



COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

APPROVED

Thursday, April 16, 2020

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened via video conference at 9:37 A.M. on Thursday, April 16, 2020.

PRESENT

Councilmember Sidney Katz, President

Councilmember Gabe Albornoz

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.

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 9:37 A.M.

GENERAL BUSINESS

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

- (1) Ms. Singleton, Clerk of the Council, announced that the Council is seeking applicants for the Montgomery County Planning Board, the deadline has been extended to Friday, April 17, 2020, at 5 P.M. An addendum to the agenda was also announced, adding for introduction a special appropriation to the County Government's FY20 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) Nondepartmental Account (NDA) - \$100,000 for COVID-19 Response - Manufacturing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); adding a special appropriation to the County Government's FY20 Operating Budget - \$250,000 for Purchase of Face Coverings and other PPE; and deleting the call of final reading on **Expedited Bill 17-20**, Carryout Bag Tax - Suspension.

(1.5A) **Introduced a special appropriation to the County Government’s FY20 Operating Budget, MCEDC NDA - \$100,000 for COVID-19 Response - Manufacturing PPE.** The Lead Sponsors are the Council at the request of Councilmembers Riemer and Albornoz.

A public hearing and action are scheduled for April 21, 2020.

(1.5B) **Introduced a special appropriation to the County Government’s FY20 Operating Budget - \$250,000 for Purchase of Face Coverings and other PPE. The Lead Sponsors are the Council at the request of Councilmembers Riemer and Albornoz.** A public hearing and action are scheduled for April 21, 2020.

(2) **DISCUSSION - FY21 Operating Budget Highlights and Approach**

Council Executive Director Michaelson, Deputy Director Howard, Senior Legislative Attorney Drummer, and Mr. Madaleno, Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), participated in the discussion.

Ms. Michaelson stated that the County’s revenue situation is changing for this year and next, and suggested the Council adopt a “same services” or “continuation of services” budget with the understanding that future adjustments will be needed. The budget is currently scheduled for adoption by the Council on May 21, and the Council will need to return to the budget in the summer when more information on revenues and the impact of COVID-19 response will be known. She noted that the Council and staff are working to identify reimbursable expenses related to the COVID-19 response so that when the anticipated \$183 million in federal aid from the CARES Act becomes available, it can be put to immediate use.

Ms. Navarro commented that on March 24, she introduced a resolution directing staff to develop options to streamline the budget process so that the Council may adopt an aggregate budget that reflects a continuation of the services provided at the same level as in FY20.

Mr. Howard presented a summary of the County Executive’s recommended budget, budget and fiscal changes due to COVID-19, updated FY20 and FY21 revenue projection scenarios, and initial data from FY21 “same services” budget analysis.

Councilmembers spoke in support of adopting a same services or maintenance of effort budget, noting the need for County Executive and Executive Branch staff to work with the Council and staff collaboratively to identify savings and options for possible future reductions; and expressed concern that the County Executive has

not forwarded any savings plan amendments to his proposed budget for necessary reductions, noting that the County Attorney has indicated that reductions must be specifically identified and not based on anticipated efficiencies.

Mr. Friedson requested Executive Branch staff provide a timeline for anticipated savings plan adjustments to the budget, costs associated with legislation introduced last week on behalf of the County Executive, written confirmation from the County Attorney that the collective bargaining agreements with the unions can be renegotiated as was indicated by the Council's Senior Attorney; and specific information on what fees associated with permits, licenses, registrations, etcetera will be forgiven, delayed or changed in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

Senior Legislative Attorney Drummer confirmed that the Council must adopt the budget by June 1, but that the Council has flexibility to subsequently change the budget through supplemental appropriations and other means throughout the year. Ms. Michaelson added that staff would revisit guidance associated with the 2011 Organizational Reform Commission (ORC) report developed in response to the last recession.

(3) **DISCUSSION – FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)**

Senior Legislative Analyst Levchenko stated that the Council was partially through its review of the CIP before the shutdown due to COVID-19 and that starting next week, the Council would continue its review. He suggested a status update on the CIP be scheduled in early May when a revenue update should be available. Noted that staff is working with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to better understand the County's eligibility for State aid related to school construction, and that they will review areas where current revenue expenditures can be reduced.

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION - Day #14**

(3.5) **Call of Bills for Final Reading**

A. **Expedited Bill 17-20 - Carryout Bag Tax - Suspension**

This item was deleted from the agenda.

The meeting recessed at 12:01 P.M. and reconvened at 1:34 P.M.

(4) **PUBLIC HEARING - FY21 Operating Budget**

The public hearing was conducted.

The meeting recessed at 3:07 P.M. and reconvened at 7:03 P.M.

(5) **PUBLIC HEARING - FY21 Operating Budget**

The public hearing was conducted.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 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