

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday May 24, 2022 (Legislative Day)

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened in hybrid format, virtually and in person, at 9:13 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 was absent
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

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor make May 24 and May 25, 2022 Legislative Days.

Recognition: 2022 National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award Winner in the Arts, Culture and Historic Preservation Category-"Deep Roots & Many Branches: The African American Experience in Charles County"

The Commissioners recognized Charles County Government staff and participants for the 2022 National Association of Counties Achievement Award in the Arts, Culture and Historic Preservation Category for the "Deep Roots & Many Branches: The African American Experience in Charles County" documentary series. The National Association of Counties Achievement Award recognizes innovative county government programs.

The Commissioners also recognized Charles County Government Television staff for being a two-time recognized winner at the 43rd Annual Telly Awards. The Telly Awards showcases the best work created within television and across video, for all screens which honors excellence in video and television. The "Blue Jay Motel" video is the silver Telly Award winner in Non-Broadcast – History. The "Village of Pomonkey" video is a bronze Telly award winner for Non-broadcast – Documentary.

Monthly Charles County Health Department Update: Coronavirus/COVID-19

Dr. Dianna Abney, Health Officer, Charles County Department of Health; Ms. Michelle Lilly, Director, Department of Emergency Services; Ms. Jennifer Harris, Chief of Media Services, Office of the County Administrator; and Mr. Jason Stoddard, Director of Safety, Charles County Public Schools.

Dr. Abney reviewed the current COVID cases and stated that Charles County was in the MEDIUM Community Transmission Level and that masks should be worn if you are at high risk for severe illness, have symptoms, test positive, or were exposed to COVID-19. You should also wear mask on

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public transportation. Wearing a mask in public, indoor settings is based on personal choice. She reviewed the positivity rate which was nine-point six percent (9.6%). The case rate per one hundred thousand (100,000) was thirty-eight point four one (38.41) She reviewed death statistics, hospitalization trends, and post-vaccination infection data. Dr. Abney shared information on the Omicron variant. She shared vaccination data and reviewed information on COVID-19 booster doses and the timeline to receive them as well as the Charles County booster percentages. Dr. Abney explained who may need two (2) boosters and when they should be given. She also reviewed vaccination and testing site's locations and times. She also discussed the distribution of at home test kits and KN95 masks.

Ms. Lilly shared the statistics for the EMS COVID positive transports for the month of May, which were nineteen (19).

Ms. Harris indicated that the County's communication efforts is focused on supporting the Health Department.

Mr. Stoddard shared that the number of COVID cases. He reviewed the schools' COVID-19 contact tracing process, weekly screening program, and case statistics.

Bi-Annual Update: Charles County Health Department

Dr. Dianna Abney, Health Officer, Charles County Department of Health, provided an update on the activities of the Department of Health. The Department of Health is continuing to monitor COVID-19 data and providing vaccinations and testing for COVID-19 in different regions of the County. The department has experienced a decline in staffing over the last few years and are actively recruiting for many positions such as behavioral health clinicians and nurses. Normal operations continue for many of the clinics including reproductive health, HIV testing, and dental. Improvements are being made to office spaces such as Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the Behavioral Health suite to make them more welcoming spaces. Despite the continued challenges with the Maryland Department of Health's network security incident, the Division of Environmental Health is conducting many of its routine operations including inspections of food establishments, septic systems, beaches, and public pools. The Chronic Disease Program is busy working with local dental practices to screen for obesity in children and adults, providing inclusive programming for people of all abilities, distributing local produce boxes to community organizations and food pantries, developing a local food security committee, providing evidence-based programming include the Diabetes Prevention Program and the Living Well Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, implementing the Healthy Heart Ambassador Program in conjunction with faith-based and community organizations, distributing blood pressure monitors, and offering free cooking and movement classes.

At 9:47 a.m. Commissioner Rueci left session.

