

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday March 30, 2022

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened in hybrid format, virtually and in person, at 3:36 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
Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed., County Commissioner
Mark Belton, County Administrator
Deborah Hall, Deputy County Administrator
Wesley Adams, County Attorney
Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

**Thomasina O. Coates, M.S., County Commissioner, was absent*

At 10:00 a.m. the Commissioners attended the Reopening Ribbon Cutting Gilbert Run Park Boardwalk.

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. Commissioners Bowling, Rucci, and Collins were present. **Commissioners Coates and Stewart were not present.*

**Commissioner Stewart joined session at 4:30 p.m.*

Comments

There were no comments.

Discussion: Charles County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council-Administering Pretrial Services

Honorable H. James West, Circuit Court Administrative Judge; Honorable Andrea Watkins, District Court Judge, and Ms. Deborah Zriorka, Court Administrator, Charles County Circuit Court; Director Brandon Foster, Corrections, Charles County Sheriff's Office; Mr. Anthony Covington, States Attorney, Charles County States Attorney's Office; and Ms. Kathryn Batey, Deputy District Public Defender, Charles County Office of Public Defender, provided an update on the Charles County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CCJCC) proposal to create a pretrial services program in Charles County. Judge West explained that the CCJCC recommends having a neutral agency conduct evaluations using a best-practices risk evaluation tool and make recommendations to the Court regarding pre-trial release. Because the Charles County Detention Center is a part of the Sheriff's Office, the CCJCC did not think it was favorable for the same agency that is law enforcement to also provide recommendations to the court, as it would be a conflict of interest. Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney, suggested creating a county department of corrections that would handle these services. CCJCC recommends a model that includes keeping the County detention center housed within the Sheriff's Office, and that the County oversees the Pretrial Service program under a county office.

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday March 30, 2022

County Administrator Mark Belton mentioned that County staff are working with the Sheriff's Office on the financial requirements of this program should the local legislation be passed.

Discussion: Board of Elections Polling Site Requirements

Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Associate County Attorney II, Mr. Craig Renner, President, Board of Supervisors, and Ms. Tracy Dickerson, Director II, Charles County Board of Elections, joined the Commissioners to discuss the newly passed legislation related to State polling site requirements. Ms. Mitchell provided a brief overview of House Bill 35/ Senate Bill 158 and its impact on the Charles County Board of Elections. Mr. Renner and Ms. Dickerson provided information on the continued decline in election judge interest, expanding polling locations as required by this new law, the addition of a third early voting site, and additional voting by mail option. The Board of Elections will provide updated information to County Commissioners on additional polling sites and additional resources needed.

Mr. Mark Belton, County Administrator, would help promote and encourage employees to consider helping with the election.

Briefing: Resources for GenOn Coal Units Displaced Workers

Ms. Kelly Robertson-Slagle, Director, Department of Economic Development, and Ms. Ruthy Davis, Director, Regional Workforce and Business Development, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, provided a presentation on the resources for GenOn Coal Units Closing. The presentation highlighted the opportunities given to affected employees including unemployment insurance, health insurance options, and reemployment resources.

****TO BE RESCHEDULED** Update: Commissioners' Goals and Objectives- Goal 3: Environment**

Commissioners' New Business

There was no new business discussed.

**Break 5:27 p.m.-6:07 p.m.*

Roll Call

A roll call was taken. Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Rucci and Collins were present.

**Commissioner Coates was not present.*

Board of County Commissioners First Quarter Town Hall Meeting

The Commissioners conducted their Quarterly Town Hall Meeting in a hybrid format, virtually and in person. Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, and Stewart, were present to address community questions, as well as Mr. Mark Belton, County Administrator and Ms. Deborah Hall, Deputy County Administrator, and the following Directors and designees:

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday March 30, 2022

Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Director, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services
Ms. Deborah Carpenter, Director, Department of Planning and Growth Management
Mr. Bernard Cochran, Acting Director, Department of Public Works
Ms. Michelle Lilly, Director, Department of Emergency Services
Ms. Kelli Beavers, Director, Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism
Ms. Dina Barclay, Director, Department of Community Services
Ms. Alexis Blackwell, Director, Department of Human Resources
Mr. Kelly Robertson-Slagle, Director, Department of Economic Development
Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney
Mr. Jason Groth, Deputy Director, Department of Planning and Growth Management

Commissioner Collins provided a welcoming remarks. Ms. Carol DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners, reviewed the format for the town hall meeting. Ms. Julie Bryson, Assistant Chief of Staff, read the questions and comments submitted online. Questions were answered by the Commissioners or by the appropriate director in attendance.

At 8:16 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Rucci, Bowling, Stewart, and Collins present, voting in favor to adjourn.
**Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.*



Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President