

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Wednesday January 11, 2023 (Legislative Day)

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened virtually at 6:04 p.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
Ralph Patterson, II, M.A., County Commissioner
Mark Belton, County Administrator
Deborah Hall, Deputy County Administrator
Danielle Mitchell, Associate County Attorney II
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.

Public Hearing: Bill 2022-14 Weapons and Firearms Prohibited on County-Owned or Operated Property

The Commissioners conducted a hybrid (virtual/in person) public hearing on proposed Bill 2022-14 Weapons and Firearms Prohibited on County-Owned or Operated Property. Commissioner Collins read the public hearing statement and outlined the process for hearing the in-person comments first then the virtual comment.

Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Associate County Attorney II, Office of County Attorney for Charles County joined the Commissioners to review the proposed Bill 2022-14 with the approved amendments. She explained that this Bill would not have anything to do with Charles County Public Schools property or policies, Specifically Government owned and operated properties. She also indicated that Recreation, Parks, and Tourism staff requested a follow up work session after this public hearing since so that the County's current Standard Operating Procedures policy can be reviewed and changed since some of the language in Bill can be confusing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling Seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve including retired officers and clarifying language related to Charles county Public Schools into this Bill.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Bowling and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve lines 7-17 in revised Bill as presented.

The Commissioners heard testimony from nine (9) of the fifty (52) citizens registered to provide in-person comments.

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A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart to table this Bill. After clarification of term Table was given by Ms. Mitchell, Commissioner Bowling, and Stewart withdrew this motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor withdraw this Bill.

At 6:45 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adjourn.

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President