

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners

Tuesday September 22, 2020

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened virtually at 1:03 p.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 Bowling led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

A roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present.

Comments

There were no comments made.

Charles County Health Department Update: Coronavirus/COVID-19

Dr. Dianna Abney, Health Officer, Charles County Department of Health, provided an update on COVID-19 statistics. Dr. Abney encouraged the public to get tested through their medical provider, urgent care center, local pharmacy, or Waldorf Vehicle Emission Inspection Program (VEIP) station where residents can schedule an appointment online. Testing will end at the Waldorf VEIP station on Tuesday, Sept. 29. Starting Tuesday, Oct. 6, testing will be available at the Regency Furniture Stadium. The Department of Health is also offering personal protective equipment (PPE) for local businesses; businesses can request PPE by filling out the online form. Residents were also encouraged to get their annual flu shot.

Closed Session

At 1:09 p.m., motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to move into Close Session where all or a portion of this session may be closed pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(4)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to seek legal advice on potential land acquisitions and on one (1) issue related to a negotiation. The reason for going into closed is to keep legal approaches and strategies confidential.

Summary Closed Session Items

At 1:12 p.m. the Commissioners went into virtual closed session.

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday September 22, 2020

3-305(b)(3)(7): Potential Land Acquisitions

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

Mr. Charles, Assistant Chief of Planning, Department of Planning and Growth Management, reviewed applications for the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to proceed with the purchase of option contracts as presented.

3-305(b)(7) Legal: Union Negotiation

Present: Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, Coates and Stewart, Mark Belton, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, Deborah Hal, Alexis Blackwell, Megan Donnick, Jake Dyer and Eric Paltell

Mr. Eric Paltell, Attorney, provided an update on contract negotiations and staff recommendations.

The consensus of the Commissioners was to proceed as staff recommended and approve the necessary budget transfers as outlined.

At 1:39 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to end Closed Session.

At 2:02 p.m. the Commissioners returned to virtual open session

Roll Call

A roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present.

Approval of the Minutes of September 1, 2, 15, 2020

A motion was made Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of September 1, 2020.

A motion was made Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of September 2, 2020.

A motion was made Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of September 15, 2020.

Announcement: Next Commissioner Session will be held September 29, 2020

Ms. Carol DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners, announced that the next scheduled session was on September 29, 2020.

Approval Items

FY2021 Budget Transfer Request #8197 Charitable Trust

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2021 Budget Transfer request #8197 for seventy five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00).

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday September 22, 2020

FY2021 Budget Transfer Request #8200 Operating Budget

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, second by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2021 Budget transfer Request for #8200 for one million five hundred and forty seven thousand seven hundred dollars (\$1,547,700.00).

FY2021 Contingency Transfer Request #8202 Classification and Compensation Study

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present voting in favor to approve FY2021 Contingency Transfer Request #8202 for five hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars (\$535, 000.00).

Acknowledgment Letter- Agricultural Deer Cooperator Permit Request for Shlagel Farms

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the acknowledgment letter.

Update and Request for Approval: Charles County Government CARES Act Funding

Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Director, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services, provided an update on the County's CARES Act funding. She explained that she is working with Department of Social Services and COVID-19 Collaborative to assist families facing eviction. She is also working with the Charitable Trust to get needed documents to be a subrecipient for the federal funds. She is also working with them guiding them on revising their current application to use the additional CARES Act funding to help nonprofits cover operating costs.

The consensus of the Commissioners was to have staff continue working with the Charitable Trust to move forward.

Commissioners' New Business

There was no new business discussed.

**Break 2:24 p.m. – 3:03 p.m.*

Annual Maryland Department of Transportation Consolidated Transportation Program Tour

Mr. Greg Slater, Secretary Maryland Department Transportation and other State of Maryland transportation officials met with the Commissioners virtually as part of the State's Annual Transportation Tour to brief local jurisdictions on the state of Maryland's transportation program (CTP), and capital budget. They discussed transportation priorities and the impact of COVID-19 on construction, road maintenance, and traffic patterns. They talked about specific requests to bring light rail transit to Southern Maryland; traffic impacts related to the Governor Harry W. Nice/Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton bridge; improving traffic light coordination along major corridors leading into Charles County and within important intersections within Charles County; and projects that improve pedestrian and bicycle safety.

**Break 4:42 p.m. – 6:01 p.m.*

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday September 22, 2020

Public Hearing: Bryans Road Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc. Bond Issue for Engine 112 Replacement

The Commissioners conducted a virtual public hearing on the Bryans Road Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc issuances of bonds. Mr. Rudolf Carrico, Attorney, reviewed the proposed resolution for the issuance of bonds.

There were no public comments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to close the record.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to close this public hearing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve Resolution 2020-27 Issuance of Bonds by the Bryans Road Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc.

At 6:05 p.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adjourn.



Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday September 22, 2020

FORM OF STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING

Location: Virtual

Date: September 22, 2020

Time: 1:09 p.m.

Motion By: Commissioner Rucci

Seconded By: Commissioner Bowling

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.

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday September 22, 2020

FORM OF STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING
Appendix C C-2

- (11) [] To prepare, administer or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination.
- (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)(3)(7) Legal Advice: Potential Land Acquisitions

REASON FOR CLOSING: To keep legal approaches confidential

3-305 (b)(1)(7) Legal Advice: Negotiation

REASON FOR CLOSING: To keep legal approaches confidential



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President