

Regular Meeting of County Commissioners
Tuesday August 29, 2023

A scheduled meeting of the County Commissioners was convened virtually at 10:01 a.m. with the following persons in attendance:

Reuben B. Collins II, Esq., President, County Commissioner
Ralph Patterson, II, M.A., Vice 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, Acting 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.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Collins read a letter from the Open Meetings Compliance Board dated August 4, 2023 related to an Open Meetings Act violation on May 17, 2023.

Commissioner Bowling commented that neither he nor Commissioner Stewart were present at that meeting on May 17, 2023. He also mentioned that he would be putting in an agenda request in to address this concern.

Closed Session

At 10:13 a.m., motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Coates 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)(3)(7)(8) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to receive an update on a potential litigation issue related to a potential land acquisition. The reason for moving into closed session is to keep legal negotiations and strategies confidential.

Summary Closed Session Items

At 10:17 a.m., the Commissioners went into closed session.

3-305(b)(3)(7)(8) Update on Potential Litigation and Proposed Settlement

Present: Commissioners Bowling, Coates, Stewart, Patterson, and Collins, Wes Adams, Deborah Hall, Jenifer Ellin, Carol DeSoto, and Elizabeth Theobalds, and Kurt Fisher.

Ms. Elizabeth Theobalds, Deputy County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney for Charles County, reviewed a proposed settlement related to this issue.

A motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Coates and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor of the final and best offer outlined.

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At 10:24 a.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Coates, seconded by Commissioner Patterson and passed, with all Commissioners present, voting in favor to end closed session and adjourn.

Carol A. DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President