

COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Council Meeting

October 28, 2025; 5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Easton, Maryland

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chuck F. Callahan

Pete Leshner

Keasha N. Haythe

Lynn L. Mielke

Dave Stepp

Reported by

Diane Houlihan

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<p>1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Tonight we got a</p> <p>4 special night. We got a lot of important</p> <p>5 people here tonight. That's for sure.</p> <p>6 So okay. If you could go ahead and stand,</p> <p>7 we're going to say the prayer and the Pledge of</p> <p>8 Allegiance of the Flag.</p> <p>9 (Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.)</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. I</p> <p>11 appreciate everybody coming tonight. So let's</p> <p>12 start off with the agenda. Council has looked</p> <p>13 at the agenda. Is there any additions,</p> <p>14 deletions, or corrections to the agenda?</p> <p>15 MS. HAYTHE: Yes, President Callahan. We</p> <p>16 have one correction to the agenda this evening.</p> <p>17 I'd like to amend the agenda to remove the</p> <p>18 update on the Regional Medical Center project</p> <p>19 by Mr. Kozel on this evening.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That would be great.</p> <p>21 MR. LESHER: Second.</p>	<p>1 MS. MORRIS: Correct.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. So he'll be back with</p> <p>3 us December 16th, give us a report on the new</p> <p>4 hospital.</p> <p>5 Okay. Next on the agenda is going to be</p> <p>6 the disbursements of October 21st and</p> <p>7 October 28th. The Council has had a chance to</p> <p>8 take a look at that. Any additions, deletions,</p> <p>9 or corrections to the disbursements, Council?</p> <p>10 Okay. Hearing none, the chair moves that the</p> <p>11 disbursements be accepted as unanimous consent.</p> <p>12 Okay. Tonight's first thing is the Talbot</p> <p>13 County Free Library, the 100th Anniversary.</p> <p>14 Madam Secretary, could you go ahead and read</p> <p>15 that into the record for us, please.</p> <p>16 SECRETARY: I forgot to pull a copy. Hold</p> <p>17 on.</p> <p>18 100th Anniversary, Talbot County Free</p> <p>19 Library.</p> <p>20 Whereas, the Talbot County Free Library</p> <p>21 began celebrating its centennial year on</p>
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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>2 second to amend the agenda and pull Mr. Kozel</p> <p>3 off the agenda. All in favor?</p> <p>4 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>5 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>6 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>7 MR. LESHER: Do you want to call the roll?</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>12 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>14 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>16 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>18 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. And I</p> <p>20 think we'll have him rescheduled somewhere I</p> <p>21 think, Jess, December 16th.</p>	<p>1 Wednesday, October 15, 2025.</p> <p>2 And whereas, founded in 1925, the Talbot</p> <p>3 County Free Library, the library, was</p> <p>4 established with funds provided by</p> <p>5 subscriptions from the citizens of the county</p> <p>6 and members of the Library Association, raising</p> <p>7 a total of \$4,149.</p> <p>8 And the Library Board selected two rooms</p> <p>9 on the first floor of the Avon Realty Building,</p> <p>10 located at 11 South Washington Street in Easton</p> <p>11 at a rent of \$15 per month. And the official</p> <p>12 operation of the library began under the</p> <p>13 careful guidance of Caroline Burnett Walker,</p> <p>14 the first champion of a free public library in</p> <p>15 Talbot County.</p> <p>16 Over the years, generous benefactors have</p> <p>17 contributed to the growth and development of</p> <p>18 the library, transforming it into the pillar of</p> <p>19 the Talbot County community it is today.</p> <p>20 And whereas, in 1941, through the</p> <p>21 generosity of Mr. and Mrs. James Dixon and</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 Mr. and Mrs. David Lindsay Gillespie's donation 2 of 1,500 books, pamphlets, periodicals, maps, 3 and other materials, the Maryland Room was 4 established.</p> <p>5 And whereas, also in 1941, the library 6 began providing regular book mobile services 7 throughout Talbot County, achieving recognition 8 as the first book mobile on the Eastern Shore 9 and the second in Maryland, traveling to 26 10 public schools and 17 deposit stations on a 11 biweekly basis during the school year.</p> <p>12 And whereas, since its founding, the 13 library has relocated several times to 14 accommodate the growth of the Talbot County 15 community, has added branches, and has 16 increased its services to accommodation the 17 changing needs of our community, providing not 18 only books, but also multimedia resources, 19 broadband Internet, and public access 20 computers, technology training, and lifelong 21 learning opportunities for all ages.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 In witness thereof, we have hereunto set 2 our hand this 28th day of October in the year 3 2025, the 249th year of the independence of the 4 United States and the 365th year of the 5 establishment of Talbot County, Maryland.</p> <p>6 Given under our hands in the great seal of 7 Talbot County this 28th day of October in the 8 year of our Lord, 2025.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Madam 10 Secretary. Good job.</p> <p>11 Is there a motion?</p> <p>12 MR. LESHER: So moved.</p> <p>13 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 15 second to put it into the record. Madam 16 Secretary, could you call the roll, please.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>20 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 And whereas, for 100 years the Talbot 2 County Free Library has played an invaluable 3 role in promoting equity, opportunity, and 4 civic engagement by ensuring free access to 5 information, supporting workforce development, 6 and offering programs and classes that expand 7 knowledge and spark creativity and has been and 8 continues to be a place of inspiration, 9 imagination, and inclusion, strengthening our 10 community through education, innovation, and 11 connection.</p> <p>12 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of 13 Talbot County, in appreciation of and respect 14 for all the wonderful and impactful work done 15 by the Board members, staff, and volunteers of 16 the Talbot County Free Library, do hereby 17 recognize the library's centennial celebration, 18 and encourage all residents to join in honoring 19 this milestone, and to take advantage of the 20 abundant resources and services provided by the 21 library.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>3 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>5 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Dana, you want to 7 come on up.</p> <p>8 MS. NEWMAN: Sure. Can I invite our --</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Absolutely. Yeah, yeah. 10 Absolutely.</p> <p>11 MS. NEWMAN: All of y'all can come up.</p> <p>12 MR. LESHER: You can give remarks and then 13 we'll come up for the picture.</p> <p>14 MS. NEWMAN: Sure. I don't have a lot of 15 remarks.</p> <p>16 I just want to say that I think Susan said 17 it all in the proclamation, that we really are 18 here to serve the community. It's service 19 above self. That's our moto. That's the 20 Rotary moto, but it's also the moto for the 21 library.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 Everybody who works for the library is 2 here to help people. They have a passion to 3 help people. And I would not be able to do it 4 without our volunteers and without our staff 5 and without our board and everybody else, the 6 foundation and our friends. We have so many 7 people that are so tied to the library in some 8 way. 9 And you can speak to almost anybody on the 10 street in Talbot County, and they have a 11 library story that is so meaningful to them. 12 Usually from childhood, but not necessarily, or 13 about children. 14 But we are about people of all ages. And 15 it's not just about books. I always say books 16 are just the tip of the iceberg and everything 17 underneath it is something to discover at the 18 library. 19 So that's all I really have to say. And 20 we hope to be here for another 100 years. And 21 we thank you so much for the support that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 I went to the library for, I went to the 2 library for movies. We borrowed not only 3 artwork but music and artworks and all kinds of 4 things from the library when I was growing up. 5 What you do to provide resources for 6 people to do everything from file their taxes 7 to grow their businesses to raise their 8 children, you touch so many lives in this 9 community. It is such vital work. 10 Thank you for what you do. 11 MS. NEWMAN: Thank you. 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Mr. Stepp. 13 MR. STEPP: I'll just keep in the spirit 14 of thanks. And it was awesome, I mean it's 15 awesome that the entire history of when this 16 started is in this proclamation. So I think 17 that's pretty awesome. 18 And speaking of the multimedia part, books 19 are books. But thanks for keeping the spirit 20 of a Blockbuster alive where you can still go 21 in and look --</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 you've given us over the years. So thank you. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. 3 Mr. Leshner, you want to start off? 4 MR. LESHER: Sure. 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. 6 MR. LESHER: Thank you for all that you do 7 because, because you are a pillar of this 8 community. You are probably used by more 9 citizens of Talbot County. As I said at the 10 centennial celebration, there are probably more 11 library card holders in this community than 12 licensed drivers. And that's because the bar 13 is so low. You just need to be able to sign 14 your own name. 15 My son, when he was, I don't know, three 16 or something, four years old, when he could 17 sign his own name and get his own library card, 18 that was a special moment for him, as it was 19 when I was a child as well, to be able to 20 borrow books under my or other library 21 materials under my own name.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 MS. NEWMAN: Certainly. 2 MR. STEPP: -- at movies and check one 3 out. So thank you for that. 4 MS. NEWMAN: And you'd be amazed at how 5 many people still check out DVDs. I mean we 6 have a lot of people in this county that love 7 their DVDs. So yup. 8 MR. STEPP: Absolutely. Appreciate all 9 that you all do. Thank you so much. 10 MS. NEWMAN: Thank you. 11 MS. MIELKE: Congratulations. 12 Also wanted to comment on the celebration 13 that occurred last week, which was just 14 fabulous and seeing all these people that 15 looked like they came out of... 16 MS. NEWMAN: The prohibition. 17 MS. MIELKE: Well, prohibition. It was 18 just great. I had a really good time. 19 MS. NEWMAN: I saw you in the Speakeasy. 20 MS. HAYTHE: Just to add to what my 21 colleagues said, last week was fantastic. You</p>

