>15 MR. STAMP: So this is an opportunity for</p> <p>16 you. Yes, we can do that.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: We do that. Okay.</p> <p>18 MR. PACK: Public comment.</p> <p>19 MS. PRICE: Are we doing public comment</p> <p>20 first?</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: We're going to do this</p>	<p>1 out a couple of times.</p> <p>2 But at the end of the day, I commend you</p> <p>3 with your experience, commend you with your</p> <p>4 friendship. We didn't agree to disagree a lot</p> <p>5 of times. But at the end of the day, we</p> <p>6 respected each other, and that's where it</p> <p>7 landed.</p> <p>8 MR. PACK: That's right.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: And you taught me a lot.</p> <p>10 And you taught me what not to do, too. So it</p> <p>11 was all good. It was really a pleasure working</p> <p>12 with you.</p> <p>13 MR. PACK: Thank you, Buddy. Appreciate</p> <p>14 it.</p> <p>15 MR. STAMP: Laura.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Here we go. Here we</p> <p>17 go.</p> <p>18 Beautiful little dress.</p> <p>19 MS. PRICE: Thank you.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: So Laura, like I was saying</p> <p>21 with Mr. Pack, it's a pleasure really working</p>

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1 with you.

2 You're a feisty little thing. That's for

3 sure. You've got a lot of smart and brilliant

4 qualities about you. You really do. Okay.

5 And I'm not just saying that. But it would be

6 nice sometimes if you were a little bit, a

7 little bit sort of --

8 MS. PRICE: It's going to be a lot quieter

9 when I'm gone.

10 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Exactly. Just a

11 little bit. Okay.

12 But you know, once again, we respect each

13 other. At the end of the day, we're friends.

14 MS. PRICE: Absolutely.

15 MR. CALLAHAN: We've known each for 45

16 years, 40 years. And you've done a great job

17 for the last 12 years. And I respected you.

18 And you know, you've done a lot for the

19 county. And you should be proud and you should

20 be proud of the MACo thing, being president of

21 that, too.

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1 So we're all proud of you.

2 MS. PRICE: I appreciate your support, all

3 of you, on that.

4 MR. CALLAHAN: And what you've done for

5 Talbot County is a lot. And I'm sure everybody

6 sort of likes that.

7 So here you go.

8 MS. PRICE: (Inaudible.)

9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay. Here we go.

10 Mr. Divilio. Frank, I didn't know you that

11 well when you come on the Council. But we've

12 become really great friends.

13 And once again, for the last four years,

14 you've done a lot of hard work. You've done a

15 lot of tough work. And you know, you've done

16 your own thing. And there's been many days

17 that you've called me and I've called you, and

18 we worked together. We've agreed to disagree.

19 And I said Frank, come on now, come on now.

20 But you know, you did your own thing. That's

21 what is respectful.

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1 And you had your own mind and you had your

2 own goals. And I'm very, very proud of you.

3 And I really appreciate your family being

4 here and everybody's family being here.

5 And you should be proud of your dad

6 because he's done a great job for the county

7 and he's worked really hard.

8 So I really appreciate everything you've

9 done for the county. And you know, anything

10 that we can do for you in the future, I'd

11 appreciate it. So really thanks for

12 everything, Frank.

13 MR. STAMP: Get a picture.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Hold tight. I don't know

15 if Mr. Leshner would like to say something.

16 MS. PRICE: I'll get my comments at the

17 end.

18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I'm sorry.

19 MR. STAMP: Beautiful. Thank you.

20 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job. Okay.

21 MR. STAMP: Public comment.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Public comment. Okay.

2 MS. MORRIS: Mr. Callahan, nobody has

3 signed up to speak this evening. However, I do

4 believe there are members of the audience that

5 would like to address the Council this evening.

6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great.

7 So how about we start on this side. Maybe

8 the first row. Is there anybody would like to

9 come up? Okay. Okay. There's Mom out there.

10 There's brother out there.

11 The second row. I know you want to say

12 something. No. Not on TV, right? Not on TV.

13 Okay.

14 Lynn, congratulations.

15 MS. PRICE: Congratulations.

16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah, congratulations.

17 Anybody else would like to come up? Okay.

18 On this side. Come on now. I know she

19 wants to come up here. Anybody else over here?

