

COUNCIL COMING ATTRACTIONS



Week of January 15, 2018

Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Savings Plan, Resolution on Affordable Prescriptions. Factors Driving the Cost of Government, Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan, Development Impact Taxes, and Wheaton Redevelopment Update



Council Coming Attractions is a summary of some of the issues before the Council. All Council staff reports and additional information on each item scheduled for Council or Committee review can be viewed at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/ondemand/index.html> .

The Council meeting schedule may change from time to time. The current Council and Committee agendas can also be viewed at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/ondemand/index.html> .

-  The Council meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. on January 16 with two proclamation presentations. Councilmember Craig Rice will recognize Radon Action Month and Carlton Reese Memorial Unity Choir for 50 years of dedication to the Civil Rights Movement.

COUNCIL

Prescription Drug Affordability Initiative Resolution

The Council will introduce a resolution to support prescription drug affordability. Councilmember Tom Hucker is the lead sponsor. The Prescription Drug Affordability Initiative Resolution calls on the State of Maryland to allow pharmacists to provide information on lower cost drug options, require drug companies to provide justification for pricing decisions, and create a Prescription Drug Cost Review Commission. A

vote on the resolution is scheduled for January 23. The staff report can be viewed at: http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=7490&meta_id=147708

Subdivision Regulation Amendment 18-01, Minor Subdivisions – Ownership Units

Subdivision Regulation Amendment (SRA) 18-01 is scheduled to be introduced on January 16. Councilmember Floreen is the lead sponsor. A public hearing is scheduled for February 27 at 1:30 p.m. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=7490&meta_id=147720

The subdivision code only allows the creation of an ownership unit on a record plat covered by an approved site plan. An ownership unit is an area of land shown on an ownership plat, created for the convenience of the owner, that shows a deed, mortgage, or lease line but does not subdivide the lot. SRA 18-01 would also allow the creation of these units when the property described in a plat was subject to conditional use or special exception approval. An ownership unit is not a change to any condition of approval for the subdivision that created the lot in the original subdivision or the site plan. Similarly, the approval of an ownership unit plat would not be a change to the conditional use or subdivision approval under SRA 18-01.

Zoning Text Amendment 17-12, Definitions – Rear Building Line

The Council is scheduled to vote on ZTA 17-12. Councilmember Leventhal is the lead sponsor. The Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee recommends approval. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=7490&meta_id=147724

ZTA 17-12 would add a definition for “rear building line” to the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 59 of the Montgomery County Code.

Zoning Text Amendment 17-14, Walls and Fences – Setback Exemption

The Council is scheduled to vote on ZTA 17-14. The PHED Committee recommends approval. The lead sponsor is Councilmember Leventhal. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=7490&meta_id=147722

ZTA 17-14 would revise, under certain circumstance, the provisions that allow fences and walls to be exempt from setback standards.

Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan

The Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing on the Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan (EPS FMP). The Council will get an overview of the EPS FMP before the public hearing. The Planning Board draft of the master plan can be viewed at:

https://www.montgomeryparks.org/uploads/2017/09/2017_eps-fmp.MCPB_DRAFT.pdf

The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=7490&meta_id=147728

The main purpose of the EPS FMP is to create outdoor spaces where people of all ages, ethnicities, and incomes can meet, play, relax, exercise and enjoy nature in areas where more people live and work. These parks and open spaces will integrate the public network of streets, transit and other infrastructure, creating a framework around which sustainable future development can occur. This non-traditional master plan applies an innovative methodology to identify areas in the County with the highest need for parks and open spaces and recommend opportunities to increase the number of parks and open space in those communities.

Factors Driving the Cost of Government

The Council is scheduled to hold a discussion on the factors driving the cost of government, such as revenue pressures, the impact of fiscal policy choices, and costs both inside and outside of the County government’s control. The factors affecting these costs in the County include demographic trends, historical growth

patterns, existing financial obligations, and budget choices. This discussion will provide context for the review of the FY18 Savings Plan and the County's overall budget. The staff report can be viewed at: http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=7490&meta_id=147730

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1:30 p.m.

Bill 40-17, Personnel - Merit System - Salary and Wage Plans - Police Leadership Service

The Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing on Bill 40-17. Council President Riemer is the lead sponsor at the request of the County Executive. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=7490&meta_id=147734

Bill 40-17 would modify the uniform salary plan for police sworn managers to include a salary schedule for a Police Leadership Service; authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to establish a Police Leadership Service under the merit system for lieutenants and captains in the Department of Police; establish guidelines for the Police Leadership Service; and generally amend the law governing salary schedules for County employees under the merit system.

Bill 41-17, Economic Development Fund - Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Matching Grant Program – Established

The Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing on Bill 41-17. A PHED Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 5. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=7490&meta_id=147736

Bill 41-17 would establish a Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Matching Grant Program and define eligibility for the Program.

Energized Public Spaces Functional Master Plan

See information on page 1.

COMMITTEE

FY18 Savings Plan

The FY18 Savings Plan is based on Department of Finance estimates that indicate lower than expected income tax revenue. Savings plans are not unusual. In FY16 the County Executive proposed a \$50.8 million savings plan, and the Council approved \$54.2 million in savings. Council Committees will begin reviewing the FY18 Savings Plan next week. A Council vote on the plan is tentatively scheduled for January 30. The Executive's plan calls for \$60 million in operating budget savings and \$13 million in capital projects savings to reduce costs in the current year. The following savings are recommended by the County Executive:

- Montgomery County Government: \$28M;
- Montgomery County Public Schools: \$25M;
- Montgomery College: \$5.2M; and
- Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission: \$2.6M.