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<p>1 did an amazing job transforming that library 2 into that event last week.</p> <p>3 But thank you for all the work that you 4 do. And I realized that my 70-year-old father 5 still uses DVDs. So please keep keeping those 6 DVDs in the library.</p> <p>7 MS. NEWMAN: We're glad to hear that.</p> <p>8 MS. HAYTHE: Yes, he does, he does. And 9 thank you for all your hard work and all that 10 you do.</p> <p>11 MS. NEWMAN: Thank you.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: And same thing. Thank you, 13 guys. Thank all the volunteers and the people 14 that work at the library. You guys really mean 15 a lot to us and you really set a tone for this 16 county.</p> <p>17 And I can't wait for St. Michaels to get 18 on the same wave as the new expansion and all 19 that.</p> <p>20 MS. NEWMAN: Yeah. So we're hoping for 21 February.</p>	<p>1 celebration in the United States, commemorating 2 the emancipation of enslaved persons, which 3 occurred in Maryland on November 1, 1864, and 4 on which date Maryland, by the popular vote of 5 the people, adopted a new State Constitution, 6 which abolished slavery in the State.</p> <p>7 And whereas, the annual Nace's Day 8 celebration, now in its 158th year, was the 9 creation of Nathaniel Nace Hopkins, a Trappe 10 native of African American descent, and his 11 fellow citizens of the community of Trappe, to 12 recognize and celebrate this important 13 historical event.</p> <p>14 And whereas, Nathaniel Hopkins continued 15 to build upon and expand the celebration for 16 the remainder of his life, organizing and 17 leading the celebration parade for 33 years and 18 ensuring that it would continue after his 19 passing.</p> <p>20 And whereas, though born into slavery, 21 Nathaniel Hopkins, affectionally known as Uncle</p>
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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: You are? Great.</p> <p>2 MS. NEWMAN: Yup.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Well, we're looking forward 4 to it. Come on up, guys.</p> <p>5 MS. NEWMAN: Thank you. Everybody.</p> <p>6 MS. KILMON: All right. Konner is going 7 first.</p> <p>8 KONNER: I'll take a few with the phone, 9 too.</p> <p>10 MS. KILMON: All right. Perfect.</p> <p>11 MS. NEWMAN: Thank you so much. 12 Appreciate it.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. The next 14 proclamation is Nace's Day of 2025. Madam 15 Secretary, could you read that into the record, 16 please.</p> <p>17 SECRETARY: Proclamation, 158th 18 Anniversary, Nace's Day Celebration.</p> <p>19 Whereas, since 1867, the Town of Trappe, 20 Maryland, has hosted the celebration known as 21 Nace's Day, the longest continuously held</p>	<p>1 Nace by all who knew him, enlisted in the Union 2 Army as a member of the United States Colored 3 Troops and returned to his native county to 4 work for the betterment of the county's African 5 American community as a civic leader.</p> <p>6 And whereas, Nathaniel Hopkins was a 7 highly respected leader in the Trappe community 8 and throughout Talbot County and was the 9 individual primarily responsible for 10 establishment of the first school for African 11 American children in Trappe, for the creation 12 of free black communities throughout Talbot 13 County, for advocating to the county's elected 14 officials for the construction of roads to 15 service these communities, and was instrumental 16 in the establishment of Scott's United 17 Methodist Church, a pillar and mainstay of the 18 Trappe community.</p> <p>19 And whereas, throughout its 158-year 20 history, the Hopkins family and the community 21 of Trappe have kept the observance of</p>

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<p>1 commemorating this day of important 2 significance to the State of Maryland, Talbot 3 County, and particularly the African American 4 community, to both celebrate and honor not just 5 this historic event in our history but to honor 6 a man who had accomplished so much for the 7 citizens of Talbot County and who had earned 8 the respect, trust, and admiration of so very 9 many of our Talbot County citizens.</p> <p>10 And whereas, Nace Hopkins's legacy 11 continues today through the Nace Hopkins 12 Scholarship Fund for local youth seeking higher 13 education and through the great commitment 14 shown by his descendants, who have ensured that 15 the legacy of Nathaniel Hopkins's personal 16 integrity, civic duty, and leadership will 17 remain a shining example for generations to 18 come.</p> <p>19 Now, therefore, we, the County Council of 20 Talbot County, do hereby recognize the 158th 21 anniversary of the Nace's Day celebration,</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 2 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 3 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 4 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Let's see here. 6 Yes, sir. Come on up. 7 MR. BROWN: I'm just coming on behalf of 8 the descendants that are here. 9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir. Would you mind 10 sitting down, please. There you go, there you 11 go. 12 MR. BROWN: I'm sorry, sir. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: That's all right. That's 14 all right. I just want people to hear you and 15 know who you are. That's all. 16 MR. BROWN: My name is Dale Kevin Brown, 17 I'm a great-great-great-grandson. 18 And on behalf of the family here, we have 19 on the front row. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir. 21 MR. BROWN: We have Reverend Brown, who is</p>
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<p>1 which brings the citizens of Trappe and Talbot 2 County together to honor the achievements and 3 legacy of Talbot County's native son, Nathaniel 4 Uncle Nace Hopkins.</p> <p>5 Given under our hands and the great seal 6 of Talbot County this 28th day of October in 7 the year of our Lord, 2025.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary. 9 Good job. 10 Okay. Is there a motion? 11 MR. STEPP: So moved. 12 MS. HAYTHE: Second. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 14 second. Go ahead and put that into the record. 15 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote. 16 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 18 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 19 MR. STEPP: Aye. 20 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 21 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p>	<p>1 a great-great-grandson, who has helped lead 2 many of the ministers on the Eastern Shore. 3 We have next to him, another 4 great-great-grandson, Walter Billy Brown, who 5 has played in most organs, keyboard, and 6 anything that has pipes with keys on the 7 Eastern Shore. And he played for Billy Graham 8 at one time before he passed. 9 I know you know the gentleman, the other 10 great-grandson on the front row. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. 12 MR. BROWN: The former chief of police, 13 Walter Chase, Sr. 14 And we have another great-great-grandson, 15 David Chase, sitting back there. 16 And the rest of us are on the continuum. 17 And I know that was kind of a brief history of 18 what he's done. 19 But he not only had an impact on the 20 African American community, but probably 21 impacted some of you and your families because</p>

