

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday January 31, 2023 (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
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
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.

Charles County Proclamations Issued in February 2023

2023-06 National Freedom Day
2023-07 Black History Month
2023-08 FeBREWary Month
2023-09 Career and Technical Education Month
2023-10 National Engineers Week

The Commissioners were joined by Ms. Jehnell Linkins, Pre-Engineering Program Coordinator and Mr. Brian Warnecke, Assistant Professor, School of Professional and Technical Studies, College of Southern Maryland, and Mr. Glenn Teegarden, Student, College of Southern Maryland to receive Proclamation 2023-10 National Engineers Week.

Recognition: Employee Length of Service, October -December 2022; Top Performer, Fourth Quarter (October -December, 2022); Top Performer of the Year 2022

The Commissioners recognized employees' years of service for October through December 2022. The Top Performer for the fourth quarter, Lt. Amanda Karwicki from the Department of Emergency Services, and the Top Performer(s) of the Year 2022, the contact tracing team from the County Administrators Office, Central Services Division, John McConnell and David Hill, were announced and recognized.

Comments

Commissioner Collins spoke to the tragic death of Tyre Nichols in Memphis, Tennessee and all those who have been affected by this violence that took place on January 7, 2023. He stated that the Board of Commissioners, working directly with our local law enforcement agencies, remain committed to ensuring that through governance and policy objectives, every Charles County citizen is treated with basic human dignity.

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday January 31, 2023 (Legislative Day)

Approval of the Minutes of January 24, 2023

A motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve the minutes of January 24, 2023.

Announcement

Next Scheduled Commissioner Session(s): February 7-8, 2023

Legislative Update: 2023 Maryland General Assembly Session

Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Associate County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney; Ms. Deborah Hall, Deputy County Administrator, Office of the County Administrator; Mr. Steve Proctor; Mr. Joseph Green; and Ms. Sherrie Simms, Lobbyists, GS Proctor and Associates, Inc. joined the Commissioners to provide an update on the 2023 Maryland General Assembly Session.

The Charles County Legislative Proposals reviewed:

- *LR2015 Code Counties – Legislative Procedure – Notice Requirements*
Minor amendments being made to draft Bill.
- *Property Tax – Credit for Volunteer Emergency Responders*
Awaiting Draft Bill.
- *Motor Vehicle Registration - Exceptions for Golf Carts and Low Speed Vehicles - Cobb Island*
Awaiting Draft Bill.
- *LR1963 To enable Charles County to pass a local law to regulate off-the-road motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, that may include impoundment, conditions for release from impoundment.*
Received Draft Bill.
- *To enable Charles County to create a body corporate and politic known as a Revenue Authority for the purpose of developing and operating real estate projects*
State legal counsel advised that State legislation is not needed for Code Home Rule Counties; only need enabling legislation if new tax created.
- *LR2008 To amend Economic Development Article 13-603 to allow for one citizen voting member of TCCSMD for every forty five thousand (45,000) residents*
Received Draft Bill.
- *SB130 Economic Development - Maryland Stadium Authority - Charles County Sports and Wellness Center*
Senator Ellis will schedule time to meet with the Board of County Commissioners to discuss this Bill.

Closed Session

At 9:32 a.m., Commissioner Coates made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Patterson 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)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday January 31, 2023 (Legislative Day)

Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss (1) Agreement and (1) Lease. The reason for going into closed session is to keep legal advice and strategies confidential.

Summary Closed Session Items

At 9:45 a.m. the Commissioners went into closed session.

3-305(b)(7) Legal Advice: Agreement

Present Commissioners Collins, Bowling, Coates, Stewart, Patterson, Mark Belton, Deborah Hall, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, Wes Adams, Zhypar Beishenalieva, Jenifer Ellin.

Ms. Zhypar Beishenalieva, Associate County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney for Charles County, reviewed the proposed Agreement and three (3) areas that needed clarification and direction from the Commissioners.

The Commissioners reached a consensus on specific language in the agreement and provided staff with direction on how to proceed.