20 Okay. Come on up. Come on up, Sheriff.

21 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Thank you.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 2 SHERIFF GAMBLE: I just wanted to thank
 3 each of you.
 4 Congratulations, Pete. Congratulations,
 5 Chuck, on your reelection. Mr. President,
 6 Mr. Vice President.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.
 8 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Well deserved. Well run
 9 campaigns.
 10 But I just wanted to thank and
 11 congratulations Corey, Laura, and Frank for
 12 getting the heck out of here in one piece.
 13 I just wanted to thank each of you
 14 personally and publicly to the extent that you
 15 guys have been so instrumental in the Talbot
 16 County Sheriff's Office and public safety in
 17 general in Talbot County, several of you just
 18 for the last four years, but Corey, Laura, and
 19 Chuck, for the last year eight years here on
 20 the Council.
 21 And I'm just going to read really quickly

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1 off some of the things that you were able to
 2 help us accomplish.
 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.
 4 SHERIFF GAMBLE: When I took over, less
 5 than 30 percent of the deputies lived in the
 6 county. Now over 60 percent live in the county
 7 thanks to the grant stuff that we funded years
 8 ago and the commitment from Council.
 9 Our deputies now have the most competitive
 10 retirement system of any Sheriff's Office in
 11 the State thanks to you and your leadership
 12 there.
 13 We're full, which is rare right now.
 14 There are departments that are down 20, 30,
 15 40 percent, even on the shore. And that speaks
 16 to your commitment to law enforcement officers
 17 here and all the things that you helped make
 18 happen financially for them.
 19 We are competitive in our pay, which we
 20 were probably the worst -- we had the worst
 21 retirement and one of the worst pays eight

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1 years ago.
 2 You bought a new Sheriff's Office. Some
 3 of you enacted central booking, which has saved
 4 countless hours, man-hours, woman hours, to put
 5 officers back on the streets and keep us away,
 6 separated from our arrestees as quickly as
 7 possible.
 8 You helped initiate the SRO program the
 9 first time in Talbot County history. K-9
 10 program, Teen Court. Been a huge supporter of
 11 Talbot Goes Purple. Many other things.
 12 And we -- the commitment that you have
 13 shown, we've disagreed a couple of times, but
 14 the commitment you've shown to public safety,
 15 not just for the Sheriff's Office but for law
 16 officers in general as well as the EMS, should
 17 be commended. And I thank you, too, for that.
 18 And I have a small gift for you. It's
 19 less than \$25, so you don't have to report it.
 20 MR. PACK: You got to give it to me the
 21 right way.

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1 SHERIFF GAMBLE: These are challenge coins
 2 from the Sheriff's Office.
 3 MR. PACK: Thank you, Sheriff.
 4 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Supposed to shake hands.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go. Thank you,
 6 Sheriff.
 7 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Thank you, Chuck. Pete,
 8 thank you for your commitment.
 9 MR. LESHER: Thank you.
 10 MR. CALLAHAN: That's awesome.
 11 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Thank you, Brother.
 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Do we just show this when
 13 we sort of get pulled over? That's awesome.
 14 SHERIFF GAMBLE: I'm not going to comment.
 15 MS. PRICE: Even if we just wear it.
 16 SHERIFF GAMBLE: But you do whatever you
 17 need to do, Chuck.
 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's good.
 19 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Just don't call me.
 20 MR. PACK: Central booking (inaudible.)
 21 SHERIFF GAMBLE: Thank you, guys. Thank

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1 you very much. All the best to you that are
 2 moving on, and I'll see you in a few short
 3 months, those that are here, with the new
 4 Council for a whole nother budget year.
 5 MS. PRICE: Thank you, Sheriff, for
 6 everything.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Okay.
 8 Anybody else like to come up? Okay. All
 9 right.
 10 So let's go ahead and start off with
 11 Council comments. How about we start off with
 12 Mr. Divilio.
 13 MR. DIVILIO: Thank you. You know, one of
 14 my favorite sayings when people say, you know,
 15 how things going, say living the dream, could
 16 be a nightmare, but it's a dream, you know, one
 17 way or the other.
 18 But it's been a challenging four years.
 19 There are certainly things I wanted to
 20 accomplish that haven't come to fruition at
 21 all. I think of the Cordova cell phone tower

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1 is probably the one thing that sticks out in my
 2 mind as a major issue that I wish I could have
 3 tackled. But there were a lot of issues that
 4 came up in front of us that none of us had
 5 planned for.
 6 And I think we did a good job of
 7 listening, and we couldn't have done the job of
 8 listening without the boards that we have.
 9 Whether it's the Parks and Rec Board, the
 10 Library Board. All of them are volunteers
 11 which hash out a lot of conversations, a lot of
 12 disagreements, and a lot of opinions in the
 13 community. And you know, sometimes people say
 14 well, I'd like to see a board made up of people
 15 that don't get along because you know that
 16 they're debating everything.
 17 But truly, most of our boards work
 18 together and come up with something that works
 19 best for everybody and then bring it to us.
 20 And then we have a whole nother round of
 21 challenging issues that we have to debate from

