

**Regular Meeting of County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday September 13, 2022 (Legislative Day)**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened in hybrid format, virtually and in person, at 9:21 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  
Wes Adams, County Attorney  
Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

**Call to Order/Pledge**

Commissioner Collins called the meeting to order and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

A roll call was taken. All the Commissioners were present.

**Announcement of Charles County Proclamations for September 2022**

2022-52 National Preparedness Month  
2022-53 National Hispanic Heritage Month  
2022-54 National Recovery Month  
2022-55 National Suicide Prevention Week  
2022-56 Direct Support Professionals' Week  
2022-57 Constitution Week  
2022-58 Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympic Day  
2022-59 Car Free Day  
2022-60 Diaper Need Awareness Week

Members from Charles County Sheriff's Office joined the Commissioners to receive proclamation 2022-58 Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Day. Members from the Hispanic Business community also joined the Commissioners to receive proclamation 2022-53 National Hispanic Heritage Month.

**Comments**

Commissioner Collins welcomed everyone back from the August break.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to make September 13 and 14, 2022 Legislative Days.

**Approval of the Minutes of July 26 and July 27, 2022**

A motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of July 26, 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of July 27, 2022.

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**Announcement: Next Commissioner Session(s) are Scheduled for September 20 and 21, 2022.**

**Reminder: September 14 Public Hearing on 2023 Legislative Proposals**

Ms. Carol DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners, announced that the next Commissioners' sessions are scheduled for September 20 and 21, 2022 and provided a reminder that on Wednesday September 14 there will be a Public Hearing on the Preliminary 2023 Legislative proposals.

**Approval Items**

*FY2023 Budget Amendment Increase #755 Landfill Capital Carryover*

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2023 Budget Amendment Increase #755 for seven hundred and forty-eight thousand and nine hundred and twenty dollars (\$748,920.00).

*FY2023 Budget Amendment Increase #783 Environmental Service Enterprise Capital Carryover*

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2023 Budget Amendment Increase #783 for seventy-five thousand three hundred and eighty dollars (\$75,380.00).

*FY2023 Budget Transfer Request #699 TMDL Stormwater Management Implementation Plan*

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2023 Budget Transfer Request #699.

*FY2023 Budget Transfer Request #75 Smallwood Middle School Project*

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2023 Budget Transfer request #75 Smallwood Middle School Project for one hundred and eighty-six thousand dollars (\$186,000.00).

*Letter: Deer Cooperator Permit Letter-Schlagel Farms*

A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve this letter of support.

*Commissioners' Initiatives Report for FY2022*

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve continuing these programs in FY2023 with budgeted amounts presented.

The Commissioners' reached a consensus to Commissioner Stewart's request to have the lights at the Charles County Court House be green during the week of November 7-13, 2022 to honor veterans and join other agencies in Operation Green Light.

*Charles County Department of Health Salary Supplement*

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the salary supplement as presented.

*FY2024 Budget Calendar*

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the FY2024 Budget Calendar.

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**Closed Session**

At 10:10 a.m., Commissioner Bowling made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Stewart 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 discuss a potential new business in the County and to review two (2) agreements. The reason for going into closed session is to keep strategies and negotiations confidential.

**Summary Closed Session Items**

At 10:23 a.m. the Commissioners went into closed session.

**3-305(b)(4)(7): Proposed New Business in the County**

Present Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling Coates, Stewart, Mark Belton, Deborah Hall, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, Kelly Robertson-Slagle, Taylor Yewell, Deborah Carpenter, and Jason Groth.

Staff provided an overview of a potential new business in the County.

The Commissioners directed staff to work with the developers to draft a proposed agreement. Staff was directed to bring back this proposed agreement and bring back specific additional information.

**3-305(b)(7) Review a Proposed Amendment to an Agreement**

Present Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, Coates, Stewart, Mark Belton, Deborah Hall, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, Jason Groth, Danielle Mitchell, Brian Gibbons, Kim Potember, Kelly Robertson-Slagle, Taylor Yewell, Eric DeVito, Debbie Carpenter.

Staff provided an update on an agreement and the recommended amendments.

The Consensus of the Commissioners was for staff to go forward with the changes and process as presented.

**3-305 (b)(7) Review Potential Agreement**

Present Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, Coates, Stewart, Mark Belton, Deborah Hall, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, Jason Groth, Jacob Dyer, Debbie Carpenter, Alicia Afroilan, Wilson Cochran.

Staff provided background a Power Point Presentation outlining three (3) potential options for this agreement.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve Option One (1) with amendments to include breakdown of all costs incurred.

The Commissioners' directed staff to provide an update in open session on October 4, 2022.

At 12:14 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.

At 3:00 p.m., the Commissioners returned to open session.

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**Discussion: Business Use Zoning for Route 925**

Ms. Deborah Carpenter, Director, and Mr. Jim Campbell, Planning Director, Department of Planning and Growth Management joined the Commissioners at the request of Commissioner Rucci, to discuss the zoning for properties along Maryland Route 925 in the Waldorf Urban Redevelopment Corridor (WURC).

Commissioner Collins recommended that staff have a policy in place to provide to these owners who request exceptions.

**Follow Up Work Session: Amendment to the 2016 Charles County Comprehensive Plan, Septic Tier Map, Newburg**

Mr. Charles Rice, Assistant Chief of Planning, and Mr. Joel Binkley, Planner III, Department of Planning and Growth Management, joined the Commissioners to discuss and review the proposed Amendment to the 2016 Charles County Comprehensive Plan, Septic Tier Map, Newburg.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to defer any changes to the Septic Tier map until after the Newburg Sub Area Plan process has been completed.

**Request to Introduce and Schedule a Public Hearing: Bill 2022-( ) County Commissioner Elections**

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, and Rucci present, voting in favor to introduce Bill 2022-08 County Commissioners Election with an amendment to require a one (1) year residency for each district and at large from the filing date. Commissioners Coates and Collins were opposed.

A roll call of the vote was taken: Commissioner Stewart-yes; Commissioner Bowling-yes; Commissioner Rucci-yes; Commissioner Collins-no; Commissioner Coates-no. The motion passed three (3) to two (2).

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Rucci, and Collins present, voting in favor to schedule the public hearing on October 19, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. using a hybrid format in the Government Building Conference Room. Commissioner Coates was opposed.

A roll call of the vote was taken: Commissioner Bowling-yes; Commissioner Stewart-yes; Commissioner Coates-no; Commissioner Rucci-yes; Commissioner Collins-yes. The motion passed four (4) to one (1).

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**Commissioner's New Business**

Commissioner Stewart requested a moment of silence and reflection on the passing of Queen Elizabeth.

Commissioner Bowling reminded everyone that the Charles County Fair was this upcoming weekend.

**Closed Session**

At 3:58 p.m., Commissioner Bowling made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Stewart 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) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to review vacancies and conduct interviews on Commissioner Appointed Boards and Commissions. The reason for going into closed is to keep personnel information confidential.

**Summary Closed Session Items**

At 5:01 p.m. the Commissioners went into closed session.

**3-305(b)(1) Personnel- Interviews for Boards, Commissions, and Committees**

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

The Commissioners' interviewed seven (7) applicants for the vacancy on the Board of Appeals and interviewed two (2) applicants for the vacancy on the Board of License Commissioners.

*\*At 6:04 p.m., Commissioner Bowling left session.*

The Commissioners reached a consensus on the appointments. Official action will take place on September 20, 2022 under Action on Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

At 6:32 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Stewart, Coates, Rucci, and Collins present, voting in favor to end this close session and adjourn. *\*Commissioner Bowling was not present for the vote.*

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Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

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Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President