



APPROVED

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened in the Council Hearing Room, Stella B. Werner Council Office Building, Rockville, Maryland, at 9:01 A.M. on Tuesday, March 29, 2022.

PRESENT

Councilmember Gabe Albornoz, President	Councilmember Evan Glass, Vice President
Councilmember Andrew Friedson (virtually)	Councilmember Tom Hucker
Councilmember Will Jawando	Councilmember Sidney Katz
Councilmember Nancy Navarro (virtually)	Councilmember Craig Rice
Councilmember Hans Riemer	

The President in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Proclamation was presented by Council President Albornoz and County Executive Elrich recognizing Ramadan 2022.
- B. Proclamation was presented by Councilmember Jawando recognizing Food Security Appreciation Week.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- A. Announcements

Ms. Singleton, Clerk of the Council, announced that public hearings on the FY23 Operating Budget will be held on April 19 and April 20, 2022, at 1:30 P.M. and April 19, 20, and 21, 2022, at 7:00 P.M.; and that the worksession and action on Expedited Bill 49-21, Police - Police Accountability Board - Administrative Charging Committee - Established, and action on Executive Regulation 18-21, Water Quality Protection Charge, Definition of Treatment have been postponed; and added to the agenda for introduction was a resolution in Support of the Application to

the State or Re-Designation of Bethesda and Silver Spring Arts and Entertainment Districts in Montgomery County. She also announced that [the Council is seeking applicants for the vacancy on the Montgomery County Board of Appeals.](#)

(2) B. **Acknowledgement – Receipt of Petitions**

No petitions were received this week.

9:30 **LEGISLATIVE SESSION - DAY #10**

(3) **Call of Bills for Final Reading:**

A. **Expedited Bill 49-21, Police - Police Accountability Board - Administrative Charging Committee - Established**

This item was postponed.

Mr. Albornoz explained that this item was postponed because the Maryland General Assembly is considering potential amendments to its legislation that could potentially impact Expedited Bill 49-21 and that it is prudent to wait to take action until after the General Assembly completes its work.

(4) **WORKSESSION - [Economic Development Strategic Plan](#)**

Participating in the discussion were Mr. Weissman, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. Wu, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Mr. Tompkins, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC).

Mr. Riemer, Chair of the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee, explained that shifting the creation of an economic development strategic plan to MCEDC would create a more dynamic and evolving process. He expressed the view that the Plan takes advantage of Montgomery County's strengths to grow the private sector tax base. Mr. Friedson commented that the Plan is a living document with the goal to have a unified vision to ensure a strong economy in the County. Ms. Navarro, noted that the Economic Development Platform, previously adopted by the Council, includes key elements included in the Plan. Legislative Analyst Smith reviewed the PHED Committee's recommendations, as contained in the staff report. He noted the Council would take a straw vote on the Plan today, with final action on the resolution to adopt the Plan scheduled for April 5, 2022.

Mr. Wu and Mr. Tompkins presented an overview of the Plan, which is designed to provide guidance and direction for Montgomery County's economic growth and incorporates the values and priorities of the community and the Economic Development Platform. They stated that the County's assets are very strong and provide a foundation for a livable and growing County rooted in equity and growth opportunities to continue to attract, retain, and expand companies in the County. Noted that the County's non-profit organizations are included in MCEDC's work plan, that they have met with Office of Agriculture staff and recognize the importance of the Agricultural Reserve and are working with the County Executive to support wineries and breweries, and to establish a food incubator.

Mr. Rice requested MCEDC send a letter to all County business owners to introduce the services offered by MCEDC and to begin to establish relationships with them.

Mr. Glass expressed the view the most cost-effective way for economic growth is to help start-up businesses in the County grow and stay in the County; and asked how the Plan lives up to the four outcomes included in the legislation which include: 1) a thriving and diversified economy, 2) racial equity and social justice, 3) greater innovation, and 4) environmental sustainability and a reduction in climate change.

Mr. Katz noted that the retention and expansion of businesses in the County is as equally important as attracting new businesses; and that a focus is needed on incubators and accelerators for start-ups and a means to ensure their access to capital. He suggested MCEDC look at culinary incubators and provide a single phone number businesses can call to request information or help.

Mr. Jawando said he wants to see metrics and suggested a bi-annual survey of businesses be conducted to obtain data to help determine what they need, to provide better service, and provide quantitative information. He expressed the view that MCEDC should regularly check in with the County's diverse businesses to obtain accurate information.

Ms. Navarro commented that in 2017, a position in the Executive Branch was created to ensure minority and small business development was a County priority. She requested information on how that position is now being leveraged, and noted that many questions were discussed by the Council in 2019 and reflected in its adopted Economic Development Platform. She requested the impact of the pandemic on business be determined, including on industries, the use of office space, and how lessons learned are folded into the Strategic Plan. She indicated that to prioritize our workforce a pipeline from high schools and colleges to employers must be established to develop a qualified workforce, and noted the importance of housing opportunities and transportation infrastructure on economic development.

Mr. Albornoz suggested it be articulated that the Plan is an algorithm of a number of efforts over a number of different of years on work previously done, and that feedback be directly solicited from businesses not yet contacted. He stated each Council committee should focus on economic development issues to connect actions to recommendations included in the Plan.