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1 that to make it work for everyone. And it
 2 doesn't. It never works for everyone. But
 3 county staff is invaluable in making sure that
 4 we have all of the information available and
 5 know who to talk to.
 6 This community, in my opinion, has a lot
 7 of challenges with small groups who get very
 8 vocal and will sidetrack things.
 9 And I know for myself, I've been extremely
 10 frustrated with the time spent on issues that
 11 we've revisited which caused us not to get
 12 things done, quite frankly.
 13 And it was because it was a group who had
 14 a very narrow focus issue that they wanted
 15 addressed. And that's not the entire
 16 community.
 17 You know, we still listened. We still
 18 fought through it. Was a lawsuit involved, and
 19 we had to listen to it just to settle out the
 20 lawsuit. And that doesn't do anyone any good,
 21 not even the individual who was trying to sue

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1 us who caused the issue.
 2 You know, I would have run again. I
 3 really enjoyed this community. I really
 4 enjoyed all the boards. I tried to make my
 5 rounds and thank everyone who stepped up to do
 6 it.
 7 But at the end of the day, sometimes it
 8 feels like you're putting a puzzle together
 9 with somebody who is pulling pieces out and
 10 throwing aside or throwing extra puzzle pieces
 11 in just to mess it up and delay things, and
 12 it's just, it's a challenge.
 13 But working with this Council, I take a
 14 lot of pride in us. I think that we worked
 15 well putting the puzzle together the best way
 16 that we could.
 17 And I like the diversity of this Council,
 18 the different individuals. We have spent our
 19 time here long enough to truly know the issues,
 20 to know the people and know the right people,
 21 the ones who are objective and give you the

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1 right information and aren't afraid to tell you
 2 their opinion in a way that they're working
 3 constructively towards the goal. And that's
 4 the most important thing.
 5 My biggest fear for anyone is to get up
 6 here and just start listening to the wrong
 7 person that is going to sidetrack them and
 8 cause them to not focus on the entire county.
 9 Mr. Pack said it best when he said think
 10 outside the pin concussion. Don't just stick
 11 with what's going on in a municipality because
 12 everything is tied together.
 13 And that's the greatest part of the staff,
 14 is the reports that we get, the studies that we
 15 do. The impact fee study that's coming back in
 16 January. You get that information, you get
 17 that budget binder, you sit down and you figure
 18 out all right, Parks and Rec's got a bus right
 19 now. They don't need it anymore. It's costing
 20 them a fortune to just sit in the parking lot
 21 and never use it.

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1 Brian LeCates took a bus from the school,
 2 turned it into an excellent air conditioned bus
 3 with cots for when they're on a hot fire scene
 4 in the middle of August and guys need to cool
 5 down. There's another opportunity to do that,
 6 to work together.
 7 Or how many times you've seen the golf
 8 course truck run across the street to grab a
 9 tractor or vice versa to help Parks and Rec.
 10 The departments all work together, the
 11 staff works together. And I can't thank them
 12 enough for making our job as easy as it was,
 13 even through all the challenges that we had.
 14 And to the two who are reelected,
 15 congratulations. I know the next four years
 16 will certainly be easier than the last four.
 17 And I won't be watching. I have faith in
 18 the system. I truly do. The community stepped
 19 up. They chose who they wanted to choose. And
 20 you know, it's my turn to sit back and let you
 21 guys run the show. Thank you.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Thank you,
 2 Mr. Divilio. Well done and really appreciate
 3 serving with you.
 4 MR. DIVILIO: Thank you.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Leshner.
 6 MR. LESHER: Well, this meeting closes out
 7 my rookie term on this Council. And I want
 8 to -- it is Thanksgiving this week. And I want
 9 to offer my thanks to the staff for all the
 10 tremendous support and guidance that carried us
 11 through this.
 12 And I will say for the public's sake, this
 13 staff is second to none. I have enormous
 14 respect for the expertise and support that we
 15 get in conducting the business of the Council.
 16 I want to thank Council Member Corey Pack,
 17 who was our Council president the first two
 18 years of this term. His institutional
 19 knowledge, his firm command of procedure, and
 20 his strong moral compass have served us well.
 21 And he leaves us with a distinguished record of

