

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday November 29, 2022 (Legislative Day)

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened in hybrid format, virtually and in person, at 9:01 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
Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed., County Commissioner
Mark Belton, 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 Commissioners were present.

Comments

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to make today November 29, 2022 a Legislative Day.

Commissioner Bowling requested update on protocol for Boards and Commissions process/meetings. (Note: This request will be officially made under New Business section of these minutes)

Each of the Commissioners acknowledged and thanked Commissioner Rucci for his twelve (12) years of service and the positive impact he had on the Board and the community.

Approval of the Minutes of November 15 and 16, 2022

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of November 15, 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 November 16, 2022.

Announcement

Next Scheduled Commissioner Session(s): December 13 and 14, 2022

Reminder: December 6, 2022 Oath of Office

Briefing and Request to Introduce Bill 2022-(14) Weapons and Firearms Prohibited on County-Owned Property

Ms. Danielle, Mitchell, Associate County Attorney II, Office of the County Attorney for Charles County reviewed the proposed legislation which would prohibit weapons and firearms on County owned property and the listed exceptions.

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A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to introduce Bill 2022-14 Weapons and Firearms Prohibited on County-Owned Property with the added amendment to include Correction Officers in the list of exceptions.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to schedule the public hearing on Wednesday January 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Government Building Conference Room with both in person and virtual options.

Briefing: 2022 Local Legislative Proposals, Findings and Recommendations

Ms. Heather Kelley, Planning Supervisor; Mr. Charles Rice, Assistant Chief of Planning; Mr. Jim Campbell, Planning Director, Mr. Ray Shumaker, Chief of Codes, Permits and Inspection Services; and Ms. Jessica Andritz, Assistant Chief Legal Counsel Zoning and Enforcement, Department of Planning and Growth Management provided a presentation on the 2022 Spring Local Legislative Proposals that staff was asked to evaluate. These proposals were: Revisions to Approved Preliminary Subdivision Plans and Amenity Standards, and the requirements for signage used for public notification. Ms. Kelley reviewed the current process, staff conclusions, and staff recommendations.

The Commissioners reached a consensus to Commissioner Stewart's request that staff have public input from stakeholders then schedule a follow-up update for the Commissioners with these comments.

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

Ms. Michelle Lilly, Director, Mr. Tony Rose, Deputy Director, Department of Emergency Services; Ms. Kelli Beavers, Director, Mr. Sam Drury, Deputy Director, Mr. Tim Drummond, Chief of Parks, Ms. Ashley Chenault, Chief of Tourism, Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism; Ms. Kelly Robertson-Slagle, Director, Mr. Martin Proulx, Agricultural Development Manager, Ms. Michelle DeSoto, Acting Deputy Director, and Mr. Taylor Yewell, Redevelopment 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, joined the Commissioners to provide an update on Goal 5: Quality of Life of the Commissioners' Goals and Objectives. Highlights include the Next Generation 9-1-1 transition, Mobile Integrated Healthcare, opioid response, park planning, recreation programming, parks and amenities, stadium and events, welcome center, agritourism, and affordable workforce and housing updates.

**At 9:35 a.m. Commissioner Rucci left session.*

Closed Session

At 10:40 a.m., Commissioner Bowling made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, and Collins 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)(4)(7)(9) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss appointments to Commissioner Appointed Boards, Commissions, and Committees; to discuss one (1) contract collective bargaining negotiations; and to receive an update on a potential business moving to the County. The reason for going into closed session is to keep legal advice, strategies and personnel information confidential. **Commissioner Rucci was not present for the vote.*

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Summary Closed Session Items

At 10:54 a.m. the Commissioners went into closed session.

3-305 (b)(7)Personnel-Contract Agreement

Present Commissioners Collins, Rucci, Bowling, Coates, and Stewart, Mark Belton, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, Jeffry Barnett, Deborah Carpenter, and Jacob Dyer.

Mr. Jeffry Barnett, Chief of Transit, Department of Planning and Growth Management, reviewed proposed changes to transit contract related to collective bargaining.

The Commissioners reached a consensus related to language for the negotiations. Staff will bring back this contract back for official action later this day under Approval Items.

**Break 11:31 a.m. – 11:36 a.m.*

3-305 (b)(4)(7)Update on Potential New Business in Charles County

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

Ms. Kelly Robertson-Slagle, Director, Department of Economic Development, provided an update on a business relocating to the County. She also reviewed the proposed letter being sent to the business related to the upcoming Comprehensive Plan process.

The Commissioners reached a consensus for the County Administrator to send the letter as presented.

3-305 (b)(1)(7)Personnel- Appointments to Boards, Commissions, and Committees

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

Ms. Kenberly Stephens, Commissioner Specialist, reviewed applicants for the Board of Fire and Rescue.

The Commissioners reached a consensus and official action will take place later this day under the approval item Actions on Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

At 12:20 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Coates seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to end this close session.

At 1:10 p.m., the Commissioners returned to open session.

Roll Call

A roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present.