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<p>1 in the State of Maryland, they had four drafts 2 for the Civil War. Talbot County only had to 3 participate in one because when Uncle Nace came 4 back, he recruited others to go. And so the 5 African American population, the volunteering 6 was so great that we did not have, Talbot 7 County did not have to participate in the last 8 three drafts.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Wow.</p> <p>10 MR. BROWN: So he was instrumental in 11 doing that. So that probably had an impact on 12 many families, those that did not have to go to 13 fight because he did that.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: Right, right.</p> <p>15 MR. BROWN: And if you're going to ask us 16 to come up, could I move three of the chairs so 17 I can get these three gentlemen up here first?</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Let's say a couple of 19 things here.</p> <p>20 MR. BROWN: I'm sorry.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Let's say a couple of words</p>	<p>1 So I'm glad that you continue to sponsor 2 this, continue to put it together. And we just 3 are very indebted for preserving our history. 4 Thank you.</p> <p>5 MR. LESHER: Well, Frederick Douglass said 6 I will never forget the difference between 7 those who fought for liberty and those who 8 fought for slavery. And that's fighting for 9 liberty is precisely what Nace Hopkins signed 10 up to do and led others to do.</p> <p>11 And Trappe is just uniquely positioned in 12 the entire United States of all the towns that 13 sent, that sent their sons to fight, only 14 Trappe has kept that celebration going every 15 year right up to today. And that is something, 16 that is something for this community to be 17 proud of. Congratulations.</p> <p>18 MR. STEPP: Echo everything that has 19 already been said.</p> <p>20 Here is what I would like to add, though, 21 just because this is just, what's written on</p>
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<p>1 here. Keasha.</p> <p>2 MS. HAYTHE: Well, first and foremost, I 3 remember the Nace's Day parade ever since I was 4 a little girl. And in the Talbot Girls Baton 5 Group, every year we participated in that 6 parade.</p> <p>7 And today, I'm so glad that it still 8 exists and that we still continue to have this 9 parade and this celebration recognizing Uncle 10 Nace.</p> <p>11 So thank you all for coming out tonight. 12 This is an honor for us to be able to present 13 this proclamation to the family and give you 14 something that you will be able to hang up and 15 recognize for years to come. So thank you all 16 for coming out tonight. And I look forward to 17 the parade as well.</p> <p>18 MS. MIELKE: Nace and the parade, such a 19 spectacular commentary on the history of Talbot 20 County and really a very special day to 21 celebrate and what we celebrate.</p>	<p>1 this document is just a snapshot, as we all 2 know.</p> <p>3 So I'll throw in a plug for the exhibit 4 that is right now at the Talbot County 5 Historical Society. So anyone who is 6 interested in all, in all of this wonderful 7 history and to really see it come to life, I'd 8 encourage everyone to stop on down there and 9 take a look at that because it's truly an 10 amazing piece of Talbot County history.</p> <p>11 So thank you all for being here. Just 12 really appreciate it. Thank you.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: And I will say the same 14 thing. I really appreciate all the descendants 15 coming here tonight. And I really appreciate 16 it. It means a lot. 158 years is a big deal.</p> <p>17 MR. BROWN: Yes, it is.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: It sure is. And you kept 19 it going for that long.</p> <p>20 MR. BROWN: Some of us might not be here 21 for the next 158.</p>

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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: I know. Exactly, exactly.</p> <p>2 And I just want to throw a special thanks</p> <p>3 to Mr. Chase. You know, I kid him all the</p> <p>4 time. He's, I tell you he's a great man. He's</p> <p>5 done a lot. And it's people like that that</p> <p>6 bring out the good in people.</p> <p>7 And I've worked with him for several years</p> <p>8 on a lot of committees. And I'll tell you,</p> <p>9 Walter, that the stuff that you bring to these</p> <p>10 meetings and bring to Talbot County, bring to</p> <p>11 Trappe means a lot to a lot of people in this</p> <p>12 whole community.</p> <p>13 So we love you. And I truly mean that.</p> <p>14 And anything we can do for you and your family,</p> <p>15 that's for sure, we're here for you. I can</p> <p>16 tell you that.</p> <p>17 Okay. Get lined up.</p> <p>18 MR. BROWN: On behalf of the family and</p> <p>19 Scott's Church, which he founded, please come</p> <p>20 down and visit with us on Saturday and enjoy</p> <p>21 the time, the food and what we have planned for</p>	<p>1 SECRETARY: I'll take that. Well, one of</p> <p>2 them. Two go back there.</p> <p>3 SPEAKER: God bless all of you.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. See you, buddy.</p> <p>5 MR. BROWN: Thank you.</p> <p>6 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you.</p> <p>7 MS. MIELKE: Thank you.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Is there anybody</p> <p>9 here from the Historical Society that can come</p> <p>10 up? We got something for you. All right.</p> <p>11 Well.</p> <p>12 MS. HAYTHE: Did somebody text her?</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Hey, Jess, can you see if</p> <p>14 Jeannie is still out there?</p> <p>15 MS. KILMON: I'll go.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Sarah.</p> <p>17 Okay. Next on the agenda, we'll go ahead</p> <p>18 and start the public hearing. We'll go ahead.</p> <p>19 And Mary Kay, you want to come on up.</p> <p>20 MS. VERDERY: I'm going to start with my</p> <p>21 apologies because I'm fighting allergies.</p>
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<p>1 you.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: That sounds great. That</p> <p>3 sounds great.</p> <p>4 MR. BROWN: Is it all right to move these</p> <p>5 chairs up?</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Oh, absolutely. Yup, yup.</p> <p>7 I want you guys to actually come up front.</p> <p>8 MS. MORRIS: Here is another chair.</p> <p>9 MR. BROWN: Okay.</p> <p>10 MS. KILMON: Why don't we do this. Let's</p> <p>11 put all five of you guys up there since there's</p> <p>12 some many people coming up. Hold it up.</p> <p>13 All right. I'm missing some heads on this</p> <p>14 side. There we go. That's a little better.</p> <p>15 Okay. Is there anyone else back there that I</p> <p>16 can't see? All right.</p> <p>17 Okay. I think we're ready. Ready? One,</p> <p>18 two, three.</p> <p>19 MR. BROWN: (Indiscernible) Nace.</p> <p>20 MS. KILMON: Perfect. Now these guys.</p> <p>21 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We're all good.</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>2 MS. VERDERY: So if I cough too much.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: We understand.</p> <p>4 MS. MIELKE: We know how that is.</p> <p>5 MS. VERDERY: It's that time of the year.</p> <p>6 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. No problem. No</p> <p>7 problem.</p> <p>8 MS. VERDERY: Good evening, Council, and</p> <p>9 thank you very much for having us this evening.</p> <p>10 Talbot County was the recipient of CDBG</p> <p>11 COVID funding in 2020 and again in April of</p> <p>12 2025.</p> <p>13 In April, the Council entered into an</p> <p>14 agreement with DHCD for an additional \$116,500.</p> <p>15 The Council then partnered with</p> <p>16 subrecipients Neighborhood Service Center for</p> <p>17 68,000 and St. Michael's Community Center for</p> <p>18 48,500.</p> <p>19 These funds are being used by our local</p> <p>20 food pantries for food, equipment, and support</p> <p>21 staff.</p>

