

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Thursday June 4, 2020

The special meeting of the County Commissioners was convened virtually at 11:00 a.m. with the following persons in attendance:

Reuben B. Collins II, Esq., President, County Commissioner
Bobby Rucci, Vice President, County Commissioner
Gilbert O. Bowling, III, County Commissioner
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S., County Commissioner
Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed., County Commissioner
Mark Belton, County Administrator
Wesley Adams, County Attorney
Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

Call to Order/Pledge

Commissioner Collins called the meeting to order, and Commissioner Stewart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

A roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present.

Follow-Up Discussion: Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Federal CARES Act

Ms. Dina Barclay, Director; Ms. Rita Wood, Housing Authority Chief; and Ms. Patricia King, Community Development Administrator, Department of Community Services and Mr. Michael Bellis, Executive Director, United Way of Charles County joined the Commissioners to review the request to approve the Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Federal CARES Act for emergency rental assistance program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve Resolution 2020-15 for the Charles County's application for the Community Development Block Grant funds.

Closed Session

At 9:14 a.m., motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to move into Closed Session where all or a portion of this session may be closed pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to seek legal advice on Governor Hogan's directives.

Summary Closed Session Items

At 9:16 a.m. the Commissioners went into virtual closed session.

3-305(b)(7) Legal: Discuss Legal Options on Governor Hogan's Expanded phase One Directives

Present: Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, Coates, and Stewart, Mark Belton, Wes Adams, and Carol DeSoto.

Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney, reviewed the June 3, 2020 "Order of the Governor of the State of

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Maryland Number 20-06-03-01 Amending and Restating the Order of May 27, 2020, Allowing Reopening of Certain Businesses and Facilities Subject to Local Regulation.

At 9:56 a.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to end Closed Session.

At 10:08 a.m. the Commissioners returned to virtual open session.

Discussion: Opening Charles County Within Parameters of Governor Hogan's Executive Order to Move into Phase Two of "Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery"

Dr. Howard Haft, Executive Director, Maryland Primary Care Program, Maryland Department of Health; Ms. Michelle Lilly, Director, Department of Emergency Services; and Mr. Thomas Blanford, Chair, Charles County Chamber of Commerce, joined the Commissioners to discuss implementing Governor Hogan's expanded phase two guidelines of "Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery."

Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney, reviewed Governor Hogan's expanded order for allowing reopening of certain businesses and facilities subject to local regulation and the interpretive guide.

Dr. Haft and Ms. Lilly both indicated that the overall numbers of COVID cases was down and that they will continue to monitor the situation with the gradual reopening of businesses and activities.

Mr. Blanford shared a statement from the Charles County Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce, and the Business Associations from La Plata, Indian Head and the Western County indicating that businesses were ready to continue to reopen safely and responsibly within the updated framework.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adopt Governor Hogan's June 3rd executive order which further permits new establishments to open subject to certain restrictions as of 5:00 pm on June 5th. pursuant to that order - all restrictions in place, unless otherwise removed, remain in effect under this proposed order. The major changes allow retail establishments to open to fifty percent (50%) capacity, manufacturing business and facilities can open to one hundred percent (100%) staffing, certain personal services - tattoo parlors, tanning salons, massage parlors and nail services can reopen subject to the following: mask requirements for all staff and patrons, on appointment basis, at fifty percent (50%) capacity and with mandatory cleaning and disinfecting in between services.

At 10:35 a.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adjourn.



Carol A. DeSoto, Acting Clerk



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

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FORM OF STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING

Location: Virtual

Date: June 4, 2020

Time: 9:14 a.m.

Motion By: Commissioner Bowling

Seconded By: Commissioner Rucci

Vote to Close Session:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq.	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Gilbert O. Bowling, III.	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Amanda Stewart, M.Ed.	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Bobby Rucci	[X]	[]	[]	[]

STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CLOSE SESSION

General Provisions Article §3--305(b):

(1) To discuss:

(i) The appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or

(ii) Any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

(2) To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals with respect to a matter that is not related to public business.

(3) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

(4) To consider a preliminary matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State.

(5) To consider the investment of public funds.

(6) To consider the marketing of public securities.

(7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

(8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

(9) To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations.

(10) To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussions would constitute a risk to the public or public security, including:

(i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and

(ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans.

FORM OF STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING

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(11) To prepare, administer or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination.

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(12) [] To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct.

(13) [] To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.

(14) [] Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, discuss a matter directly related to a negotiation strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

3-305(b)(7) Legal: Options Governor Hogan's Directives

REASON FOR CLOSING: To keep legal advice



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President