



COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

APPROVED

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened via video conference at 9:02 A.M. on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

PRESENT

Councilmember Tom Hucker, President
Councilmember Andrew Friedson
Councilmember Will Jawando
Councilmember Nancy Navarro

Councilmember Gabe Albornoz, Vice President
Councilmember Evan Glass
Councilmember Sidney Katz
Councilmember Craig Rice

Councilmember Hans Riemer

The President in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Proclamation was presented by Mr. Albornoz and County Executive Elrich recognizing National Multiple Sclerosis Week.
- B. Proclamation was presented by Mr. Hucker and County Executive Elrich recognizing Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.
- C. Proclamation was presented by County Council recognizing Montgomery County's one-year battle against COVID-19.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- A. **Announcements** - Agenda and Calendar Changes

There were no announcements or calendar changes.

(1) B. **Acknowledgement – [Receipt of Petitions](#)**

No petitions were received this week.

C. **Action – Approval of Closed Session Minutes**

Approved the Closed Session minutes of January 26, 2021, without objection.

(2) **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 of 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).

Received an update from Dr. Gayles on current case and transmission rate statistics and number of residents vaccinated, the presence of virus variants in the County, a pilot program for vaccination of homebound residents, efforts to ensure equitable distribution of the vaccine, and challenges to the reopening of schools and businesses. He noted that the approach to reopening has been consistent throughout the pandemic and is based on data. Dr. Crowel indicated they are working to centralize the process to enlist people able to administer the vaccine and to build distribution capacity as more doses are made available to the County. Dr. Stoddard said six mass vaccination sites in the State would be operational by the end of March, and they working to provide more equity regarding vaccination opportunities.

(3) **CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

- A. **Introduced** a special appropriation to the County Government's FY21 Operating Budget, Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) - \$500,000 for Montgomery Housing Initiative (Housing Initiative Fund) Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) Housing Production Fund \$500,000. A public hearing is scheduled for March 23, 2021 at 1:30 P.M.

- B. **Received and Released** the Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) Report 2021-4: Public Safety Responses to Mental Health Situations.
- C. Adopted **Resolution 19-755**, extending time until May 26, 2022, for Council action on **Bill 36-19**, Contracts and Procurement - Office of Grants Management - Established.
- D. Adopted **Resolution 19-756**, confirming the County Executive's appointment to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission: Marlene Beckman.
- E. Adopted **Resolution 19-757**, confirming the County Executive's appointment to the Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors: Linda Lewis.
- F. Adopted **Resolution 19-758**, amendment to Resolution 19-593, Department of Recreation, Cost Sharing: MCG.

The meeting recessed at 11:24 A.M. and reconvened at 12:00 P.M.

(4) [Virtual Brown Bag Lunch with Regional Services Center \(RSC\) Directors](#)

Participating in the discussion were Ms. Matthews and Mr. Rodriguez, RSC Directors; and Ms. Kassiri, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer.

Ms. Matthews reported that they are looking for vaccination clinic sites, including Montgomery College as well as locations for smaller clinics; that residents may express concerns regarding the airpark to the Upcounty Advisory Board now that the Airpark Liaison Committee has been discontinued and that she is willing to help facilitate meetings with the community. She expressed the view that there has not been an uptick in the homeless population in the Upcounty area, but noted that the Germantown hub has been working to address some of the needs of the homeless population. She noted that several non-profits are looking for permanent space in the area.

Mr. Rodriguez discussed measures being taken to serve the homeless population in the Silver Spring area, and the tents set up to allow for place making to provide eating space, which can be removed if not successful.

The meeting recessed 12:35 P.M. and reconvened at 1:33 P.M.

- (5) **PUBLIC HEARING** - Resolution to repeal and replace Resolution No. 16-1570 with respect to the White Flint Sector Plan Implementation Strategy and Infrastructure Improvement List and related amendments to the FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

The public hearing was conducted. Additional material for the Council's consideration should be submitted by the close of business on March 10, 2021. A joint Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) and Transportation and Environment (T&E) worksession is scheduled for March 16, 2021.

- (6) **PUBLIC HEARING** - FY20 National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit Financial Assurance Plan

The public hearing was conducted. Additional material for the Council's consideration should be submitted by the close of business on March 10, 2021. A T&E worksession will be scheduled March 22, 2021.

- (7) **PUBLIC HEARING/ACTION** - Resolution to approve Supplemental Appropriation to the FY21 Operating Budget Montgomery County Government Non-Departmental Account Compensation and Employee Benefit Adjustments, \$3,752,889

The public hearing was conducted and the record closed.

Mr. Friedson, in expressing opposition to the resolution, said ongoing obligations cannot be funded through the use of reserve funds, and that this supplemental appropriation is not fiscally sustainable and does not follow the County's established fiscal policies.

Defeated by a vote of 2 to 7 Mr. Riemer's motion to not fund the 1.5% general wage adjustment included the proposed supplemental appropriation. Mr. Riemer and Mr. Rice voted in the affirmative.

Adopted **Resolution 19-759**, approving the subject supplemental appropriation.

Ms. Navarro made the motion, which carried by a vote of 8 to 1. Mr. Friedson voted in the negative.

(8) **PUBLIC HEARING - Bill 5-21, Agricultural Land Preservation - Solar Collection System - Dedication of Business Personal Property Tax Revenue**

The public hearing was conducted. Additional material for the Council's consideration should be submitted by the close of business on March 16, 2021. A Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) worksession will be scheduled at a later date.

Motion to Close

The Council adjourned the open session at 2:34 P.M. and reconvened remotely via video conference in closed session from 2:40 P.M. to 3:23 P.M. Mr. Riemer made the motion, which carried unanimously.

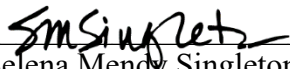
Report of Closed Session of March 9, 2021

In compliance with Section 3-306(c)(2), General Provisions Article, Maryland Code, the following is a report of the County Council's closed session of Tuesday, March 9, 2021. The Council convened in closed session via video conference at 2:40 P.M. to consider acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto, pursuant to Maryland Code, General Provisions Article §3-305(b)(3), and to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice, pursuant to Maryland Code, General Provisions Article §3-305(b)(7). The topic was Grace Episcopal School. The meeting was closed on a motion by Mr. Riemer, which carried without objection.

The following persons were present: Councilmembers Hucker, Albornoz, Friedson, Glass, Jawando, Katz, Navarro, Rice and Riemer; Chiefs of Staff Gibson, Thorne, Mandel-Trupp, Ikheloa, Ledner, and Nurmi; Mr. Emerson, Aide to Councilmember Glass; Mr. McNamara, Aide to Councilmember Jawando; Ms. Michaelson, Council Executive Director; Mr. Howard, Deputy Director; Mr. Drummer, Senior Legislative Attorney; Ms. McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst; Mr. Mia, Legislative Analyst; Mr. Tibbitts, Special Assistant to the County Executive; Ms. Iseli, Office of the County Executive; Mr. Ossont, Deputy Director, Department of General Services; Ms. Beck, Office of Management and Budget; and Ms. Singleton, Clerk of the Council.

Action: None.

This is an accurate account of the meeting:



Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council