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<p>1 Assistant Secretary Carol Gilbert recently</p> <p>2 offered to provide an additional 150,000 as a</p> <p>3 second amendment to our COVID CDBG grant to our</p> <p>4 two existing subrecipients. These funds can be</p> <p>5 used for services, food supplies, shelter</p> <p>6 improvements, appliances, equipment, new food</p> <p>7 pantry staff, and food bank facility</p> <p>8 improvements.</p> <p>9 In the last quarter, the Neighborhood</p> <p>10 Service Center served 182 families totaling 364</p> <p>11 individuals. In addition to 4,619 hot meals,</p> <p>12 St. Michaels Community Center provided 392</p> <p>13 15-pound food pantry bags and 388 freezer bags</p> <p>14 to our local citizens.</p> <p>15 Each of the food pantries have confirmed</p> <p>16 that they will be able to spend the original</p> <p>17 and all subsequently-approved CDBG COVID grant</p> <p>18 funds by the deadline of June 30, 2026.</p> <p>19 So we are here this evening seeking</p> <p>20 Council support and to host a public hearing</p> <p>21 for the grant increase of \$150,000, 75,000</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Thank you.</p> <p>2 MS. HORN: Good evening. My name is Amy</p> <p>3 Horn. I'm the executive director for the</p> <p>4 St. Michael's Community Center.</p> <p>5 So first of all, I'd like to thank the</p> <p>6 County Council for being so supportive of our</p> <p>7 work that we do down at the community center.</p> <p>8 We are the social service hub for that</p> <p>9 part of Talbot County for the whole Bay</p> <p>10 Hundred, from Royal Oak on down to Tilghman</p> <p>11 Island.</p> <p>12 And thanks to the support from the county,</p> <p>13 we're able to continue providing meals to</p> <p>14 residents in need. We deliver every Monday,</p> <p>15 Wednesday, and Friday. We deliver at least 100</p> <p>16 hot meals to homebound neighbors in need, in</p> <p>17 addition to serving another ranges anywhere</p> <p>18 from 50 to over 150 in the center on those</p> <p>19 days. Plus we have our pantry bags, we have a</p> <p>20 well-stocked food pantry. We provide all three</p> <p>21 of those food distribution three days a week.</p>
Page 31	Page 33
<p>1 each, with our two very active CDBG COVID food</p> <p>2 pantry partners.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great.</p> <p>4 So I guess at this time, I'll go ahead and</p> <p>5 open it up to the public hearing. And anybody</p> <p>6 would like to go ahead and come up and speak on</p> <p>7 behalf of the CDBG project on the amendment,</p> <p>8 you'll have three minutes. And if you're</p> <p>9 representing somebody, I'll give you five</p> <p>10 minutes.</p> <p>11 MR. LESHER: Do we need to start by</p> <p>12 reading the title into the record, what the</p> <p>13 public hearing is?</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Amendment number two to 2020</p> <p>15 Maryland Community Development Block Grants,</p> <p>16 CDBG, program federal CARES Act COVID funding</p> <p>17 for homeless shelters and food programs.</p> <p>18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds great.</p> <p>19 Like I said, anybody that would like to</p> <p>20 come on up here. Yes, ma'am. Come on up.</p> <p>21 MS. HORN: Thank you.</p>	<p>1 Plus on Tuesdays, we do a dedicated senior</p> <p>2 lunch. And so we typically have about 20 folks</p> <p>3 who are seniors. We also have a group of</p> <p>4 people from the Benedictine School who join</p> <p>5 them.</p> <p>6 And we really have an incredibly robust</p> <p>7 food distribution program. We could not do</p> <p>8 that without the county's support.</p> <p>9 We've been seeing an increase, as have</p> <p>10 many other pantries. And of course, we're very</p> <p>11 concerned about what is going to happen</p> <p>12 starting this Saturday when there's no more</p> <p>13 SNAP funding available. And so we're preparing</p> <p>14 right now to see an increase in our food pantry</p> <p>15 need.</p> <p>16 But also, I learned an interesting thing</p> <p>17 today. That many people, especially those who</p> <p>18 are homeless, they use their SNAP money,</p> <p>19 they're able to use their SNAP money to</p> <p>20 purchase hot prepared foods. And that's a lot</p> <p>21 of times what they do because they don't have</p>

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<p>1 the means to prepare food themselves. So we're 2 anticipating an increase in our kitchen as well 3 because of that. 4 So this funding would really help us be 5 able to meet this increased need that we're 6 seeing in the community. 7 We also, we've got a lot of children in 8 the neighborhood who after school, they come 9 right to the community center because they want 10 a snack. Some of them will also shop the 11 pantry shelves while they are there and go up 12 to the counter to get a hot meal to take home 13 for their dinner. And then they just go out 14 the back door onto whatever it is they're 15 doing. 16 So we really -- sometimes it's almost 17 difficult for us to give an exact number of how 18 many people we're feeding because we have so 19 many different programs and so many different 20 ways that we provide food to people in our 21 community.</p>	<p>1 opportunity. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Exactly. 3 MS. HAYTHE: I agree with Councilman 4 Leshner. 5 In fact, I had a call today from someone 6 that said that the Royal Oak pantry, Amy down 7 at the church was empty. And so they are 8 really concerned about the SNAP benefits that 9 will be lost effective on Saturday. 10 So we know that this will help a little 11 bit, not solve the great need that we're going 12 to have in Talbot County. But this is a start. 13 So thank you so much for all that you do. 14 And the Neighborhood Service Center as well. 15 We know that this would be a great asset for 16 them and help them greatly. 17 MS. VERDERY: It comes at a great time 18 through the holidays as well. 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Right. 20 MS. VERDERY: Being able to serve some 21 holiday meals.</p>
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<p>1 So thank you for your consideration and we 2 really, like I said, I really appreciate the 3 County Council's support. 4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you. 5 Appreciate it. 6 Okay. Would anybody else like to come up 7 and speak about this, this CDBG money? Okay. 8 All right. At this time, I'll go ahead 9 and close the public hearing. 10 And any discussion? 11 MR. LESHNER: We've, just that we've heard 12 really good testimony from community center 13 Director Amy Horn. 14 The need is very real in this county with 15 the audience that they serve. But also for the 16 Neighborhood Service Center that will be 17 impacted by this end. 18 We know that this can't meet all of the 19 need in the community, but this is an important 20 stopgap measure that will go some distance 21 toward it. Just grateful that we have this</p>	<p>1 MS. MIELKE: It's fortuitous that this has 2 come along and couldn't have come at a better 3 time. 4 MR. CALLAHAN: So Mary Kay, what's our 5 next step with this? 6 MS. VERDERY: So I don't think it's 7 required, but if you want to make a motion to 8 approve us moving forward with sending this 9 information to DHCD to have them review and 10 approve the second amendment, this funding for 11 the additional \$150,000. 12 MR. STEPP: So just Council direction. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 14 MR. STEPP: I'll make a motion. 15 MS. MIELKE: Second. 16 MS. HAYTHE: Second. 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 18 second to go ahead and approve this application 19 to try to get more money for the CDBG program. 20 Madam Secretary, could you call the vote. 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p>