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1 service to this community. And I don't expect
 2 that service will be ending. Thank you, Corey.
 3 Thanks to Chuck Callahan, who has led us
 4 as president the past two years, and who always
 5 promotes civility and who is a kind and
 6 welcoming word to everyone. What you have done
 7 to elevate the discourse here is important and
 8 valued, and I thank you for it.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you.
 10 MR. LESHER: And I look forward to
 11 continuing to serve with you in the next
 12 Council.
 13 Thank you to Laura Price, whose attention
 14 to and command of budget detail is absolutely
 15 admirable. Laura has left a statewide legacy
 16 here as well, rising to the president of the
 17 Maryland Association of Counties while serving
 18 as the voice of Talbot County in a statewide
 19 forum before the State legislature and to our
 20 colleagues all across the State. Thank you,
 21 Laura, for all of that.

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1 And finally, thank you to Council Member
 2 Frank Divilio for your compassion and your
 3 concern for the welfare of the citizens of
 4 Talbot County. From our youth to our aging
 5 populations, your concern for the humanity of
 6 our fellow citizens is always, is always
 7 evident in your work and in your words. You've
 8 always been open to discuss any matter, whether
 9 or not we fundamentally disagree. And that is
 10 how government is supposed to work.
 11 So thanks to all of you for the past four
 12 years.
 13 And finally, thank you to the voters of
 14 Talbot County for trusting me to serve going
 15 forward for another term. I look forward to
 16 working with all of you.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Leshner.
 18 Appreciate it.
 19 Ms. Price.
 20 MS. PRICE: Okay. I think that
 21 Ms. Roberts is going to put a little photo up

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1 that I took this morning.
 2 I've been thinking for some time about
 3 what to say tonight. How did this moment get
 4 here so quickly? How do I capture in less than
 5 12 minutes all that has happened in 12 years?
 6 Don't worry. I'm not going to go on 12
 7 minutes. I do.
 8 I could try to talk about all the
 9 important pieces of legislation and try to pick
 10 just a few. I looked on our website, and there
 11 were over 300 bills and hundreds of resolutions
 12 over the last 12 years, and I realized I
 13 couldn't. They're all important in their own
 14 way, and they all have a tremendous impact on
 15 this county.
 16 I could try to thank everyone, and there
 17 are so many people to be grateful for. My
 18 family and friends who stood beside me, all the
 19 department heads and county staff, my fellow
 20 Council members, past and present over the
 21 years, both here and across the State, and most

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1 importantly, the citizens who allowed me to be
 2 here and represent them. I don't want to leave
 3 anyone out because you're all so very
 4 appreciated. Please know that.
 5 So rather than attempt to do it that way,
 6 I'm going to portray it a little differently.
 7 When I got up this morning and came out to
 8 the kitchen, I looked out the window and saw
 9 the same beautiful view of the river that I see
 10 almost every day. But this morning was
 11 different. There was always a reflection of
 12 the sky, the trees, and the different ways the
 13 sun paints a picture on the water.
 14 But this morning it struck me. Those
 15 reflections mirror how we see things that
 16 change over time. Our perspective is how we
 17 see the view.
 18 In the mornings when the sky is just
 19 starting to brighten, it's the beginning and a
 20 chance to make the day have meaning and to
 21 reflect on what you'll do with that day and how

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1 to make a difference.
 2 That's what it was like when I first began
 3 on the Council 12 years ago. Such excitement
 4 to see what I could make of the day. What
 5 could I do with the incredible opportunity that
 6 the people of Talbot County had given me. I
 7 had a belief that anything could happen and a
 8 vision to make the most of it.
 9 Then there are mornings when there's heavy
 10 fog. And it's hard to navigate because you
 11 can't see what's out there. But you know that
 12 the water and the trees and the sky are still
 13 there, but you just have to maintain focus to
 14 get through.
 15 Decisions are put before a group of five
 16 people who all have different opinions, but who
 17 all have the same purpose, to make choices that
 18 benefit the people who live here in this
 19 beautiful place. Yes, it can get foggy, and it
 20 can be really hard to see the view. And what
 21 you believe was the right thing can so easily

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1 get lost.

2 That's when you must stop to listen, to

3 reflect, and to remember why you're there.

4 Only then can it get clear again, and

5 eventually the fog burns off.

6 Sometimes you look out onto the river, and

7 there are storms. Rain and lightning make the

8 view appear very different. You can still see

9 it all, but it's not so pleasing to look at.

10 That's when you can't give up and you must

11 fight to weather the storm.

12 There have been some really challenging

13 issues that this Council and previous ones have

14 had to get through. Controversial things that

15 divided our community, and we had to be the

16 ones to navigate the way through and find a way

17 to bring people back together.