3-305 (b)(7)Agreement: Update on Lease

Present Commissioners Collins, Bowling, Coates, Stewart, Patterson, Mark Belton, Deborah Hall, Wes Adams, Carol DeSoto, Judy Michaels, Jennifer Harris, and Danielle Mitchell.

**Break 10:43 a.m. -10:47 a.m.*

Ms. Deborah Hall, Deputy County Administrator, Office of the County Administrator, reviewed a summary document with the Commissioners providing background information and an update.

A motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to send *the notice related to the lease...*

The Commissioners provided staff with further directions on how to proceed.

At 11:29 a.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 1:01 p.m., the Commissioners returned to open session.

Roll Call

A roll call was taken. All Commissioners were present.

Approval Items

FY2023 Budget Transfer Request #429 Administrative charging Committee Stipend

(Mr. Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget, and Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Director, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services, Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney and Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Associate County Attorney, office of the County Attorney for Charles County)

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday January 31, 2023 (Legislative Day)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2023 Budget Transfer Request #429 for eight thousand two hundred dollars (\$8,200.00).

FY2023 Budget Amendment Increase # 650 County Attorney's Office Legal Cost Declaratory Judgement Lawsuit

(Mr. Jacob Dyer, Chief of Budget, and Ms. Jenifer Ellin, Director, Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services, Mr. Wes Adams, County Attorney and Ms. Danielle Mitchell, Associate County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney for Charles County)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to approve FY2023 Budget Amendment Increase #650 for one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00).

**At about 1:10 p.m. Commissioner Coates left session*

Resilience Authority- Add Ex-Officio Position for a Soil Conservation District Representative; Update Bylaws; Approval of Stormwater Prioritization List

(Ms. Deborah Carpenter, Resilience Authority Chairperson and Director, Department of Planning and Growth Management; Ms. Terrah Dews, Associate County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney for Charles County; Ms. Stacy Schaefer, Executive Director, Resilience Authority, Ms. Beth Groth, Climate Resilience and Sustainability Officer, Department of Planning and Growth Management)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed, with Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to approve adding an ex-officio member for a Soil Conservation District Representative to the Resilience Authority.
Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed with Commissioners Bowling, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins present, voting in favor to Approve the Resilience Authority bylaws as presented. *Commissioner Coates was not present for the vote.*

At about 1:21 p.m. Commissioner Coates returned to session.

A motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to accept the Stormwater Prioritization Model and move into Phase 2 mitigation.

Briefing: Indian Head Elementary School-Based Health Center

Ms. Desiree Colvin, Community School Nurse, and Ms. Marissa Ackerman, Community School Coordinator, Indian Head Elementary School; Dr. Dianna Abney, Health Officer, Charles County Department of Health, Dr. Maria Navarro, Superintendent, Charles County Public Schools; and Ms. Holly Jackson and Ms. Dawn Lish, Charles County Board of Education joined the Commissioners to review the School Based Health Center at Indian Head Elementary School. Ms. Colvin outlined the needs and benefits; defined what school based health is; described how it works; discussed measurable benefits; reviewed partnership functions and supporting partners; provided proposed timeline and estimated budget cost. Measurable benefits of these centers include addressing social determinants of

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday January 31, 2023 (Legislative Day)

health, reducing absenteeism, improving community health partnerships, reducing emergency department visits and hospitalizations, increasing mental health resources, and providing financial and economic value.

Update: Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment and Initiatives

Ms. Beth Groth, Climate Resilience and Sustainability Officer, Department of Planning and Growth Management, provided a presentation on Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Deployment and Initiatives. Highlights include EV deployment in Maryland, Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments efforts, Southern Maryland Electric Company's (SMECO) EV Recharge Program, and Charles County's Vehicle Fleet. Next steps include a zoning ordinance rewrite and the Climate Action Planning Process.

Commissioner Collins requested that this data be added as dash board on the website.

Commissioner's New Business

There was no new business discussed.

At 3:03 p.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Bowling, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to adjourn.

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President