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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>3 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>5 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>7 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>9 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>11 MS. VERDERY: Thank you all very much.</p> <p>12 Much appreciated.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. Good job.</p> <p>14 Okay. Next on the agenda is introduction</p> <p>15 of an administrative resolution. Madam</p> <p>16 Secretary, could you go ahead and read that</p> <p>17 into the record, please.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY: An administrative resolution</p> <p>19 entitled a resolution of Talbot County,</p> <p>20 Maryland, the county, authorizing the issuance</p> <p>21 of sale and general obligation bonds in a</p>	<p>1 private sale. Providing for the disbursement</p> <p>2 of the proceeds of the bonds. Authorizing the</p> <p>3 loan agreements in connection with the sale of</p> <p>4 the bonds. Providing for the levy and</p> <p>5 collection of any taxes necessary for the</p> <p>6 prompt payment of the maturing principal of and</p> <p>7 interest on the bonds. And providing that the</p> <p>8 full faith and credit and taxing power of</p> <p>9 Talbot County, Maryland, shall be pledged to</p> <p>10 the payment of such principal and interest.</p> <p>11 Subject to the limitation on the tax levy set</p> <p>12 out in section 614 of the Charter of Talbot</p> <p>13 County. And generally relating to the</p> <p>14 issuance, sale, delivery, and payment of the</p> <p>15 bonds.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>17 MS. SPARKS: Good evening, Council.</p> <p>18 Martha Sparks, director of finance.</p> <p>19 MR. CLARKE: Ray Clarke, county engineer.</p> <p>20 MS. SPARKS: We have been working closely</p> <p>21 with Public Works on this. They've actually</p>
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<p>1 principal amount not exceeding \$7,018,942</p> <p>2 pursuant to the authority of Bill Number 169,</p> <p>3 enacted by County Council of Talbot County on</p> <p>4 August 12, 2025, the public local law, section</p> <p>5 10-203 of the Local Government Article of the</p> <p>6 Annotated Code of Maryland, 2013 replacement</p> <p>7 volume, as amended, the enabling act, sections</p> <p>8 9-1601 to 9-1622, inclusive, of the</p> <p>9 Environmental Article of the Annotated Code of</p> <p>10 Maryland, as replaced, supplemented, or</p> <p>11 amended, the MWIFA Act, and section 623 of the</p> <p>12 Charter of Talbot County, Maryland, the</p> <p>13 charter. The bonds to be designated Talbot</p> <p>14 County, Maryland, general obligation bonds,</p> <p>15 MWIFA project, series 2025. The net proceeds</p> <p>16 of the sale thereof to be used and applied for</p> <p>17 the public purpose of financing or refinancing</p> <p>18 the costs of certain wastewater facilities and</p> <p>19 sanitary district facilities. Prescribing the</p> <p>20 form and tenor of the bonds and the terms and</p> <p>21 conditions for the issuance and sale thereof at</p>	<p>1 been working on this for three years.</p> <p>2 MR. CLARKE: Long time.</p> <p>3 MS. SPARKS: It's been a long time. So</p> <p>4 we've had some hiccups along the way, but these</p> <p>5 are the last steps for us to go forward and</p> <p>6 close on these MDE bonds.</p> <p>7 And that closing, our schedule with</p> <p>8 Council's approval of this administrative</p> <p>9 resolution, will be August 17th through the</p> <p>10 19th.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>12 MS. SPARKS: So we are on our way.</p> <p>13 MR. CALLAHAN: Great, great.</p> <p>14 MR. CLARKE: And just note I think from</p> <p>15 talking with Martha, I think we should be</p> <p>16 getting the funds by the end of I think</p> <p>17 November.</p> <p>18 MS. SPARKS: The end of November.</p> <p>19 MR. CLARKE: So that's very good.</p> <p>20 MS. SPARKS: So Jean Weisman, just can't</p> <p>21 say enough about how awesome Jean is. And Jean</p>

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<p>1 pulled everything together.</p> <p>2 So these will be reimbursed for almost</p> <p>3 100 percent of the bond. This is a</p> <p>4 reimbursable bond, which means that MDE has to</p> <p>5 approve all of the invoices that have been</p> <p>6 charged against this bond.</p> <p>7 So Jean did all of that legwork. So we</p> <p>8 will be -- they will be submitting a payment to</p> <p>9 the comptroller on the day of closing for a</p> <p>10 little over \$5 million.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you. Okay. Good.</p> <p>12 Okay.</p> <p>13 So is there a motion?</p> <p>14 MR. LESHER: I'll move for the resolution.</p> <p>15 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>17 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>18 vote.</p> <p>19 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>21 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. Okay. Thank you,</p> <p>2 guys. Appreciate it.</p> <p>3 MR. LESHER: And the secretary is very</p> <p>4 grateful that this didn't require a second</p> <p>5 reading.</p> <p>6 MS. SPARKS: Yes. Exactly. And so is our</p> <p>7 Bond Council.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So Jeannie</p> <p>9 Haddaway-Riccio is back in the building here.</p> <p>10 She snuck out on us pretty quick.</p> <p>11 So Jeannie, you want to come on up,</p> <p>12 please. We want to go ahead and hand you --</p> <p>13 okay.</p> <p>14 MS. HAYTHE: Lynn.</p> <p>15 MS. MIELKE: Yup.</p> <p>16 MR. LESHER: This is the proclamation for</p> <p>17 Nace's Day.</p> <p>18 MS. HAYTHE: For the Historical Society,</p> <p>19 Jeannie.</p> <p>20 SPEAKER: Can you talk about the enactment</p> <p>21 part that you guys are doing on Nace's Day?</p>
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<p>1 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>3 MR. LESHER: Aye.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>5 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>7 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds great,</p> <p>9 guys.</p> <p>10 MR. LESHER: And I just want to say, this</p> <p>11 is a quick approval. It's an easy decision for</p> <p>12 us.</p> <p>13 But this is really significant in what</p> <p>14 it's doing for our wastewater infrastructure</p> <p>15 and for ultimately cleaner waters in and around</p> <p>16 Talbot County.</p> <p>17 So thanks, Mr. Clarke, and to all your</p> <p>18 staff and to Martha and your staff for all your</p> <p>19 work in moving this forward. This is a really</p> <p>20 significant move and shouldn't go unremarked.</p> <p>21 MR. CLARKE: Thank you.</p>	<p>1 MS. HADDAWAY-RICCIO: Oh, sure.</p> <p>2 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah. You want to share?</p> <p>3 MS. HADDAWAY-RICCIO: Okay. For the</p> <p>4 record, Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio. I'm a board</p> <p>5 member of the Talbot Historical Society.</p> <p>6 And we're very pleased and proud to be</p> <p>7 working with Scott's United Methodist Church</p> <p>8 and the Town of Trappe and, of course, our</p> <p>9 friends here at the county to celebrate this</p> <p>10 important history in our community.</p> <p>11 And in an effort to try to bring the</p> <p>12 history to life, we have professional actor</p> <p>13 Darius Wallace, who will be joining us on</p> <p>14 November 1st on site in Trappe to do a live</p> <p>15 presentation and reenactment on Nathaniel</p> <p>16 Hopkins's legacy. And also, there will be a</p> <p>17 repeat performance on November 3rd at the</p> <p>18 Oxford Community Center.</p> <p>19 I know that several of you are planning to</p> <p>20 join us already for the parade and other</p> <p>21 festivities. And we're just greatly</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> <p>1 appreciative to you for your support of these</p> <p>2 efforts to keep this history alive. Thank you.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>4 MS. KILMON: Now we can get a picture.</p> <p>5 MS. HADDAWAY-RICCIO: Thank you so much.</p> <p>6 MS. KILMON: One, two, three. Perfect.</p> <p>7 MS. MIELKE: Thank you.</p> <p>8 MS. HAYTHE: Thanks, Jeannie.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah. Thank you. Okay.</p> <p>10 Next on the agenda is going to be</p> <p>11 introduction of legislation. Madam Secretary,</p> <p>12 could you go ahead and read that into the</p> <p>13 record, please.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: A bill to amend Chapter 190,</p> <p>15 zoning, subdivision, and land development,</p> <p>16 sections 190-25.2, table of land uses and</p> <p>17 190-29, commercial uses, regarding funeral</p> <p>18 homes and crematoria.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right.</p> <p>20 Mr. Thomas, you want to go ahead and bring us</p> <p>21 up to speed on that.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> <p>1 MR. LESHER: So introduced by Callahan,</p> <p>2 Stepp, Mielke, and Haythe.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill</p> <p>5 Number 1621, and the public hearing will be</p> <p>6 held on Tuesday, November 25th, at 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds great.</p> <p>8 You want to go ahead and read the next</p> <p>9 one, please, Madam Secretary.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: A bill to amend Chapter 190,</p> <p>11 zoning, subdivision, and the land development</p> <p>12 of the Talbot County Code for the purposes of</p> <p>13 providing for classes of short-term rental</p> <p>14 licenses and amending certain provisions</p> <p>15 pertaining to short-term rental licenses,</p> <p>16 including: One, the composition and term of</p> <p>17 the Short-term Rental Review Board. Two,</p> <p>18 contents of new applications. Three, hearings,</p> <p>19 decisions, and appeals. Four, renewal. Five,</p> <p>20 grounds for denial. And six, additional</p> <p>21 restrictions.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> <p>1 MR. THOMAS: Sure. This is a zoning text</p> <p>2 amendment that was requested by Brendan</p> <p>3 Mullaney on behalf of his client, Woodlawn</p> <p>4 Memorial Park.</p> <p>5 In July, the Council voted to send this</p> <p>6 proposal to the Planning Commission for their</p> <p>7 review and recommendation.</p> <p>8 And this bill reflects the Planning</p> <p>9 Commission's recommendation, which was</p> <p>10 developed in consultation with the applicant.</p> <p>11 The bill proposes to permit funeral homes</p> <p>12 and crematoria as special exception uses in the</p> <p>13 AC zoning district, subject to the following:</p> <p>14 A minimum property size of 40 acres, the</p> <p>15 property must abut a principal or minor</p> <p>16 arterial roadway, and the use must be operated</p> <p>17 in conjunction with a public cemetery offering</p> <p>18 services to the general public.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That's great. So</p> <p>20 okay. This is introduction. So just go ahead</p> <p>21 and show of hands to introduce this.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p> <p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you, Madam</p> <p>2 Secretary.</p> <p>3 Mr. Thomas, you want to give us just a</p> <p>4 brief on this, if you don't mind.</p> <p>5 MR. THOMAS: Yes. This zoning text</p> <p>6 amendment was requested by Vice President</p> <p>7 Leshner and Council Member Mielke.</p> <p>8 This follows the proposal they brought</p> <p>9 forward earlier this year, which the Council</p> <p>10 had voted to send to the Planning Commission</p> <p>11 for review and a recommendation.</p> <p>12 So the bill reflects the proposal as</p> <p>13 initially brought forward, with three changes,</p> <p>14 all of which had been recommended by the</p> <p>15 Planning Commission.</p> <p>16 So the changes are the proposed increase</p> <p>17 in the minimum night stay for certain zoning</p> <p>18 districts from three days to seven days has</p> <p>19 been removed, the proposed requirement for a</p> <p>20 landline telephone has been removed, and the</p> <p>21 proposed requirement for keeping a log of</p>


