



COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

APPROVED

Monday, May 17, 2021

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened via video conference at 9:32 A.M. on Monday, May 17, 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.

WORKSESSION - FY22 Operating Budget

In his opening remarks, Mr. Hucker, Chair of the Transportation and Environment (T&E) Committee, reviewed the major issues addressed by the Committee and the Committee's view that increases in parking fees and parking enforcement must be delayed until the economy is stronger, which President Biden expects by the end of 2021 or early 2022.

- (1) [Parking Lot District funds and associated Capital Improvement Program \(CIP\) amendments](#)

Legislative Analyst Camacho reviewed the recommendations of the T&E Committee, as contained in the staff report.

Supported, unanimously, the FY22 operating budget for Parking District Services and related amendments to the FY21-26 CIP, as recommended by the T&E Committee.

(2) [Department of Transportation \(DOT\) Mass Transit Fund and CIP Amendments](#)

Senior Analyst Orlin reviewed the recommendations of the T&E Committee, as contained in the staff report. Mr. Conklin, Director, DOT, participated in the discussion.

Mr. Glass, speaking in support of free Ride On bus service, suggested an assessment be done on a shift in approach on how transportation services are provided to residents.

Mr. Hucker expressed appreciation for the bus drivers who provided front line service to residents during the pandemic.

Supported, unanimously, the FY22 operating budget for the Mass Transit Fund and related amendments to the FY21-26 CIP, as recommended by the T&E Committee.

(3) [Resolution to approve Y22 Transportation Fees, Charges, and Fares](#)

Dr. Orlin stated that the resolution sets the fees, charges, fines, and fares for transit and parking services provided by DOT.

Supported, unanimously, approval of the subject resolution as recommended by the T&E Committee.

(4) [DOT General Fund and CIP Amendments](#)

Dr. Orlin reviewed the recommendation of the T&E Committee, as contained in the staff report. Mr. Conklin participated in the discussion.

Mr. Jawando expressed appreciation to the Committee for supporting his proposal to double the funding for the Safe Routes to School program, which will significantly reduce the time needed for completion of pedestrian safety assessments. Mr. Rice said the Education and Culture (E&C) and T&E Committees would follow-up this summer on the Safe Routes to School program.

Dr. Orlin noted that an update on Vision Zero is planned for this summer, as requested by Mr. Glass.

Supported, unanimously, the FY22 operating budget for the DOT General and Leaf Vacuuming Funds and related amendments to the FY21-26 CIP, as recommended by the T&E Committee.

The meeting recessed at 10:28 A.M. and reconvened at 1:32 P.M.

WORKSESSION - FY22 Operating Budget *(continued)*

(5) [Property tax options: rate, amount, and the Income Tax Offset Credit \(ITOC\)](#)

Ms. Navarro, Chair of the GO Committee, reviewed the Committee recommendations for the FY22 operating budget for the subject budget, as contained in the staff report.

Supported, without objection, a \$692 ITOC for FY22 (same value as FY21) and a weighted property tax rate of \$0.9785 per \$100 for FY22 (rate is the Charter Limit and is the same weighted property tax rate in FY21), as submitted by the County Executive and recommended by the Committee. Mr. Friedson was temporarily absent.

Mr. Smith, Legislative Analyst, noted that public comments were received regarding the ITOC and that after the budget meetings, the GO Committee will review the issue of an increase in properties receiving the ITOC that have not applied.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Friedson stated that had he been present he would have voted in the affirmative.

(6) [NDA: Climate Change Planning](#)

Participating in the discussion were Ms. Hochberg, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and Director of County Climate Policy; and Mr. Levchenko, Senior Legislative Analyst.

Mr. Levchenko reviewed the Committee recommendation for the subject budget, as contained in the staff report.

Mr. Levchenko mentioned that after the budget meetings, the Council will be taking up Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) legislation as well as a regulation adopting the 2018 International Green Construction Code, both recently transmitted by the County Executive.

Supported, unanimously, the FY22 operating budget for the Climate Change Planning NDA, as submitted by the County Executive and recommended by the T&E Committee.

(7) [Office of the County Executive](#)

Participating in the discussion was Mr. Madaleno, CAO.

Ms. Navarro, reviewed the GO Committee recommendations for the FY22 operating budget for the subject budget, as contained in the staff report. Ms. Navarro noted that Committee also approved funding, as recommended by the County Executive, for the creation of a Strategic Partnerships Director position that is contingent upon enactment of **Expedited Bill 22-20**, which is scheduled for action tomorrow, May 18.

Supported, unanimously, the FY22 operating budget for the Office of the County Executive, as recommended by the GO Committee.