In a straw vote, approved the recommendations of the PHED Committee and supported the Economic Development Strategic Plan. A formal vote is scheduled for next week.

- (5) **ACTION** - Executive Regulation 18-21, Water Quality Protection Charge, Definition of Treatment

This item was postponed.

- (?) **CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

- B. [Introduced a special appropriation #22-68 to the FY22 Operating Budget Montgomery County Government Department of Health and Human Services Ending the Human Immunodeficiency Virus Epidemic Grant \\$1,172,584 \(Source of Funds: Federal Grant Funds\).](#) A public hearing is scheduled for April 19, 2022, at 1:30 P.M.
- D. [Adopted Resolution 19-1203, supplemental appropriation to the County Government's FY22 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services \(MCFRS\) - \\$13,900,000 for General Personnel and Operating Costs \(Source of Funds: Undesignated Reserves Fire Fund Reserves\).](#)
- E. [Adopted Resolution 19-1204, confirming the County Executive's appointment to the Local Management Board for Children, Youth, and Families \(Collaboration Council\): Dira Treadvance.](#)
- F. [Introduced a resolution to Support for Application to the State for Re-Designation of Bethesda and Silver Spring Arts and Entertainment Districts in Montgomery County.](#)

The Council recessed at 11:48 A.M. and reconvened virtually at 12:30 P.M.

Virtual Lunch Meeting with Montgomery County Retired Employees Association (MCREA)

Discussed issues of importance to County retirees and seniors in general.

The Council recessed at 1:20 P.M. and reconvened in person at 1:31 P.M.

- (7) **PUBLIC HEARING** - [Special Appropriation to the County Government's FY22 Operating Budget, Department of Health and Human Services - \\$450,000 for Pediatric Mobile Medical Vehicle \(Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves\) and Amendment to FY22 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: Casa Ruben, Inc.](#)

The public hearing was conducted. Additional material for the Council's consideration should be submitted by the close of business on March 31, 2022. A Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee worksession is tentatively scheduled for March 31, 2022.

- (2) C. **Action** - Approval of Minutes

Approved the minutes of February 15, 2022, without objection.

WORKSESSION - FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

- (8) • [Conservation of Natural Resources - Storm Drains](#)

Mr. Hucker, Chair of the Transportation and Environment (T&E) Committee, summarized the Committee's recommendations as contained in the staff report.

Approved the subject CIP, as recommended by the T&E Committee.

- (9) • [Conservation of Natural Resources - Stormwater Management](#)

Mr. Hucker summarized the T&E Committee's recommendations, as contained in the staff report.

Ms. Hochberg, Acting Director, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) participated in the discussion.

Approved the subject CIP, as recommended by the T&E Committee.

- (10) • [Recycling and Resource Management](#)

Mr. Huckler summarized the T&E Committee's recommendations, as contained in the staff report.

Participating in the discussion were Ms. Hochberg, and Mr. Wainer, Chief, Recycling and Resource Management Division, DEP.

Discussed food waste composting programs in Silver Spring and Potomac which have shown positive results. Mr. Wainer noted that DEP is preparing a Request for Proposal (RFP) with the Maryland Department of Energy to develop a food scrap composting facility in Montgomery County or obtain technology to allow for this in an existing facility. The RFP is expected to be public in approximately one month, with an expectation for a recommendation in Fall 2022.

Approved the subject CIP, as recommended by the T&E Committee.

(11) • [Conservation of Natural Resources - agricultural land preservation](#)

Mr. Riemer, Chair of the Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee, summarized the Committee's recommendations, as contained in the staff report.

Participating in the discussion were Mr. Criss, Director, Office of Agriculture.

Approved the subject CIP, as recommended by the PHED Committee.

(12) • [General Government - Economic Development](#)

Mr. Riemer summarized the joint PHED and Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee's recommendations, as contained in the staff report.

Approved the subject CIP, as recommended by the joint GOs and PHED Committee.

(13) • [General Government - County Offices and other Improvements](#)

Ms. Navarro, Chair of the GO Committee, summarized the Committee's recommendations as contained in the staff report.

Participating in the discussion were Mr. Dise, Director, and Mr. Ossont, Deputy Director, Department of General Services (DGS).

Discussed the County Executive's proposed funding for a Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) bus depot to be developed as part of a comprehensive site at Seven Locks and the timeline for MCPS to have an electric bus fleet.

Requested that DGS reevaluate potential depot locations that were previously ruled out with a new electric vehicle approach and provide alternative site options for the depot, along with potential co-location options.

Opposed the County Executive's funding proposal for a new bus depot at the Seven Locks site and requested staff provide new language to address alternative locations for the bus depot, include a traffic study, reduce the expected project completion timeline, and ensure that parking for drivers is included in the comprehensive plan for a new depot.

Supported a new project to identify sites and plan for the installation of a memorial for lynching victims, and a new study in the Facility Planning project to co-locate services at the Family Justice Center.

The meeting adjourned at 3:12 P.M.

This is an accurate account of the meeting:



Judy Rupp
Clerk of the Council