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<p>1 rentals has been removed.</p> <p>2 Otherwise, the bill is as it was</p> <p>3 originally seen by Council and referred to the</p> <p>4 Planning Commission.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: I got you.</p> <p>6 MR. THOMAS: So the zoning code only</p> <p>7 requires that the Planning Commission review</p> <p>8 and make recommendations on zoning text</p> <p>9 amendments, such as this. It doesn't actually</p> <p>10 require that the bill be bound by those</p> <p>11 recommendations.</p> <p>12 And as this language has been reviewed by</p> <p>13 the Planning Commission, it is now eligible for</p> <p>14 introduction by the Council. But any</p> <p>15 subsequent substantive amendments would need to</p> <p>16 go back to the Planning Commission for review</p> <p>17 and recommendation.</p> <p>18 So just to outline the process and where</p> <p>19 we are.</p> <p>20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. So at this time,</p> <p>21 it's just to raise our hands to introduce.</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and</p> <p>2 second to go ahead and put Karen on the...</p> <p>3 MS. MORRIS: Animal Control.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Animal Control, yup. Madam</p> <p>5 Secretary, could you call the vote.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>8 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>9 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>10 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>11 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>13 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>14 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>15 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>17 MS. MORRIS: Next I have a request from</p> <p>18 the Department of Public Works to award Change</p> <p>19 Order Number 4 for Bid Number 22-19, phase two,</p> <p>20 Resolution 235, region two, sewer system,</p> <p>21 extension of sewer, force main installation.</p>
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<p>1 MR. LESHNER: Introduced by Leshner and</p> <p>2 Mielke.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>4 SECRETARY: This will be known as Bill</p> <p>5 Number 1622, and the public hearing will be</p> <p>6 held on Tuesday, November 25th, at 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. That sounds good.</p> <p>8 All right.</p> <p>9 Next on the agenda is the county manager.</p> <p>10 So Jess is taking over tonight.</p> <p>11 MS. MORRIS: Just for tonight.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: So Clay's stuff.</p> <p>13 MR. STEPP: Jess's stuff.</p> <p>14 MR. CALLAHAN: He'll be back tomorrow.</p> <p>15 MS. MORRIS: He'll be back.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: He'll be back with us.</p> <p>17 MS. MORRIS: Under board and committee</p> <p>18 appointments, for the Animal Control Board I'm</p> <p>19 requesting the appointment of Karen Roberts.</p> <p>20 MR. STEPP: So moved.</p> <p>21 MS. HAYTHE: Second.</p>	<p>1 Ray is here to discuss the change order.</p> <p>2 This would be going to Schummer in the</p> <p>3 amount of \$137,447.07.</p> <p>4 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. And Council, this</p> <p>5 is associated with Resolution 235, our</p> <p>6 extension of sewer into let's say the Arcadia</p> <p>7 Shores, Averly Farm areas, as well as Big Ben,</p> <p>8 or I'm sorry, North Bend and some areas in</p> <p>9 Royal Oak, as well as Rolles Range.</p> <p>10 This was associated with materials that we</p> <p>11 had to have that was in addition to what was</p> <p>12 originally specified. So this is just</p> <p>13 basically making sure we have all the Is dotted</p> <p>14 and Ts crossed for the funding.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. Okay.</p> <p>16 MR. CLARKE: And it's coming out of</p> <p>17 contingency as well. That's already been</p> <p>18 identified.</p> <p>19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay.</p> <p>20 MR. STEPP: Make a motion.</p> <p>21 MR. LESHNER: I'll second.</p>