18 Sometimes the group of five would be

19 divided ourselves. Each one of us has stood up

20 for what we thought was right. People weren't

21 always happy with the decisions we made, but we

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1 did the best we could with the best of

2 intentions. And the winds eventually calm, as

3 long as you keep the right perspective.

4 Then there are days when the sun shines

5 brightly and you can see clearly and truly

6 appreciate the view. Appreciate it even more

7 because you know you've been through the fog

8 and the storms.

9 Those are the times when the Council can

10 celebrate what a wonderful place we are a part

11 of and how fortunate we are to serve, times

12 when we can give a proclamation for a wonderful

13 cause, a certificate of appreciation to someone

14 who has volunteered their time so generously,

15 or to say thank you to one of our staff who

16 works tirelessly to also serve this county.

17 Those are the moments when we can stand up and

18 applaud all of you.

19 Then there are the sunsets, each one more

20 beautiful than the next. You don't want to

21 miss it, and you never want it to end. You

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1 keep watching it until the sun has gone down

2 over the horizon. It's hard to let go.

3 This last meeting is like saying goodbye

4 to a beautiful view whose reflection was

5 transformed over the years. For me, there's

6 emotion and sadness that this day is over. But

7 upon reflection, a great sense of joy and how

8 it looks now. Knowing that I could be a part

9 of shaping that view and helping keep the

10 vision of all that characterizes what Talbot

11 County is.

12 I'm a little nervous that it's going to

13 get dark overnight, that I might not be able to

14 see what is next except by the glow of the

15 moon. But knowing that the sun will rise over

16 the river tomorrow and a new day to reflect on

17 will begin.

18 Not just for me, but for the next group of

19 leaders who will serve you and continue

20 painting the picture of what Talbot County

21 looks like with a new perspective and their own

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1 reflections.

2 It's truly been an honor. Thank you.

3 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Ms. Price. Well

4 said, well said. Yup.

5 Mr. Pack.

6 MR. PACK: Yes, Mr. Callahan.

7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes.

8 MR. PACK: I don't have anything as

9 eloquently prepared as Ms. Price or Mr. Leshner.

10 And you know me, sometimes the work that you

11 can get is when I go off the cuff.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go. That's what

13 I'm talking about.

14 MR. PACK: Are you sure you wanted to give

15 me this thing?

16 I was talking to Laura yesterday. She

17 said are you going to prepare anything. And I

18 said no, I don't think I'm going to write

19 anything down.

20 MS. PRICE: I see notes.

21 MR. PACK: Yeah. I always had a bunch of

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1 notes. You know me. Sometimes they make
 2 sense, sometimes they don't.
 3 But let me, first of all, say that wow, 15
 4 years, where did it go so fast. Right? And
 5 you know the old saying is they say that time
 6 flies when you're having fun. Well, maybe this
 7 in some sense has been fun, you know.
 8 And when I look back, you know, I first
 9 started in 2007, I've been up here since four
 10 US presidents, three governors, and one
 11 governor-elect. I met each of the first
 12 African American lieutenant governor, the
 13 second African American lieutenant governor,
 14 the third African American lieutenant governor.
 15 Been here through three plus one county
 16 managers. Mr. Hollis gets two nods.
 17 When I first came on board, you talk about
 18 capital projects, you know, we had the library,
 19 the Easton Elementary School, repaving Black
 20 Dog Alley, the YMCA multigenerational center,
 21 Sheriff mentioned the expansion of the 911

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1 Center, the central booking complex.
 2 I think Talbot County was the first county
 3 that did county wide laptops. I think we were
 4 the first one to fund the county wide laptops.
 5 Was here when the Easton Airport, the
 6 tower first opened. I was there when Mike
 7 Henry cut that ribbon for that.
 8 When I first started, our teachers pay was
 9 the lowest in the State of Maryland. I
 10 remember telling Dr. Salmon, I said we're going
 11 to do something about this. And we were able
 12 to get our teachers out of that bottom and move
 13 our teachers up.
 14 We are able to finally move our sheriff's
 15 deputies into the LEOPS system. Finally able
 16 to do that. We had talked about it for years
 17 and years and years.
 18 We started the first SRO when I was here.
 19 We started it, and stopped it, and started it
 20 up again. Now I think we have SROs in both of
 21 our high schools and also several of our middle

