



COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

APPROVED

Thursday, May 21, 2020

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened via video conference at 9:36 A.M. on Thursday, May 21, 2020.

PRESENT

Councilmember Sidney Katz, President
Councilmember Gabe Alborno
Councilmember Evan Glass
Councilmember Nancy Navarro

Councilmember Tom Hucker, Vice President
Councilmember Andrew Friedson
Councilmember Will Jawando
Councilmember Craig Rice

Councilmember Hans Riemer

The President in the Chair.

Mr. Riemer recognized Dr. Usa Bunnag, founder, and the volunteers of MoCo MD Fighting COVID-19, for working to make the community safer by providing face shields and personal protective equipment (PPE) to the community.

Ms. Paradise, Deputy Clerk of the Council, announced an addendum to agenda, stating that the Council will hold a public hearing on **Bill 8-20**, Bicycles and E-Scooters - Operating Requirements and Registration, on June 9, 2020, at 1:30 P.M.; and adding introduction of a special appropriation to the Montgomery County Public Schools' FY20 Capital Budget and amendment to the FY19-24 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) - \$446,075 for Technology Modernization Project.

Mr. Katz announced that a meeting with U.S. Senator Ben Cardin would be held via Zoom on Wednesday, May 27, at 10:00 A.M. Information on public viewing will be posted on the Council's website.

(.5) CONSENT CALENDAR

Approved the following consent calendar items listed below.
Ms. Navarro made the motion, which carried without objection.

- A. **Introduced** a special appropriation to the FY20 Operating Budget WorkSource Montgomery Non-Departmental Account, Support for COVID-19 Response - Unemployment Insurance Outreach, \$40,000. A public hearing and action are tentatively scheduled for June 9, 2020.

- B. **Introduced** a special appropriation to the Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) FY20 Capital Budget and amendment to the FY19-24 CIP - \$446,075 for Technology Modernization Project. A public hearing and action are tentatively scheduled for June 9, 2020.

ACTION - Approval of Resolutions for the FY21 Capital Budget and FY21-26 CIP:

Agreed to vote en bloc for items 1 through 9.

- (1) Adopted **Resolution 19-463**, approving the subject CIP and capital budget for [County Government](#);
- (2) Adopted **Resolution 19-464**, approving the subject CIP and capital budget for [Montgomery County Public Schools \(MCPS\)](#);
- (3) Adopted **Resolution 19-465**, approving the subject CIP and capital budget for [Montgomery College](#);
- (4) Adopted **Resolution 19-466**, approving the subject CIP and capital budget for the [Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission \(M-NCPPC\)](#);
- (5) Adopted **Resolution 19-467**, approving the subject CIP and capital budget for the [Revenue Authority](#);
- (6) Adopted **Resolution 19-468**, approving the subject CIP and Capital budget for the [Housing Opportunities Commission \(HOC\)](#);
- (7) Adopted **Resolution 19-469**, approving the [Aggregate Capital Budget for County General Obligation Bonds - Spending Affordability Guidelines](#);
- (8) Adopted **Resolution 19-470**, approving the [Aggregate Capital Budget for Park and Planning Bond - Spending Affordability Guidelines](#); and
- (9) Adopted **Resolution 19-471**, approving the [FY21 State Participation projects](#). Ms. Navarro made the motion, which carried unanimously.

ACTION - Approval of Resolutions for FY21 Operating Budget

- (10) Adopted **Resolution 19-472**, approving the FY21 Operating Budget for County Government;

Mr. Friedson stated that he serves of the Board of Bethesda Green and abstained from voting on the Bethesda Green Community Grant.

Mr. Riemer made the motion, which carried without objection.

Agreed to vote en bloc for items 11 through 15.

- (11) Adopted **Resolution 19-473**, approving the FY21 Operating Budget for [MCPS](#);
- (12) Adopted **Resolution 19-474**, approving the FY21 Operating Budget for [Montgomery College](#);
- (13) Adopted **Resolution 19-475**, approving the FY21 Operating Budget for [M-NCPPC](#);
- (14) Adopted **Resolution 19-476**, approving the Administrative Expense Budget of the Washington Suburban Transit Commission; and
- (15) Adopted **Resolution 19-477**, approving the [Aggregate Operating Budget - Spending Affordability Guidelines](#).

Mr. Riemer made the motion, which carried without objection.

Agreed to vote en bloc for items 16 through 18.

- (16) Adopted **Resolution 19-478**, approving [WSSC's FY21-26 CIP](#);
- (17) Adopted **Resolution 19-479**, approving [WSSC's FY21 Capital and Operating Budgets](#); and
- (18) Adopted **Resolution 19-480**, approving the [County Cable Communications Plan](#).