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<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 2 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the 3 vote. 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 5 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 6 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 7 MR. STEPP: Aye. 8 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 9 MR. LESHER: Aye. 10 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 11 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 12 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 13 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 14 MR. CLARKE: Thank you. 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 16 MS. MORRIS: Great. Next, we have a 17 request from the Department of Park & 18 Recreation. And we have Brian Harris, the 19 facilities manager here. To utilize fiscal 20 year 26 capital outlay funding for the purchase 21 and installation of eight water source heat</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 2 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 3 MR. STEPP: Aye. 4 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 5 MR. LESHER: Aye. 6 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 7 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 8 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 9 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thanks a lot. 11 Appreciate it. 12 MR. HARRIS: Thank you. 13 MS. MORRIS: Thank you very much, Brian. 14 And we also have a request this evening 15 from Hog Neck Golf Course. You have Rich 16 Setter here, your golf course manager. To 17 award Bid 25-17, asphalt paving, front nine 18 cart paths at Hog Neck Golf Course. 19 And we're requesting the award to the sole 20 bidder, East Coast Land Management, in the 21 amount of \$277,008. And there are sufficient</p>
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<p>1 pumps units at the Community Center. 2 And this will be piggybacking on a 3 contract through Wicomico County. And this 4 would be to award the work to Electrical 5 Automation Services in the amount of \$117,903. 6 And again, there are sufficient funds 7 available in the fiscal year 26 capital outlay 8 budget. 9 And Brian, if there's anything to fill in. 10 MR. HARRIS: No. This is a long overdue 11 process. We got aging equipment out there and 12 just trying to start the process in those two 13 years, get them changed out. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Sounds good. Is 15 there a motion? 16 MR. STEPP: So moved. 17 MS. HAYTHE: Second. 18 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 19 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the 20 vote. 21 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p>	<p>1 funds in the capital budget for this. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Sounds good. 3 MR. SETTER: Good evening, everybody. 4 Rich Setter, Hog Neck Golf Course. 5 Any questions? 6 MR. STEPP: Rich, this is part one of 7 three, right? 8 MR. SETTER: Correct. 9 MR. STEPP: Because we were breaking it 10 out over three years to repave everything. 11 MR. SETTER: So front nine this fall, next 12 fall back nine, following fall executive 13 course. 14 MR. STEPP: Perfect. 15 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job. Good. 16 MR. STEPP: I'll make a motion. 17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 18 MS. MIELKE: Second. 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 20 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the 21 vote.</p>

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<p>1 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 3 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 4 MR. STEPP: Aye. 5 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 6 MR. LESHER: Aye. 7 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 8 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 9 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 10 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Good job. 12 MR. SETTER: Thank you. Have a good 13 evening, everyone. 14 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you. 15 MS. MORRIS: And then lastly this evening, 16 I have a request to declare Tuesday, 17 November 4th, as a special legislative day. 18 The Council's meeting schedule has changed 19 slightly for the month of November. You will 20 be meeting on November 4th and November 25th. 21 The 4th is the first Tuesday of the month,</p>	<p>1 this evening. 2 MR. CALLAHAN: Good job. Good job. 3 You're a lot faster than Clay. 4 MS. HAYTHE: We like it. 5 MR. CALLAHAN: We love it. We love it. 6 Don't tell him, though. 7 MS. HAYTHE: Yeah, don't tell him. 8 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. All right. 9 So next, here we go. Mr. Leshner. 10 MR. LESHER: So for public comment 11 tonight, we have one person who signed up in 12 advance. And that is Bradley Chaney. 13 MR. CALLAHAN: Yes, sir. Come on up. 14 MR. CHANEY: Hi. My name is Bradley 15 Chaney. I'm a person that suffers with mental 16 illness that would like to help people that are 17 homeless or anybody that wants to save money on 18 rent, especially those with mental health. 19 I have painstakingly researched ways to 20 live in a civilized way in a tent that allows a 21 person to function in society as a working</p>
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<p>1 and we're requesting that be declared a special 2 legislative day. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 4 MR. LESHER: I'll move to declare 5 November 4th as the special legislative day. 6 MR. STEPP: And a second. 7 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. We got a motion and 8 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the 9 vote. 10 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan. 11 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye. 12 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp. 13 MR. STEPP: Aye. 14 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner. 15 MR. LESHER: Aye. 16 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke. 17 MS. MIELKE: Aye. 18 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe. 19 MS. HAYTHE: Aye. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. 21 MS. MORRIS: Thank you. That's it for</p>	<p>1 citizen. Meaning I found ways to shower 2 without a gym membership, outside warm oneself 3 with portable thermoelectric heat that fits in 4 your backpack, all without causing a 5 disturbance in society, like negating the need 6 to make fire pits in the street, since 7 thermoelectric is safe and quiet. 8 It's all possible. I have the research 9 that shows how to do all this. But because 10 it's not legal to pitch a tent on any public or 11 private property, nobody is even allowed to 12 even try something like this. 13 I have tried, as I've done this in my 14 backyard and with experiments when I was 15 voluntarily homeless. 16 I would love to share this information, 17 but I really don't know how. So here I am. 18 The difference between this and a homeless 19 shelter is that it may be cheaper in the long 20 term if the person sustains their gear properly 21 to make it last long.</p>

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<p>1 But also, if someone were allowed to do 2 this, they'd be empowered to teach themselves 3 to live responsibly since they now have 4 something to protect. They'd be able to save 5 money on rent and would always have something 6 to work towards since they can always buy more 7 upgrades for their tent setup. Plus, they'd be 8 likely to invest in property than drugs and 9 alcohol.</p> <p>10 I call this all the Mindian method. Short 11 for modern Indian, as if Native 12 American/Indians woke up in modern society and 13 embraced modern technology with their same 14 lifestyle of living in a tent.</p> <p>15 As someone who has used these items to 16 sustain myself in certain circumstances where I 17 was truly homeless, I can safely say that I 18 think these items/products, when used in the 19 right way, can save lives.</p> <p>20 If you have any questions about how these 21 amenities work and what they are, feel free to</p>	<p>1 MR. CALLAHAN: Pretty quiet. Okay.</p> <p>2 MR. STEPP: It was a great meeting. Great 3 celebrations and all good things for Talbot 4 County as always. Thank you.</p> <p>5 MR. CALLAHAN: Great. Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>6 MR. LESHER: Yes. Today, today was the 7 funeral for Mike Hiner.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup.</p> <p>9 MR. STEPP: A principal of Willow 10 Construction, a deacon of the Lutheran church, 11 a pillar of this community, and a family man.</p> <p>12 Mike's integrity boosted the reputation of 13 Willow Construction, which built a number of 14 high profile projects around this community.</p> <p>15 The Temple B'Nai Israel and the new Emergency 16 Services Training Center, which we just 17 dedicated this past Saturday.</p> <p>18 Projects for the county government itself, 19 including the new basketball courts at the 20 Talbot County Community Center.</p> <p>21 Mike was taken from us at far too young an</p>
Page 63	Page 65
<p>1 ask me.</p> <p>2 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thanks a lot. I 3 appreciate it.</p> <p>4 MR. LESHER: Can we make sure that we get 5 his contact information for staff so we can do 6 the proper follow-ups?</p> <p>7 MS. MORRIS: Yes.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: That would be great. 9 Appreciate you coming in.</p> <p>10 MR. STEPP: Thank you.</p> <p>11 MR. CHANEY: Thank you for your time.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Anybody else like to 13 come on up? Okay. Nothing tonight? Nothing.</p> <p>14 MR. RIGGIN: Next week.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Got you.</p> <p>16 MR. RIGGIN: Thank you.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: You're welcome.</p> <p>18 Okay. Council comments. I guess I'll 19 start off with Mr. Stepp over here.</p> <p>20 How are we? Good?</p> <p>21 MR. STEPP: Pretty quiet today.</p>	<p>1 age, and so many in this community are going to 2 feel this loss.</p> <p>3 Our sincerest condolences go out to the 4 Hiner family.</p> <p>5 I have a second item here, which is that 6 last month, for September, 2,145 Talbot County 7 households with nearly 3,700 individuals, 8 including almost 1,500 children, this is 9 approximately ten percent of our county's 10 entire population, received an aggregate of 11 \$606,289.84 in SNAP benefits.</p> <p>12 This is a topic that came up earlier in 13 this meeting.</p> <p>14 As a consequence of the dysfunction of 15 Congress and the administration, all of these 16 Talbot County residents are at risk of losing 17 this support. And our food banks, the Talbot 18 County Public Schools, CarePacks, Brookletts 19 Place, and other local organizations are 20 bracing for the impact, which undoubtedly they 21 cannot fully backfill.</p>