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1 schools and elementary schools as well.
 2 We started the ball rolling to move our
 3 officers at our Detention Center from the State
 4 system into the DOC system for them to have a
 5 better retirement system.
 6 And we finally, finally got the Community
 7 Center on the sewer. Finally, finally. Where
 8 is Ray? Is he still here? Finally got the
 9 Community Center on sewer.
 10 Through my tenure, we instituted the first
 11 liquor inspector, a position that never
 12 existed.
 13 We finally got the Short-Term Rental Board
 14 as a board. It was always on paper, but never,
 15 those seats were never filled.
 16 Was proud that we hired the first African
 17 American department head and the first Hispanic
 18 department head.
 19 We settled the first diversity statement.
 20 Put an elevator in the courthouse to the
 21 second floor. That was on the books for a long

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1 time. We got it done.
 2 Was able to meet all three of our US
 3 Senators, Mikulski, Van Hollen, and Cardin, and
 4 have conversations with them over the years.
 5 Welcomed in our first ever female District
 6 Court judge here in Talbot County's history.
 7 And it's been quite an ordeal over the
 8 years.
 9 And we have also started the ball moving
 10 on some other projects. We talked about the
 11 Bill Burton Park, the Douglass Park, the public
 12 safety building, the Health Department
 13 building, the Community Center expansion, the
 14 St. Michael's Library renovation, the Cordova
 15 Emergency Services Station, and the possible
 16 future sewer line running to Bozman and
 17 Neavitt. And these are just a few. I mean as
 18 Ms. Price said, I could probably sit down and
 19 jot down probably another page and a half more
 20 of accomplishments over the years.
 21 So you know, it's been a pleasure to serve

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1 the citizens of Talbot County, really has been,
 2 you know. You know, I started in 2007. And
 3 the way things went back then with lawsuits and
 4 this and that, it wasn't a pretty start, it
 5 wasn't a pretty start.
 6 But sometimes they say, Mr. Leshner, it's
 7 not how you start but how you finish. It's how
 8 you finish the fight, how you finish the race.
 9 I had a call from my former campaign
 10 manager, Mr. Miles Butts. I was sitting home
 11 watching the ball game, and my phone rang. You
 12 remember Miles. And he called me and said
 13 Mr. Pack, how you doing, just wanted to call
 14 you and say hello.
 15 And just had a two or three-minute phone
 16 conversation with Miles. And I said well,
 17 Miles, it's coming to an end. And he said,
 18 well, how long has it been. I said it's been a
 19 while. And it was just good to hear from an
 20 old friend that was calling just to say hello.
 21 And again, it's been a pleasure serving

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1 the citizens of Talbot County.
 2 And when you're up here, sometimes you
 3 don't always agree. You don't. And it's just
 4 a passion behind a particular bill or
 5 resolution that you feel very passionate about
 6 that you want to see get done. And not so much
 7 for yourself, but for the people that may
 8 benefit from that piece of legislation. And
 9 you try the best to get it across the finish
 10 line.
 11 Sometimes you fall short, and that's okay.
 12 And at the end of the day, can you still
 13 respect the guy across the table. And I have
 14 to say I do, you know.
 15 Laura, there's probably no Council person
 16 I respect more than you. And I mean that. You
 17 know, I've gone home some nights pulling my
 18 hair out saying Laura, Laura, Laura. That's
 19 why I have none now. But I know that, you
 20 know, what you bring to the table is your
 21 commitment, what you bring to the table is

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1 sincerity in getting something done. You do
 2 your homework, you do your research. And I got
 3 to respect that.
 4 And it doesn't mean I always have to agree
 5 with you. I respect the time and effort you
 6 put into getting it done. And you have. You
 7 served the citizens well over these last 12
 8 years. And you need to be proud of your job.
 9 You need to be proud of the work you've done at
 10 MACo.
 11 MS. PRICE: Thank you.
 12 MR. PACK: You really do. My hat goes out
 13 to you.
 14 You know, Frank, we only worked for four
 15 years together. But man, you pushed a lot of
 16 good stuff across the finish line. We would
 17 not have gotten the Confederate statue moved
 18 off the courthouse lawn had it not been for
 19 you, had it not been for you.
 20 And I can say that the time and energy you
 21 put into your research and finding a location

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1 for it and talking to the people down in
 2 Virginia. And you know, you are a dot-your-I,
 3 cross-your-T kind of man, you know.
 4 And again, your commitment to getting it
 5 done, you know, picking up the phone, calling
 6 people, finding out the facts or the details
 7 before you cast your vote.
 8 I don't think you cast any vote over the
 9 last four years without knowing the details
 10 behind what that decision was going to mean for
 11 one group and not for another.
 12 And that's what the citizens of Talbot
 13 County should be proud of, is that putting you
 14 in this office, is that you've done your due
 15 diligence to find out the pluses and the
 16 minuses behind every decision that you make.
 17 And it doesn't mean that you're going to
 18 make everybody happy. You're not. If you do,
 19 you're doing something wrong. So clearly,
 20 you've been doing things right.
 21 So man, it's been a pleasure working with