Commissioner Stewart requested that Dr. Abney work with the Board of Education about keeping tracks open at the schools for community access and work with media and the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism about facilities for people with special needs.

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Commissioner Bowling requested that the health department look into having a clinic in the Cobb Neck area.

Commissioner Collins requested more information and statistics on the Equity Emphasis Areas in the next update and how the health department is responding to meet the needs in these areas.

Approval of the Minutes of May 17 and May 18, 2022

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Collins present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of May 17, 2022. **Commissioner Rucci was not present for the vote.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Collins present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of May 18, 2022. **Commissioner Rucci was not present for the vote.*

Announcement: Next Commissioners' Session(s) are Scheduled for May 25, and June 7 and June 8, 2022

Ms. Carol DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners, announced that the next Commissioners' sessions are scheduled for May 25, 2022 for a public hearing on Zoning Map Amendment 21-01 Moreland Property and a public hearing on the Septic Tier Map-Newburg. The next sessions are also scheduled for June 7 and June 8, 2022.

Approval Items

FY2022 Budget Transfer Request #9989 Synagro Sludge Disposal Increase

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Collins present, voting in favor to approve FY2022 Budget Transfer Request #9989 for two hundred and two thousand dollars (\$202,000.00). **Commissioner Rucci was not present for the vote.*

FY2022 Budget Transfer Request #9990 Administrative Costs Satellite Water Facility Upgrade

A motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Collins present, voting in favor to approve FY2022 Budget Transfer Request #9990 for one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000.00). **Commissioner Rucci was not present for the vote.*

FY2022 Budget Transfer Request #9991 Administrative Costs Pump Stations Rehabilitation Replacement Projects

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Collins present, voting in favor to approve FY2022 Budget Transfer Request #9991 for one hundred and fifteen thousand dollars (\$115,000.00). **Commissioner Rucci was not present for the vote.*

Revise the Commissioners' Session Schedule for June 2022

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with

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Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Collins present, voting in favor to approve not having session on June 21 and June 22, 2022 and to schedule sessions for June 28 and June 29, 2022.

Briefing and Request to Introduce: Bill 2022-06 Adequate Public Facilities 2022 Manual Update to Traffic Section

Mr. Jason Groth, Deputy Director, and Mr. Ben Yeckley, Planner III, Department of Planning and Growth Management, explained that this Bill would amend the zoning code so that traffic impact study processes and ensure consistency within the Adequate Public Facilities Manual. This addresses specifically how developers handle traffic studies for new development, commercial or residential.

Commissioner Stewart did not feel this is ready for public hearing and doesn't agree with the trip calculation rate. She believes that morning, evening and weekend trips should be required.

A motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates and Collins voting in favor to introduce Bill 2022-06. Commissioner Stewart was opposed. **Commissioner Rucci was absent for the vote.* A roll call of the vote began to be taken: Commissioner Bowling-yes; Commissioner Coates-yes; Commissioner Stewart -no with comment that revisions should be before the public hearing. The roll of this vote was not completed.

Commissioner Collins asked if we could adjust the motion to include a work session prior to the public hearing. Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney, clarified that a work session could take place prior to public hearing and changes can be made to proposed Bill if needed. The amended Bill would be presented at the public hearing for public comments.

Commissioner Coates withdrew her motion and Commissioner Bowling withdrew his second.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Collins present, voting in favor to Bill 2022-06 Adequate Public Facilities 2022 Manual Update to Traffic Section and schedule a work session prior to the public hearing. **Commissioner Rucci was absent for the vote.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Collins present, voting in favor to schedule the public hearing on Wednesday June 29, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Government Building using a hybrid format. **Commissioner Rucci was absent for the vote.*

The work session on this Bill will be scheduled for June 7, 2022.

**Break 10:41 a.m. – 10:54 a.m.*

**At 10:54 a.m. Commissioner Rucci returned to session.*

Roll Call

A roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present.