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<p>1 At the same time, they are anticipating</p> <p>2 the needs of furloughed federal employees and</p> <p>3 contractors. They are in Talbot County, too,</p> <p>4 two of them in Easton that I know who are</p> <p>5 personally stretched thin.</p> <p>6 These consequences will be felt by our</p> <p>7 neighbors. And indeed, some of them already</p> <p>8 feel them.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>10 MS. MIELKE: That's a hard act to follow.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: That was tough. Yeah,</p> <p>12 yeah.</p> <p>13 MS. MIELKE: Just Happy Halloween,</p> <p>14 everybody.</p> <p>15 And be sure to check out Nace's Day.</p> <p>16 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup, yup.</p> <p>17 MS. HAYTHE: Well, first, I want to give a</p> <p>18 shout-out to our Talbot County government</p> <p>19 volleyball team that plays their first game</p> <p>20 tonight at Park & Rec at the gym. So that's</p> <p>21 exciting. So I wanted to give that shout-out.</p>	<p>1 our heads together to see what type of</p> <p>2 resources we can start to bring to the</p> <p>3 forefront for our federal workers specifically</p> <p>4 that live right here in Talbot County because I</p> <p>5 do believe we have to take care of our own</p> <p>6 first and foremost.</p> <p>7 So with that, God bless everybody and have</p> <p>8 a wonderful rest of your week.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. And I'll just</p> <p>10 comment, too, on Mike Hiner with Willow, too.</p> <p>11 He's a special man, special family, pillar of</p> <p>12 the community, like Pete was saying. He meant</p> <p>13 so much to the community. That's for sure.</p> <p>14 Not only that. He meant a lot to us as</p> <p>15 West & Callahan, too, because we worked</p> <p>16 together. We shared work together.</p> <p>17 And the other special thing is I knew his</p> <p>18 father very well, and I worked with his father.</p> <p>19 He was a draftsman, and I worked with him in</p> <p>20 the '80s, so him and his mom.</p> <p>21 So very close family, very beautiful</p>
Page 67	Page 69
<p>1 But second, certainly echo what Councilman</p> <p>2 Leshner said about Mike Hiner. He was supposed</p> <p>3 to be at our groundbreaking ceremony last week</p> <p>4 when I got the news that he had passed away.</p> <p>5 And that would have been our second</p> <p>6 construction project together.</p> <p>7 So it really touched me at that event</p> <p>8 because Mike was truly a kind and humble being.</p> <p>9 And we could learn a lot from him.</p> <p>10 But to also piggyback off of what</p> <p>11 Councilman Leshner said about SNAP benefits.</p> <p>12 Our community is going to feel that sooner</p> <p>13 rather than later.</p> <p>14 And also, I would like Council to consider</p> <p>15 if there is anything that we can collectively</p> <p>16 do in response to that. But also, federal</p> <p>17 workers. Because we have federal workers right</p> <p>18 here in Talbot County that have reached out and</p> <p>19 they're not getting paid. They are being</p> <p>20 furloughed and they're not getting a pay check.</p> <p>21 So I would really like us to really try and put</p>	<p>1 family, and my heart goes out to them. But I</p> <p>2 really appreciate the time we spent together</p> <p>3 and worked together.</p> <p>4 So the other thing is I really want to</p> <p>5 congratulate Keasha because Thursday was a</p> <p>6 special day for you for the groundbreaking.</p> <p>7 And you did a great job. We had a lot of</p> <p>8 phenomenal people there. You had the first</p> <p>9 lady there, you know. So that took a little</p> <p>10 bit of something to get her there, you know.</p> <p>11 MS. HAYTHE: Took some work.</p> <p>12 MR. CALLAHAN: It did. And you know I'm</p> <p>13 proud of you.</p> <p>14 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you.</p> <p>15 MR. CALLAHAN: And I appreciate you asking</p> <p>16 me to say a few words. And it was fun.</p> <p>17 And I want to wish you luck. And you're</p> <p>18 going to be, definitely going to be leading a</p> <p>19 lot of things because you got a little niche,</p> <p>20 that's for sure, helping them young ladies.</p> <p>21 So I'm proud of what you're doing, and</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p> <p>1 you're going to do good work.</p> <p>2 MS. HAYTHE: Thank you.</p> <p>3 MR. CALLAHAN: That's for sure in the</p> <p>4 future. And I appreciate that.</p> <p>5 MS. HAYTHE: Well, thank you for coming,</p> <p>6 Councilman Stepp, Councilman Mielke. Pete</p> <p>7 couldn't be with us. But thank you, all, for</p> <p>8 attending. I greatly appreciate that.</p> <p>9 MR. CALLAHAN: Yeah.</p> <p>10 MS. MIELKE: Great event.</p> <p>11 MR. CALLAHAN: Yup. It was awesome.</p> <p>12 So other than that, Pete, last word.</p> <p>13 MR. LESHER: The County Council's next</p> <p>14 meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 4th,</p> <p>15 which has been declared a special legislative</p> <p>16 day, beginning at 5 o'clock p.m. The Council</p> <p>17 will be convening in open session at 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>18 and then adjourning into closed session, as</p> <p>19 listed on the statement for closing that</p> <p>20 meeting.</p> <p>21 Therefore, is there a motion to adjourn</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p> <p>1 STATE OF MARYLAND</p> <p>2 I, Diane Houlihan, a Notary Public in and</p> <p>3 for the State of Maryland, County of Talbot, do</p> <p>4 hereby certify that the within named, Talbot County</p> <p>5 Council Audio, personally appeared before me at the</p> <p>6 time and place herein set according to law, was</p> <p>7 interrogated by counsel.</p> <p>8</p> <p>9 I further certify that the examination was</p> <p>10 recorded stenographically by me and then transcribed</p> <p>11 from my stenographic notes to the within printed</p> <p>12 matter by means of computer-assisted transcription</p> <p>13 in a true and accurate manner.</p> <p>14</p> <p>15 I further certify that the stipulations</p> <p>16 contained herein were entered into by counsel in my</p> <p>17 presence.</p> <p>18</p> <p>19 I further certify that I am not of counsel</p> <p>20 to any of the parties, not an employee of counsel,</p> <p>21 nor related to any of the parties, nor in any way</p> <p>interested in the outcome of this action.</p> <p>AS WITNESS my hand Notorial Seal this 3rd</p> <p>day of Novemb 2025</p> <p></p> <p>Diane Houlihan</p> <p>Notary Public</p> <p>My commission expires September 16, 2029</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p> <p>1 this meeting and reconvene as noted?</p> <p>2 MS. HAYTHE: So moved.</p> <p>3 MS. MIELKE: Second.</p> <p>4 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. Got a motion and</p> <p>5 second. Madam Secretary, could you call the</p> <p>6 vote.</p> <p>7 SECRETARY: Mr. Callahan.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Aye.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY: Mr. Stepp.</p> <p>10 MR. STEPP: Aye.</p> <p>11 SECRETARY: Mr. Leshner.</p> <p>12 MR. LESHNER: Aye.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY: Ms. Mielke.</p> <p>14 MS. MIELKE: Aye.</p> <p>15 SECRETARY: Ms. Haythe.</p> <p>16 MS. HAYTHE: Aye.</p> <p>17 MR. CALLAHAN: Okay. I appreciate</p> <p>18 everybody being here tonight. Thanks a lot.</p> <p>19 See you soon.</p> <p>20 (Meeting concluded at: 6:04 p.m.)</p> <p>21</p>	

[& - accommodation]

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[accomplished - appreciate]

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