Ms. Navarro made the motion, which carried without objection.

Agreed to vote en bloc for items 19 through 21.

- (19) Adopted **Resolution 19-481**, establishing [the FY21 Property Tax Rates](#);
- (20) Adopted **Resolution 19-482**, authorizing [the substitution of Current Revenue for General Obligation Bonds in FY21](#); and

- (21) Adopted **Resolution 19-483**, setting [the amount of Property Tax Credit for Income Tax Offset](#).

Mr. Riemer made the motion, which carried without objection.

Mr. Rice stated he contacted Dr. Smith, Superintendent of Schools, to say the Council would return to discuss the MCPS CIP in the fall when economic and public health conditions are more focused, and with the benefit of additional fiscal and project-specific information.

Because the Council was ahead of schedule, the meeting recessed at 10:00 A.M. and reconvened at 11:06 A.M.

(22) **COUNCIL SITTING AS BOARD OF HEALTH**

A. **Update** - [Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and County Public Health Planning](#)

Participating in the discussion were Dr. Gayles, County Health Officer and Chief, Public Health Services, and Dr. Crowel, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); and Dr. Stoddard, Director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS).

Dr. Gayles reported that the dashboard to provide data on the metrics for reopening the County was released this week, and the Department is working closely with area jurisdictions to review the metrics and develop a consistent approach. He said the metrics show positive movement, but with continued concerns about ICU capacity. He discussed surge capacity and coordination with the state to provide additional ICU beds if needed. Testing capacity has increased, with high-throughput options to provide 10,000 tests per week. The State will provide weekly allocations of testing supplies, and steps have been taken to increase testing in highly impacted areas. Universal testing at nursing homes and other long-term care facilities and testing of asymptomatic individuals will be phased in, beginning with essential employees and health care workers. The State is leading the effort for county health departments to utilize the State's electronic platform for contact tracing, which will be in place next week with the goal of tracing all new cases within 24 hours.

Educational outreach opportunities are being developed and the Department is working to ensure people have access to providers to address health issues other than COVID-19. Steps are being taken to encourage parents to get children immunized.

Dr. Stoddard provided an update on the distribution of PPEs and cleaning supplies to essential childcare and primary care providers, and providers to the developmentally disabled, nursing homes and long-term care. He indicated that supplies are being stockpiled if needed for a resurgence of cases in the fall. He reported that of 833 COVID-related calls yesterday to MC311, 90% were in Spanish, and that they are working to increase the number of Spanish speaking call takers to reduce wait times. The Administrative Task Force is working with the street outreach team to engage with the public for food distribution, and he noted that the farms-to-table program launched by the USDA is working to distribute high-nutrition food to address food inequities.

Agreements were signed with hotels in Germantown, adding to those in place with hotels in Silver Spring and Gaithersburg, to provide safe spaces for those needing to quarantine. Dr. Stoddard indicated a recovery framework is being developed and that the Council will receive a draft for review, noting that how to address long-term community needs moving forward needs to be determined. The Department is working with FEMA on reimbursement for activities already undertaken, with the hope that the federal government would provide 100% reimbursement for COVID-19-related expenses.

The meeting recessed at 12:14 P.M. and reconvened at 2:37 P.M.

(23) **UPDATE – Briefing by the Maryland Department of Transportation on the status of Purple Line Construction**

Participating in the briefing on the status of the Purple Line were Mr. Slater, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT); Mr. Quinn, Administrator, MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MTA); and Mr. Conklin, Director, Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT).

Discussed the Notice of Termination that Purple Line Transit Constructors (PLTC), a subsidiary of Purple Line Transit Partners (PLTP), filed on May 1, 2020, noting that it was planning to terminate its participation in the project, citing four sets of events that contributed to more than two and a half years of delay, and requesting compensation totaling more than \$519 million. Received assurances from MDOT and MTA officials that ongoing conversations are taking place to keep PLTC on the job and that they are working diligently to reach a mutually agreeable outcome.

Received an update on the status of construction, which is about 30 percent complete, noting that construction has not been interrupted by PLTC's termination notice. The goal is to open the Purple Line in two phases: phase

one with six stations in Prince George's County by late 2022; phase two with the remaining stations open by mid-2023.

Councilmembers commented on the importance of the project to the region and cited concerns over delays and cost overruns. Mr. Friedson requested confirmation that the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) project will open when it is finished and will not be delayed until the Purple Line is completed. Mr. Hucker, Chair of the Transportation and Environment (T&E) Committee, requested more frequent updates and that the project milestones be tracked.

The meeting adjourned at 3:32 P.M.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Approved/Signed by Clerk of the Council

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council