Education (ED) Committee

On January 17 at 1:30 p.m. the ED Committee will review the FY18 Savings Plan targets recommended by the County Executive for Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery College, and discuss each agency's general approach to the saving plan and preliminary expectations. The Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jack Smith, and the Montgomery College President, Dr. DeRionne Pollard, are expected to attend. The staff report can be viewed at:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=7536&meta_id=147738

Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee

On January 17 at 1:30 p.m., the PHED Committee will review the FY18 Savings Plan. The following recommended reductions, totaling \$4,515,071, will be discussed:

- Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission: \$2,630,941;
- Board of Appeals: \$10,835;
- Office of Zoning and Admin. Hearings: \$13,792;
- Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation: \$900,000;
- Office of Agriculture: \$19,784;
- Housing and Community Affairs: \$150,772;
- Housing Opportunities Commission: \$130,738;
- Recreation: \$755,897; and
- Urban Districts: \$530,084.

Of the total \$4.5 million in reductions proposed by the Executive for departments and agencies to be considered by the PHED Committee, Council staff believe that \$3,063,175 of the reductions are manageable. Council staff does not recommend a total of \$1,040,983 in reductions involving M-NCPPC and the MC Economic Development Corporation. There is an additional \$410,913 in Executive recommended savings in the Recreation Department that the Committee may wish to discuss. Further details can be viewed in the staff report:

http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=169&event_id=7535&meta_id=147740

Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee

On January 18 at 9:30 a.m. the GO Committee will review several budgets for the Executive's recommended FY18 Savings Plan, including the Capital Improvements Program. The Executive recommends \$4,302,414 in total reductions for items under the GO Committee's purview. The staff report will be available on January 16.

- **Expedited Bill 36-17, Taxation – Development Impact Tax – Exemptions – Amendments**

On January 18, the GO Committee will review Expedited Bill 36-17, Taxation - Development Impact Tax - Exemptions – Amendments. Councilmember Floreen is the lead sponsor. Bill 36-17 was introduced on October 31. The staff report will be available on January 16.

The primary goal of Bill 36-17 is reducing the tax burden on projects that provide at least 25% affordable housing. The Bill would allow a development that increases the number of housing units previously approved to take advantage of the development tax exemption for projects with 25% affordable housing. As proposed, a development that provides 25% affordable units in newly proposed development would qualify for the exemption to the extent of the new units.

- **Expedited Bill 32-17, Taxation – Development Impact Tax for Transportation and Public School Improvements**

The GO Committee also will review Expedited Bill 32-17, Taxation - Development Impact Tax for Transportation and Public School Improvements - Definitions - Senior Residential. Councilmember Floreen is the lead sponsor and Councilmember Katz is a cosponsor. The staff report will be available on January 16.

Bill 32-17 would replace the multifamily-senior residential category used to impose the development impact tax for transportation and public school improvements with a senior residential category.

- **Resolution to implement Bill 32-17, Taxation – Development Impact Tax for Transportation and Public School Improvements**

The GO Committee will close out its meeting with a review of a resolution to implement Expedited Bill 32-17. The staff report will be available on January 16.

 **Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee**

On January 18 at 9:30 a.m. the HHS Committee will meet to review the FY18 Savings Plan recommendations for the Office of Human Rights, Public Libraries, and the Department of Health and Human Services. James Stowe, Director of the Office of Human Rights; Anita Vassallo, Acting Director of Public Libraries; and Uma Ahluwalia, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as representatives from the Office of Management and Budget, are expected to attend. The Committee will review any expected impacts from the reduction of about 2% in these departments. The staff report will be available on January 16.

 **Update – Wheaton redevelopment**

On January 18 at 2 p.m. the GO and PHED Committees will receive an update on the Wheaton Redevelopment Project and the Small Business Assistance Program. The Wheaton Redevelopment Project includes the construction of an approximately 300,000 square foot office building that will be owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and will be home to several County departments. Department of Transportation staff will update the Committee on the project's progress and anticipated milestones during the next few years. In anticipation of the redevelopment project, the Council enacted legislation to create the Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP) in 2012. The SBAP assists small businesses adversely impacted by County redevelopment projects by providing financial and technical assistance. Staff from the Executive and community service partners will provide an update about the implementation of the SBAP and the County's efforts to mitigate any adverse impact during the redevelopment project.

 **Transport, Energy, Infrastructure and Environment (T&E) Committee**

On January 19 at 9:30 a.m. the T&E Committee will meet to review the FY18 Savings Plan. The staff report will be available on January 17.

 **Semi-annual review – Interagency Technology Policy and Coordination Committee**

On January 18 at 2:45 p.m. the GO Committee will conduct its semi-annual review of ITPCC's work plan. The staff report will be available on January 16. The ITPCC was chartered by the Council to promote strategic planning and coordination in the use of information technology among County agencies. The ITPCC includes representatives from Montgomery County Government, Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery College, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, and the Housing Opportunities Commission. The ITPCC provides a forum for coordinated implementation of technology policies and guidelines, interagency communication, and the evaluation and sharing of new technology. The staff report will be available on January 16.

 **Public Safety (PS) Committee**

On January 19 at 2 p.m. the PS Committee will meet to review the FY18 Savings Plan recommendations. The following individuals are expected to attend: Chief J. Thomas Manger, MCPD; Chief Scott Goldstein, MCFRS; John McCarthy, State's Attorney; Robert Green, Director, DOCR; Judge Robert Greenberg, the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court; Eric Friedman, Director of the Office of Consumer Protection; Earl Stoddard Director of OEMHS; and a representative from the Department of Liquor Control. The staff report will be available on January 17.