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1 you, and I wish you well as you move forward.
 2 Pete, you know, hey, you're the right guy
 3 for this position. You are. You take your
 4 time. You walk yourself through each decision.
 5 You bring a wealth of that institutional
 6 experience yourself in from your time down in
 7 Easton. And I think serving this next young
 8 Council coming on board, you know, they're
 9 going to need your steady hand, they're going
 10 to need your steady hand. And you've been the
 11 right hand to this guy here for the last two
 12 years, and I know he appreciates you being
 13 there for him. And so do I.
 14 And Chuck, you know, we've had some good
 15 times, you know. And I've gone home saying
 16 that Chuck Callahan.
 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.
 18 MR. PACK: But you know, man, you're here
 19 every day, you know. I know you probably drove
 20 Andy crazy some days. You're probably working
 21 on Clay.

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1 But it's all done with the most sincerity
 2 of heart, is to make sure you get the job done.
 3 And so, man, it's been a pleasure working with
 4 you these last eight years.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Eight years, yeah.
 6 MR. PACK: Eights years with you as well.
 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.
 8 MR. PACK: And to staff, Jess and Susan
 9 and Karen Roberts, you know, you guys have
 10 always had my back. You know, last minute
 11 phone calls, I need this printed off, I need
 12 this done, can you call this person for me,
 13 phone numbers that I've forgotten, you know,
 14 lost my phone, can you order me a new phone.
 15 So you know, you guys have been great
 16 working with, and I really will miss you as we
 17 move forward. I may pop in from time to time.
 18 Who knows, you know. But been a pleasure.
 19 So Patrick, Clay, I know you guys are
 20 going to keep things moving in the right
 21 direction. I have no doubt about that. Clay,

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1 your leadership is going to be important, you
 2 know, as a new Council comes on board and
 3 looking forward here in the county.
 4 So you know, the ride has been great.
 5 Right? What can I say? It's been a pleasure
 6 serving. You'll probably see me around from
 7 time to time. Who knows. But you guys have
 8 been great. Appreciate it.
 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Pack.
 10 Thank you, Council.
 11 You guys got to put up with me for four
 12 more years. So I'm not going to sit here for
 13 15 minutes. You'll see me for four more years.
 14 I do want to -- this experience in the
 15 last eight years for me has been phenomenal.
 16 I've learned a lot.
 17 Mr. Pack, just like I said, and I'll
 18 repeat myself, just sit there and learn from
 19 you, be beside you, be the vice president.
 20 It's a big deal when you're vice president of
 21 the president. It is.

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1 And I appreciate it. Learned a lot. You
 2 helped me through a lot of stuff, and I do
 3 appreciate it. And I appreciate you serving
 4 the community. I do, I really do.
 5 Ms. Price, same thing down here, you know.
 6 Your heart is in it. You're all in. And it's
 7 been great sitting up here with you. You know,
 8 just your passion on things. And like
 9 everybody said, we're not going to disagree or
 10 agree on everything. That's for sure. But
 11 your heart is in the right place, my heart is
 12 in the right place, all our hearts are in the
 13 right place.
 14 So congratulations on MACo. You've done a
 15 great job all year long. You've been hustling.
 16 You've been working really hard to get there,
 17 get here. You know, you got a lot of things
 18 going on. You got a light of bright things in
 19 the future for you. That's for sure.
 20 Mr. Leshner, it's going to be an honor
 21 again to serve with you. That's for sure. And

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1 congratulations, congratulations. It's going
 2 to be fun working with you again and our new
 3 Council here.
 4 Lynn, like I said, congratulations, you
 5 know. So appreciate it. And you did the hard
 6 work on the campaign. You did a good job.
 7 And Pete, you know, it's nice to be in
 8 this position up here and knowing that I can
 9 count on you helping me with the prayer. And
 10 you've helped me a lot do speeches because
 11 you're really, really good at that stuff.
 12 You're really good at helping some of the
 13 weaknesses I have. And it's really nice to
 14 know that I have a good person that can back me
 15 up. And through the last couple of years and
 16 stuff, I can't thank you enough for helping me
 17 on some of my things that I've had trouble
 18 with. I do appreciate that. That's for sure.
 19 And it's going to be an honor to work with
 20 you again for the next four years.
 21 MR. LESHER: Thank you.

