

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Wednesday October 19, 2022 (Legislative Day)

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened virtually at 6:01 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
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 began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

A roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present.

#1 Public Hearing: Community Development Block Grant Project Review- Maryland Association of Social Services Boards (MASSB)-Charles County COVID Rental Assistance Program and Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee-Housing Counseling Services for Families Affected by COVID-19

The Commissioners conducted a hybrid (virtual/in person) public hearing on the 2022 the Community Development Block Grant Project Review. Ms. Keiyauna Stanley, Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee; Ms. Beatrice Johnson, Executive Support Broker; Ms. Therese Wolf, Director, Charles County Department of Social Service; Ms. Dina Barclay, Director, and Ms. Barbara Farmer, Community Development Supervisor, Department of Community Services, provided an updated report on how the funds were used from the grants received through the Community Development Block Grant Program. Ms. Farmer explained that this public hearing was a requirement to provide information on the progress of the block grants and close out CV1-5#2 Housing Counseling Service and CV2-8 Cares Act Covid Related Rental Assistance.

There were no public comments.

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

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

#2 Public Hearing: Bill 2022-11 Update and Amendment to the Charles County Forest Conservation Ordinance

The Commissioners conducted a hybrid (virtual/in person) public hearing on Bill 2022-11 Update and Amendment to the Charles County Forest Conservation Ordinance. Mr. Michael Jurkovic, Planner II, and Mr. Charles Rice, Assistant Chief of Planning, Department of Planning and Growth Management, joined the Commissioners to explain the need to incorporate changes to the State Law, between 2004

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and 2022, for consistency; the opportunity to address local issues, such as off-site banking; and planning processes to meet the Comprehensive Plan objectives. This bill would also allow the ability for projects in the Development District and Priority Funding Areas to preserve off-site and adds a Priority Forest Retention Component.

There were three (3) members of the public who provided comments at this public hearing.

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

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and failed, with Commissioners Bowling and Stewart present, voting in favor to adopt Bill 2022-18. Commissioners Coates, Rucci, and Collins were opposed. A roll call of the vote was taken: Commissioner Bowling-yes; Commissioner Stewart-yes; Commissioner Rucci-no; Commissioner Coates-no; Commissioner Collins-no. The motion failed two (2) to three (3).

#3 Public Hearing: Bill 2022-08 County Commissioner Elections

The Commissioners conducted a hybrid (virtual/in person) public hearing on Bill 2022-08 County Commissioners Elections. Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Associate County Attorney, Office of County Attorney for Charles County, explained that this bill would amend the Code of Charles County to implement voting of district Commissioners by a plurality of votes cast in the district only that they had resided in for at least eighteen (18) consecutive months immediately preceding the General Election.

There were twelve (12) members of the public who provided comments at this public hearing.

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

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, and Rucci present, voting in favor to adopt Bill 2022-08 County Commissioner Elections. Commissioners Coates and Collins were opposed. A roll call of the vote was taken: Commissioner Bowling-yes; Commissioner Rucci-yes; Commissioner Stewart-yes; Commissioner Coates-no; Commissioner Collins-no. The motion passed three (3) to two (2).

At 7:00 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adjourn.

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President