Update: Commissioners' Goals and Objectives- Goal 5: Quality of Life

Ms. Michelle Lilly, Director, Mr. Tony Rose, Deputy Director, Department of Emergency Services;

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Ms. Kelli Beavers, Director, Mr. Sam Drury, Chief of Recreation, Mr. Tim Drummond, Chief of Parks, Ms. Ashley Chenault, Chief of Tourism, Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism; Mr. Martin Proulx, Agricultural Development Manager, Department of Economic Development; Ms. Dina Barclay, Director, Department of Community Services; and Mr. Jim Campbell, Planning Director, Department of Planning and Growth Management, provided an update on Goal 5: Quality of Life of the Commissioners' Goals and Objectives. Highlights included the transition to Next Generation 9-1-1 and public safety radio system; Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program; recreation offerings; parks and amenities, including the new Gilbert Run Boardwalk and two (2) synthetic multi-purpose athletic fields; sales tax from lodging, restaurants, and recreation and amusement; agritourism updates; Housing Authority's request for additional mainstream vouchers; housing stability efforts, homeownership program, and settlement expense loan program; and the Affordable Housing Workgroup.

Bi-Monthly Update: Western Parkway Roadway Improvements

Mr. John Stevens, Chief of Capital Services, and Mr. Brian Kagarise, Senior Project Manager, Department of Public Works; Mr. Jason Groth, Deputy Director, Department of Planning Growth Management, provided an update on Western Parkway Phase Three (3) road improvements from Pierce Road to U.S. Route 301. Phase 3A-1 and Phase 3A-2 are complete, Phase 3A-3 is in the design phase and ninety-five (95) percent complete, and Phase B is also in the design phase and is ninety (90) percent complete.

The Commissioners directed staff to contact G.S. Proctor, the County's lobbyist to collaborate with Greenburg Gibbons to work with the State to get the additional thirteen (13) million dollars funding needed for this project in addition to reminding the Federal representatives about this project.

Discussion: House Bill 1433 State Highways-Designations- Piscataway Highway

Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Associate County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney, reviewed House Bill 1433 State Highways-Designations-Piscataway Highway. Ms. Mitchell indicated that Bill sponsors were seeking Maryland Route 210 to be renamed as Piscataway Highway, but Maryland Department of Transportation's letter interprets the Bill as a designation. A designation does not change mailing addresses, Google Maps, emergency and other government mapping systems, and other legal or real estate documents.

Commissioner's New Business

Commissioner Bowling, proposed revisiting a revitalizing community effort, such as a Strong Neighborhoods Initiative. The Commissioners recommended considering equity as a part of this effort.

The Commissioners directed Mr. Mark Belton, County Administrator, to have staff research similar programs in other jurisdictions, look at cost and operation requirements and present program options in September.

Closed Session

At 12:36 p.m., Commissioner Stewart made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rucci 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)(1)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to review vacancies on Commissioner Appointed Boards and Commissions. The reason for going into closed is to keep personnel information confidential.

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Summary Closed Session Items

At 12:43 p.m. the Commissioners went into virtual closed session.

3-305(b)(1)(7) Review Appointments for Commissioner Appointed Boards and Commissions

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

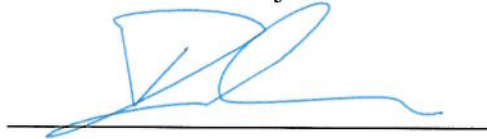
Ms. Kenberly Stephens, Commissioner Specialist, reviewed the appointment for Chairperson of the Planning Commission.

The Commissioners reached an agreement, and the official action will take place in open session on June 7, 2022.

At 12:55 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to end this close session and 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: Hybrid- In Person/Virtual- MS Teams

Date: May 24, 2022

Time: 12:36 p.m.

Motion By: Commissioner Stewart

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) [X] 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) [X] 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)(1) Review Vacancies on Commissioner Appointed Boards and Commissions

REASON FOR CLOSING: Keep personnel information confidential.



Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

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