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1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup.
 2 And the man down at the end. Well, we've
 3 had some good times. That's for sure.
 4 MR. DIVILIO: We had fun.
 5 MR. CALLAHAN: We had a lot of fun. You
 6 taught me a lot, I taught you a lot, you know.
 7 And we had some good times. And you know, like
 8 you said, Mr. Pack said, you're all in, you did
 9 your homework, you're passionate, and you stuck
 10 with your guns. You did. So I respect that.
 11 That's for sure.
 12 So you know, now you can spend some time
 13 on that hockey with the boys and spend some
 14 time with Abby. That's for sure.
 15 Thank you, Abby, for all you've done, too.
 16 You know. I know it doesn't seem like you've
 17 done, but you've done a lot. Trust me.
 18 So it's like we've all talked up here,
 19 it's staff. You know, all the department
 20 heads. Brent, Joe and Scott, Brennan, all you
 21 guys, all you guys really make us look good.

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1 You really, really do. I know sometimes you
 2 probably hold your breath and are like are they
 3 going to do it or not do it. Brennan, I'm
 4 always bothering you. You know what I mean.
 5 And I really do appreciate it.
 6 I mean we all, we all have a passion for
 7 serving this county. And you know, I really
 8 appreciate all the support I've had over the
 9 election to vote me back in. And I'm going to
 10 work hard for you. And I'm going to be
 11 passionate about doing the right thing for
 12 everybody, because that's what me and
 13 Mr. Leshner are here for. We're here to serve
 14 you guys. That's what we're here for. And you
 15 put us in this position. And I appreciate it.
 16 Clay, Jess, Susan, Patrick, Diane, you
 17 know, you guys, all you guys have been here day
 18 in and day out for us. And I really appreciate
 19 the hard work you've done. We've been in here
 20 from three o'clock to 11 o'clock at night. And
 21 that's tough on all of us, you know.

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1 And Joe, your guys are the best in here
 2 protecting us. People forget. We have people
 3 protecting us, too. And we really appreciate
 4 the protection, you know. And it means a lot
 5 to us. It feels safe in here. It's kind of a
 6 shame that it's that way now, but that's just
 7 the way of the world right now.
 8 So I appreciate everything. I'm looking
 9 forward to working with staff again, and I'm
 10 looking forward for the next four years. And
 11 thanks, everybody, for all you guys do, too.
 12 So being that's said, Mr. Leshner, you want
 13 to go ahead.
 14 MR. LESHER: The County Council's next
 15 meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13th,
 16 beginning at six o'clock p.m. The Council will
 17 be convening in open session at 4:30 p.m. and
 18 then adjourning into closed session to discuss
 19 real estate, legal, and personnel matters, as
 20 listed on the statement for closing that
 21 meeting.

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1 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn
2 this meeting and reconvene as noted?
3 MR. DIVILIO: So moved.
4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and
5 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the
6 vote.
7 MS. PRICE: I don't think it was a second
8 yet.
9 MR. CALLAHAN: Was it? Oh, okay.
10 MS. PRICE: I don't think so.
11 I'll second.
12 MR. PACK: Can I use my gavel?
13 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. Absolutely,
14 absolutely.
15 MS. PRICE: You should pass them.
16 MR. PACK: (Inaudible.)
17 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go, there you go.
18 We got a motion and second.
19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.
20 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.
21 SECRETARY: Mr. Divilio.

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1 MR. DIVILIO: Aye.
2 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshler.
3 MR. LESHER: Aye.
4 SECRETARY: Ms. Price.
5 MS. PRICE: Aye.
6 SECRETARY: Mr. Pack.
7 MR. PACK: Aye.
8 MR. CALLAHAN: There you go, Buddy.
9 (Meeting concluded at: 8:02 p.m.)
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1 STATE OF MARYLAND
2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and
3 for the State of Maryland, County of Baltimore City,
4 do hereby certify that the within named, Talbot
5 County Council Audio, personally appeared before me
6 at the time and place herein set according to law,
7 was interrogated by counsel.
8
9 I further certify that the examination was
10 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed
11 from my stenographic notes to the within printed
12 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription
13 in a true and accurate manner.
14
15 I further certify that the stipulations
16 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my
17 presence.
18
19 I further certify that I am not of counsel
20 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,
21 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way
interested in the outcome of this action.
AS WITNESS my hand Notarial Seal this 29th
day of November, 2022, at Easton, MD.



Diane Houlihan
Notary Public

My commission expires September 16, 2025

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