



## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

**APPROVED**

Thursday, May 20, 2021

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened via video conference at 9:57 A.M. on Thursday, May 20, 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 and FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)**

#### (1) A. [Capital Budget Wrap-Up and CIP Reconciliation](#)

Mr. Levchenko, Senior Legislative Analyst, Dr. Orlin, Senior Analyst, and Ms. Beck, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), participated in the discussion.

Mr. Rice discussed a proposed amendment to the FY21-26 CIP put forth in a memo from himself and Councilmembers Hucker, Navarro, and Jawando that would expand revenue assumptions to allow both Woodward and Northwood High Schools to remain on track and to keep Page and Woodlin Elementary Schools on schedule and minimize delays to Observation Drive Extended. He stated that it is critical to keep up with school enrollment growth and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is committed to restructuring its CIP to get the most funding possible from State and federal sources to keep its projects on schedule, noting that if delayed now, the Page and Woodlin Elementary Schools projects could not be accelerated in the future. Councilmembers acknowledged that if federal and State aid fails to come through for these projects, including from the State's Built to Learn Act which would provide funds in addition to the State's existing school construction

funding, then tough decisions would need to be made regarding MCPS' CIP projects.

The Council continued discussion of this item during the afternoon session.

(2) B. [Operating Budget Wrap-Up](#)

Ms. Michaelson reviewed actions taken to address the operating budget funding gap of \$500,000, which included adding lapse to new positions, various technical corrections, and changing the funding of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Mobile Crisis Van from General Funds to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds based on new guidance from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. After the operating budget is adopted, the Council will consider items included in Categories 1 and 2 for possible ARPA funding.

In a straw vote, unanimously approved Mr. Jawando's motion to approve the FY22 Operating Budget, as contained in the staff report.

(3) **PUBLIC HEARING/ACTION** - [Special Appropriation to the FY21 Operating Budget; Montgomery County Government; DHHS Asian American Health Initiative COVID Response; \\$250,000 \(Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves\); and Amendment to the FY21 Operating Budget for the Montgomery County Government, Resolution 19-472, Section G, Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: The Primary Care Coalition](#)

The public hearing was conducted and the record closed.

Adopted **Resolution 19-861**, approving the subject special appropriation and amendment to the County Government's FY21 Operating Budget, Resolution 19-472, Section G, Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Award Status: The Primary Care Coalition.

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

(4) **CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

A. **Introduced** a special appropriation to the FY21 Capital Budget, Montgomery County Government, Department of Transportation (DOT): Resurfacing: Residential/Rural Roads (#500511), \$409,000 (Source: General Obligation Bonds). Action is tentatively scheduled for May 27, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### Announcement

Introduction of **Bill 20-21**, Swimming Pools - Lifeguard Requirement - Amendments, which was originally scheduled for introduction on May 18, is now scheduled for May 27, 2021. A public hearing is scheduled for June 15, 2021, at 1:30 P.M.

The Council recessed at 11:07 A.M. and reconvened at 2:42 P.M.

### WORKSESSION - FY22 Operating Budget and FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) *(continued from morning session)*

#### (1) A. Capital Budget Wrap-Up and CIP Reconciliation

Mr. Levchenko and Dr. Orlin reviewed background information pertaining to CIP projects, noting that the biggest factor in the \$170 million funding gap was a \$123.9 million reduction in projected Impact Tax and Recordation Tax revenue. As an “off” year CIP, only projects put forth as amendments can be deferred or cut for fiscal reasons. Mr. Rice’s memo discussed earlier today assumed higher levels of State aid and the reconciliation total now before the Council reflects that revised amount of State aid for school construction. Reconciliation actions include FY21 surplus revenue applied to FY22, technical adjustments and production delays, expenditure cuts and deferrals, and the adjustment of bonds planned for issue.

Mr. Levchenko and Dr. Orlin reviewed transportation projects included in the CIP, noting the County Executive’s recommendation, the Council’s straw vote, and the reconciliation decision.

For MCPS, the CIP reconciliation assumes \$1.62 billion. Mr. Levchenko reviewed the CIP amendments as proposed by the Board of Education (BOE) and the changes made to the BOE’s request are noted below:

HVAC: MCPS - take reductions of \$5.0 million in FY25 and \$9.5 million in FY26.

PLAR: MCPS - take reductions of \$531,000 in FY24, \$6.531 million in FY25, and \$8.531 million in FY26.

Roof Replacement - take reductions of \$2.0 million in FY25 and \$5.0 million in FY26.

Approved, unanimously, Mr. Friedson’s motion to restore the Capital Crescent Trail project to the schedule included in the approved CIP: \$21.0 million in FY25 and \$21.5 million in FY26 and to show the FY25 funds as State Aid. A fiscal note in the project description form (PDF) would indicate

that the schedule is contingent upon receiving State aid and/or non-County funds to move the project forward.

In a straw vote, unanimously approved the amendments to the FY21-26 CIP as amended and reconciled.

Mr. Huckler stated that over 1,500 County residents lost their lives due to COVID-19 while others struggled to make ends meet waiting for State unemployment aid and faced eviction from their homes, and noted that one year ago, there was no vaccine and the County struggled to obtain personal protective equipment (PPEs) for first responders. During the pandemic, residents and non-profit groups pulled together to feed, provide critical services, and help vaccinate County residents. Mr. Huckler expressed the view that this budget provides the opportunity for the County to recover and rebuild, move forward with sustainable energy goals, replenish reserve funds and maintain the County's triple-A bond rating without the need to increase taxes.

Councilmembers expressed thanks to staff, residents, and the County's State and Federal delegations for working tirelessly through the pandemic to serve those who live and work in the County. Highlighting items included in the budget, Councilmembers commented on the full funding of MCPS, Montgomery College, and the Parks Department; increased funding for the Working Families Income Supplement, early education initiatives, the Safe Routes to School Program, the Mobile Crisis team, and minority and homeless health care initiatives.

The Economic Development Platform served as a framework for the Council's work and options were considered through a racial equity and social justice lens. Councilmembers noted that the budget included funding for multi-cultural communication upgrades, summer and after-school programs, senior programs and services, mass transit improvements and the purchase of electric buses. The budget does not include funding for police in schools, and work will continue regarding the use of School Resource and Community Policing officers.

While in support of the budget, Mr. Friedson noted that it is balanced based on receipt of unprecedented Federal and State aid and violates many of the County's established fiscal policies. He expressed concern about the County's ability to continue to afford some of the programs, services, and pay increases included in this budget moving forward.

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 P.M.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



---

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.  
Clerk of the Council