

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Wednesday November 11, 2020

The special meeting of the County Commissioners was convened virtually at 1:47 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.

Closed Session

At 1:49 p.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 New Executive orders related to COVID-19.

Summary Closed Session Items

At 1:52 p.m. the Commissioners went into virtual closed session.

3-305(b)(7) Legal: On Governor Hogan's New Executive Orders Related to COVID-19

Present: Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, Coates, and Stewart, Mark Belton, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, Michelle Lilly, and Dr. Dianna Abney.

Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney, reviewed the November 10, 2020 "Order of the Governor of the State of Maryland Number 20-11-10-01 Amending and Restating the Order of May 27, 2020, Allowing Reopening of Certain Businesses and Facilities Subject to Local Regulation."

Dr. Dianna Abney, Health Officer, Charles County Department of Health, discussed potential recommendations.

At 2:48 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to end Closed Session.

At 2:50 p.m. the Commissioners returned to virtual open session.

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Discussion: Governor Hogan's New Executive Orders and COVID-19 Update

Dr. Dianna Abney, Health Officer, Charles County Department of Health; Ms. Michelle Lilly, Director, Department of Emergency Services; Mr. Thomas Blandford, Chair, Ms. Bonnie Grady, President, Charles County Chamber of Commerce; Mr. William Grimes, Vice President for Ancillary Services/Hospital Incident Commander and Ms. Stacey Cook, Vice President, Human Resources, University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center; and Mr. Carlos Sanieel, Mall Manager, St. Charles Towne Center, joined the Commissioners as they discussed Governor Hogan's new executive orders related to COVID-19.

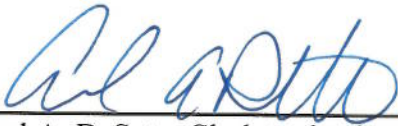
Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney, reviewed Governor Hogan's new orders for allowing reopening of certain businesses and facilities subject to local regulation and the interpretive guide.

Ms. Lilly reviewed Charles County statistics indicating an increase in COVID positive numbers. Dr Abney reviewed her recommendations which included prohibiting more than one hundred (100) persons at outdoor gatherings and mandating limiting indoor gatherings to twenty-five (25) people or less.

The Commissioners agreed to invite local legal and law enforcement officials to the November 17, 2020 session to discuss how enforcement of the Governor's directives is handled.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adhere to Governor Hogan's amended order 20.11.10.01 and revisit the potential additional restrictions until next week at the November 17, 2020 session.

At 3:29 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adjourn.



Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

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FORM OF STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING

Location: Virtual

Date: November 11, 2020

Time: 1:49 p.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.

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(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)(7) Legal Advice: On Governor's New Executive orders related to COVID-19

REASON FOR CLOSING: To seek legal advice



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President