Approval Items

EBud(s)

(Mr. Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget, Ms. TaTanya Bowman Assistant Chief of Budget, Ms. Marla Chicwak, Budget Analyst I, and Ms. Courtney Lough, Budget Analyst I, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services, Mr. Kevin Leahy and Ms Erin Shoemaker, Charles County Sheriff's Office; and Dr. Maureen Murphy, President, Ms. Judy Mills, Vice President of Financial Service; and Dr. Bill Comey, Vice President, College of Southern Maryland)

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- *FY2023 Budget Transfer Request #399 Charles County Sheriff's Office Body Worn Camera and COLA*
A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2023 Budget Transfer Request #399 for nine hundred and seventy-eight thousand two hundred and fifty dollars (\$978,250.00).
- *FY2023 Budget Amendment Increase #444 Charles County Sheriff's Office Increased Pay Scale*
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 #444 for three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00).
- *FY2023 Budget Amendment Increase #454 Software Body Worn Camera Program*
A motion was made by Commissioner Rucci, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2023 Budget Amendment Increase #454 for one hundred and seventeenth thousand eight hundred dollars (\$117,800.00).
- *FY2023 Budget Amendment Increase #412 New Budget Analyst I Position*
A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Rucci and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2023 Budget Amendment Increase #412 for one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) and approve the new Personal Identification Number (PIN) for this position.
- *FY2023 Budget Amendment Increase #463 College of Southern Maryland Wastewater Treatment Plant*
A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve Budget Amendment Increase #463 for five million five hundred and thirty-nine thousand dollars (\$5,539,000.00).
- *Letter of Support-College of Southern Maryland (CSM) Requesting State Funds for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)*
(Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Director, and Mr. Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services; Dr. Maureen Murphy, President, Ms. Judy Mills, Vice President of Financial Service; and Dr. Bill Comey, Vice President, College of Southern Maryland)

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

- *Board of Education FY2023 Inter-Category Budget Transfer Request*
(Mr. Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services; Ms. Sherri Fischer Davis, Budget Manager, and Ms. Karen Acton, Chief Financial Officer, Charles County Public Schools)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the Board of Education FY2023 Inter-Category Budget Transfer Request.

- *Proposed Resolution 2022-(22) Commissioners' Health Benefits*
(Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney, Office the County Attorney for Charles County and Ms. Alexis Blackwell, Director, Department of Human Resources)

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A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve Resolution 2022-22 Commissioners' Health Benefits.

- *Letter of Support(s)-FY2023 Network Infrastructure Grant*
(Ms. Deborah Hall, Deputy County Administrator, Office of the County Administrator for Charles County, and Ms. Evelyn Jacobson, Chief Information Officer, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services)

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the letters of support for Comcast and Verizon.

- *VanGO Operations Contract Modification*
(Mr. Jeffrey Barnett, Chief of Transit, Ms. Deborah Carpenter, Director, Department of Planning and Growth Management 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 contract modification.

- *VanGO Safety Management System Plan Revisions*
(Mr. Jeffrey Barnett, Chief of Transit, Ms. Deborah Carpenter, Director, Department of Planning and Growth Management)

A motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the VanGO Safety Plan Revisions.

- *Action on Boards, Commissions, and Committees*

A motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to appoint Quincy Cobey to the Board of Fire and Rescue.

- *Request a new Employee Personal Identification Number (PIN) Charles County Adult Drug Court's Operations-Adult Drug Court Case Manager.*
(Ms. Deborah Zrioka, Court Administrator, Charles County Circuit Court)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve this new PIN.

- *Request to Close Non-Completed Projects for FY2021 and FY2022*
(Mr. Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget, and Ms. Courtney Lough, Budget Analyst I, and Ms. Marla Chicwak, Budget Analyst I, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services; Mr. Tim Drummond, Chief of Parks, Mr. Sam Drury, Deputy Director, and Ms. Kelli Beavers, Director, Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism; Mr. Martin Harris, Director, Ms. Terri Kahouk, Deputy Director Public Facilities; Mr. Bernard Cochran, Deputy Director Utilities, Ms. Frances Sherman, Chief of Environmental Resources, Mr. Ed Gorham, Chief of Technical Support, Mr. Charles Strawberry, Program Manager/Water & Sewer, and Mr. John Stevens, Chief of Capital Services, Department of Public Works; and Mr. Jason Groth, Deputy Director, and Ms. Deborah Carpenter, Director, Department of Planning and Growth Management)

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the list of projects closed during FY2021 and FY2022.

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Commissioner's New Business

The Commissioners' agreed to have staff provide an update related Commissioner Bowling's request to protocol for Boards and Commissions process/meetings.

**Break 1:50 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.*

Roll Call

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

**Commissioner Rucci was absent.*

Public Hearing: Proposed Issuance of Bonds by the Tenth District Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

The Commissioners conducted a hybrid (virtual/in person) public hearing on the proposed issuance of bonds by the Tenth District Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. Ms. Cheryl O'Donnell Guth, Counsel, McGuireWoods, LLP explained the request for issuance of bonds not to exceed one million six hundred dollars (\$1,600,000.00) for a new Rescue Truck and Custom Pumper truck.

There were no public comments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, and Collins present, voting in favor to close the public record. **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 close the public hearing. **Commissioner Rucci was not present for the vote.*

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 Resolution 2022-23 Issuance of Bonds by the Tenth District Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. **Commissioner Rucci was not present for the vote.*

At 6:09 p.m., 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 adjourn. **Commissioner Rucci was not present for the vote.*

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President