(8) [Office of Intergovernmental Relations](#)

Ms. Navarro reviewed the GO Committee recommendations for the FY22 operating budget for the subject budget, as contained in the staff report.

Supported, unanimously, the FY22 operating budget for the Office of Intergovernmental Relations, as recommended by the GO Committee.

(9) [Council Office](#)

Ms. Navarro reviewed the GO Committee recommendations for the FY22 operating budget for the subject budget, as contained in the staff report, noting the importance of having staff that are dedicated and capable ready to respond in time of crises to assist residents, such as occurred during 2020.

Ms. Michaelson, Council Executive Director, noted the exponential increase over the past 10 years of incoming correspondence as well as the effective use of social media which also generates more inquiries from residents.

Supported, unanimously, the FY22 operating budget for the Council Office, as recommended by the GO Committee, to add \$40,00 to each Councilmember Office as well as an additional \$100,000 for equity and inclusion training.

(10) [NDA: Legislative Branch Communications Outreach](#)

Participating in the discussion was Ms. Healy, Legislative Information Officer.

Ms. Navarro reviewed the GO Committee recommendations for the FY22 operating budget for the subject budget, as contained in the staff report, noting the importance of the Legislative Branch communications outreach work, which began in 2012, in reaching out to underserved communities and promoting community engagement.

Supported, unanimously, the FY22 operating budget for the Legislative Branch Communications Outreach NDA, as recommended by the GO Committee, to add \$130,000 for a Multicultural Communications and Community Outreach Manager; \$50,000 for contractual assistance for bilingual audiovisual information services; \$85,000 for a full-time Spanish translator and interpreter; and \$30,000 for software solutions and equipment for broadcasting in multiple languages.

(11) [Office of the Inspector General \(OIG\)](#)

Ms. Navarro reviewed the GO Committee recommendations for the FY22 operating budget for the subject budget, as contained in the staff report, noting the addition of 2.0 FTEs to provide additional staffing due to requirements placed on the OIG by **Bill 11-19**, enacted in 2019 expanding the duties of the OIG.

Supported, unanimously, the FY22 operating budget for the OIG, as recommended by the GO Committee.

(12) [NDA: Public Election Fund](#)

Ms. Navarro reviewed the GO Committee recommendations for the FY22 operating budget for the subject budget, as contained in the staff report.

Supported, unanimously, the FY22 operating budget for the Public Election Fund NDA, as recommended by the GO Committee.

(13) [Office of Consumer Protection](#)

Mr. Katz, Chair of the Public Safety (PS) Committee, reviewed the Committee recommendation for the FY22 operating budget for the subject budget, as contained in the staff report, noting the recommendation of 1.5 FTEs to assist with the Public Campaign Financing program.

Supported, unanimously, Ms. Navarro's motion in support of the FY22 operating budget for the Office of Consumer Protection, as amended by the County Executive and recommended by the PS Committee.

(14) [NDA: Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation \(MCEDC\)](#)

Participating in the discussion were Mr. Wu, Chief Executive Officer, MCEDC; Mr. Watters, OMB; and Mr. Smith. Mr. Riemer, Chair of the Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee, reviewed the Committee recommendations, as contained in the staff

report and the addendum, which addressed ineligible use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

Mr. Smith stated that the memorandum that was sent by the County Executive today, May 17, acknowledged that ARPA funding cannot be used for \$1 million in new enhancements for the MCEDC NDA and, therefore, the County Executive recommended the funding of new enhancements with general funds instead. Mr. Smith noted that that would result in a reduction in reserves.

Mr. Riemer made a motion to approve the MCEDC NDA budget without the County Executive's recommended new enhancements and recommended source of funding and to have the Committee take it up over the summer. Mr. Friedson made a friendly amendment, which was accepted by the maker of the motion, to add the \$1 million for new enhancements to Category 2, as was recommended as an option by Council staff.

Supported, unanimously, Mr. Riemer's revised motion in support of amending the FY22 operating budget for the MCEDC NDA to add \$1 million for new enhancements to Category 2, which the Council will consider over the summer.

Supported, unanimously, the FY22 operating budget for the MCEDC NDA, as amended.

(15) [NDA: Incubator Programs](#)

Participating in the discussion were Mr. Fletcher, Assistant CAO.

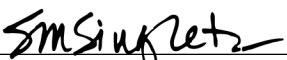
Mr. Riemer reviewed the PHED Committee recommendations, as contained in the staff report and the addendum.

Supported, unanimously, Mr. Riemer's motion in support of amending the FY22 operating budget for the Incubator Programs NDA to add \$.3 million for new enhancements to Category 2, which the Council will consider over the summer.

Supported, unanimously, the FY22 operating budget for Incubator Programs NDA, as amended.

The meeting adjourned at 3:06 P.M.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council