

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday November 15, 2022 (Legislative Day)

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened in hybrid format, virtually and in person, at 9:03 a.m. with the following persons in attendance:

Reuben B. Collins II, Esq., President, County Commissioner
Gilbert O. Bowling, III, County Commissioner
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S., County Commissioner
Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed., County Commissioner
Deborah Hall, Deputy County Administrator
Wes Adams, County Attorney
Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

**Bobby Rucci, Vice President, County Commissioner joined session at 9:33 a.m.*

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. Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart and Collins were present.

**Commissioner Rucci was absent for the roll call.*

Comments

Commissioner Bowling queried if any direction was given to Boards, Commissions, and Committees on how to hold their scheduled meetings. Ms. Deborah Hall, Deputy County Administrator, Office of the County Administrator, Charles County, explained that each individual Board has the option to hold their meetings virtual, in person or hybrid (combination virtual and in person).

Employee Recognition: Length of Service July- September 2022 and Top Performer for the Third Quarter 2022 (July-September 2022)

The Commissioners recognized employees' years of service for July through September 2022. The Top Performers for the third quarter, David Yount and Sean Belmore with Public Works/Utilities were announced and recognized in their role as Instrumentation Technicians responsible for the maintenance of electronics and communications for the water and sewer systems for quick thinking and handling an electrical fire in one of the electrical panels.

Update: Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) Service Territory – New Electric Service Requests

Ms. Sonja Cox, President and CEO, and Mr. Thomas Dennison, Managing Director Government and Public Affairs, SMECO, joined the Commissioners to provide an update on the supply chain difficulties of acquiring transformers, communication efforts with the Maryland Building Industry Association, and updated status of delivery and service of the ordered transformers.

Announcement

Next Scheduled Commissioner Session(s): November 29 and 30, 2022

Reminder: November 16, 2022 Public Hearings at 6:00 p.m.:

#1 Public Hearing: Fall 2022 Cycle Water/Sewer Service Category Amendments

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#2 Public Hearing: Bill 2022-(12) Zoning Text Amendment #21-166 Core Employment/Residential (CER) Zone

#3 Public Hearing: Waldorf Station Development Agreement

Approval of the Minutes of November 1 and 2, 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 November 1, 2022. **Commissioner Rucci was not present for the vote.*

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 November 2, 2022. **Commissioner Rucci was not present for the vote.*

At 9:33 a.m. Commissioner Rucci joined session.

Approval Items

Revision to Personal and Floating Holiday Days' Policy

(Ms. Alexis Blackwell, Director, and Ms. Megan Donnick, Deputy Director, Department of Human Resources; Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Director, and Mr. Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the proposed changes to the Personnel Policy Manual and to adopt the Personal Time Off (PTO) policy.

Request to Amend the 2023 Legislative Proposal Package with an Additional Proposal

(Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Associate County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney for Charles County)

A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to amend the 2023 Legislative Proposal Package to add the proposal for special license plate options for disabled veterans.

Briefing: FY2023 First Quarter General Fund Review

Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Director, Mr. Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget, and Ms. TaTanya Bowman, Assistant Chief of Budget Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services, provided a presentation on the Fiscal 2023 First Quarter General Fund Review. With three months of data, year-end revenues are currently expected to slightly exceed budget and expenditures are predicted to be on target.

Briefing: Update on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Director and Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget, Department of Fiscal & Administrative Services and Dr. Dianna Abney, Health Officer, Charles County Health Department, provided an update on the American rescue Plan Act. Dr. Abney explained the difficulty hiring staff and adding allocated funds back to so that no unused monies were left on the table. She did explain that they were able to hire a few psychiatric nurses.

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Briefing: Tax Credit(s) Fiscal Note for Seniors, First Responders, and Veterans

Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Director, Mr. Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget, Ms. TaTanya Bowman, Assistant Chief of Budget, and Mr. Eric Jackson, Chief of Treasury, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services; and Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Associate County Attorney II, Office of County Attorney for Charles County, provided a presentation on the fiscal impact of tax credits for Senior Citizens, First responders, and Disabled Veterans if these tax credit programs were implemented.

Closed Session

At 10:18 a.m., Commissioner Coates made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bowling 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)(10) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss one (1) personnel matter and to discuss and seek legal advice on one (1) issue related to public safety. The reason for going into closed session is to keep legal advice and strategies confidential.

Summary Closed Session Items

At 12:24 p.m. the Commissioners went into closed session.

3-305 (b)(1)(7)Personnel-Policy

Present Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, Coates, and Stewart, Deborah Hall, Wes Adams, Danielle Mitchell and Carol DeSoto

Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney, Charles County, reviewed three(3) proposed options presented to the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Committee related to health benefits for elected officials.

The Commissioners reached a consensus and official action will take place on November 29, 2022.

3-305 (b)(7)(10)Legal Advice on a Public Safety Issue

Present Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, Coates, and Stewart, Deborah Hall, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, John McConnell, and Danielle Mitchell.

Mr. John McConnell, Chief of Central Services, Office of the County Administrator, and Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Associate County Attorney II, reviewed a public safety concern and proposed recommendation to address this issue.

The Commissioners provided directions so that staff can present proposed legislation to address this concern on November 29, 2022.

At 1:24 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to end this close session.

At 2:16 p.m., the Commissioners returned to open session.

Roll Call

A roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present

Briefing: Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) Military Installation Resilience Review for Indian Head Naval Surface Warfare Center and the Town of Indian Head

Ms. Beth Groth, Climate Resilience and Sustainability Officer, Department of Planning and Growth Management; and Mr. Dan Nees, University of Maryland, provided a presentation on the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) grant project for Naval Support Facility Indian Head and the Town of Indian Head.

County staff and the University of Maryland conducted a significant stakeholder engagement process that involved multiple meetings with key stakeholders on a variety of topics, including transportation, energy, buildings, emergency management, social concerns, and community amenities; and held forums with other MIRR grantees. Because Indian Head is on a peninsula, it will experience impacts from rising temperatures, increasing rainfall, sea level rise, nuisance and urban flooding, and storm surge. The assessment included the area's built environment, natural resources, and community services. Recommendations included the establishment of a NSF Indian Head Resilience Action collaborative, creation of a project portfolio, and development of a financing strategy. Mr. Nees also addressed environmental justice and equity within the area. The report will be finalized in the near future.

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, provided an update on the Western Parkway Roadway Improvements. Phase 3A-3 and 3B are in the design phase, which is expected to be completed by February 2023 and the start of construction in June 2023.

The Commissioners directed Mr. Stevens for future updates to provide just updated changes not the same recap; provide how many change orders; list of project completion timeframes.

At 3:19 p.m. Commissioner Stewart left session and returned at 3:31 p.m.

At 3:30 p.m. Commissioner Rucci left session and returned at 3:41 p.m.

Update: Charles County University of Maryland Scholarship Awardees

Ms. Jacqueline Wheeler Lee, Director, C.D. Mote Jr. Incentive Awards Program, University of Maryland, provided an update on Charles County University of Maryland Scholarship Awards the three (3) awardee students shared their experiences with the program and their future goals.

Commissioner's New Business

There was no new business discussed.

At 3:45 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adjourn.

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President