

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND
Minutes of
Legislative Session 2026, Legislative Day No. 2
January 20, 2026 – 7:00 P.M.

The County Council meeting was called to order by Chair Hummer at 7:06 P.M. It was opened with the Invocation given by Ms. Leadbetter, and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held in the County Council Chambers in Annapolis, Maryland. There were approximately 100 persons in the audience.

The following members of the County Council were present:

Pete Smith	First District
Allison Pickard	Second District
Nathan Volke	Third District
Julie K. Hummer	Fourth District
Amanda Fiedler	Fifth District
Lisa Rodvien	Sixth District
Shannon Leadbetter	Seventh District

Meredith Beach, Legislative Counsel, was present. The County Auditor's Office was represented by Louis Duncan, Executive Manager.

ETHICS STATEMENT

Kaley Schultze, Administrative Officer, read aloud the Ethics Statement.

CHAIR PRESENTATION

The Chair recognized Ms. Rodvien for her time as Chair in 2021 by presenting her with a plaque.

INVITATION TO AUDIENCE

The Chair opened Invitation to Audience.

The Administrative Officer stated there were two submissions for Invitation to Audience of written testimony received through the online testimony tool, which were shared with the Council and posted on the County Council website.

The following persons spoke at Invitation to Audience:

Kyle Nembhard, Glen Burnie
Michael Lofton, on behalf of GAN

There was no one else present who wished to speak, and the Invitation to Audience was closed.

PRELIMINARY MOTION

On motion of Ms. Pickard, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Council voted that the partial reading of any bill, resolution, minutes, or amendment constitutes the reading of the whole.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Ms. Fiedler, seconded by Ms. Rodvien, the minutes for January 5, 2026, Legislative Day No. 1, and the closed session minutes for January 5, 2026 were approved.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

BILL NO. 7-26 – AN ORDINANCE concerning: Current Expense Budget – Supplementary Appropriations – FOR the purpose of making supplementary appropriations from unanticipated revenues to certain offices, departments, institutions, boards, commissions or other agencies in the general fund and to certain special funds of the County government for the current fiscal year; and generally relating to transferring appropriations of funds and making supplementary appropriations of funds to the current expense budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Introduced by Ms. Hummer, Chair
(by request of the County Executive)

BILL NO. 8-26 – AN ORDINANCE concerning: Current Expense Budget – Board of Education – Supplementary Appropriation and Transfers of Funds – FOR the purpose of transferring appropriations of funds between certain offices, departments, institutions, boards, commissions or other agencies in the general fund; making supplementary appropriations from unanticipated revenues to the Local Education Fund for the current fiscal year; and generally relating to transferring and reducing appropriations of funds and supplementary appropriations of funds in the current expense budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Introduced by Ms. Hummer, Chair
(by request of the County Executive)

BILL NO. 9-26 – AN ORDINANCE concerning: Zoning – Conditional Uses – Battery Energy Storage Systems – FOR the purpose of defining “battery energy storage system”; allowing “battery energy storage system” as a conditional use in certain residential, commercial, industrial, and mixed use districts; adding the conditional use requirements for a “battery energy storage system” facility; providing for the expedited review of certain projects; and generally relating to zoning.

Introduced by Ms. Fiedler

BILL NO. 10-26 – AN ORDINANCE concerning: Boards, Commissions, and Similar Bodies – Police Accountability Board – Training – FOR the purpose of modifying a training

requirement for voting members of the Police Accountability Board; and generally relating to boards, commissions, and similar bodies.
Introduced by Ms. Hummer

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 1-26 – RESOLUTION establishing an Ad Hoc Committee to study and make recommendations on the implementation of a Project Labor Agreements policy on certain County-funded construction projects
Introduced by Ms. Pickard and Ms. Hummer

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CALL OF BILLS FOR FINAL READING AND/OR VOTE

BILL NO. 92-25 (As Amended)

The Chair called for Bill No. 92-25, as amended, An Ordinance concerning: Subdivision and Development – Zoning – Cottage Home Development – For the purpose of establishing development requirements for cottage home developments; providing for the site and density requirement for cottage home developments; providing for the infrastructure and amenity requirements for cottage home communities; defining “dwelling unit, cottage home”; providing for parking requirements for cottage home developments; permitting cottage home developments in certain residential districts; and generally relating to subdivision and development and zoning; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Mr. Smith explained the background and purpose of the bill.

Ethan Hunt, Director of Government Relations, was accompanied by Lynn Miller, Assistant Planning and Zoning Officer, Erin Karpewicz, CEO, ACDS, and Kelly Kenney, Supervising County Attorney.

The Administration supports.

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 92-25, as amended.

The Administrative Officer stated there were six submissions for Bill No. 92-25, as amended, of written testimony received through the online testimony tool, which were shared with the Council and posted on the County Council website.

The following persons spoke on Bill No. 92-25, as amended:

Michael Lofton, on behalf of GAN
Steven Waddy, on behalf of NAACP
Max Gross, on behalf of AAC Association of Realtors
Tim Stern, Crownsville

There was no one else present who wished to speak and the public hearing was closed.

The Chair called for Bill No. 92-25, as amended, An Ordinance concerning: Subdivision and Development – Zoning – Cottage Home Development; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Amendment No. 3

The Administrative Officer read a brief summary of the amendment:

This amendment allows cottage home developments as a special exception in a W1 zoning district.

There was discussion on the amendment.

Mr. Smith withdrew the amendment.

Amendment No. 4

The Administrative Officer read a brief summary of the amendment:

This amendment allows cottage home developments in certain commercial and mixed use zoning districts.

Ms. Pickard explained the amendment.

The Administration supports.

Mr. Volke asked clarifying questions.

Ms. Miller answered.

There was further discussion of the amendment.

On motion of Ms. Pickard, seconded by Ms. Hummer, Amendment No. 4 was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Mr. Smith, Ms. Pickard, Ms. Rodvien, Ms. Hummer

Nay – Ms. Leadbetter, Mr. Volke, Ms. Fiedler

The Chair stated that Bill No. 92-25, as amended, will be heard at the next Council Meeting on February 2, 2026.

BILL NO. 97-25

The Chair called for Bill No. 97-25, An Ordinance concerning: Boards, Commissions, and Similar Bodies – Veterans Affairs Commission – For the purpose of changing the name of the “Anne Arundel County Veterans Affairs Commission” to the “Anne Arundel County Commission

for Veterans and Military Families”; defining “military family”, “United States Armed Forces”, and “veteran”; modifying the purposes, composition, terms of the members, and powers and duties of the Commission; and generally relating to boards, commissions, and similar bodies; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Ethan Hunt, Director of Government Relations, was accompanied by Ron Borro, Vice Chair of Veteran’s Affairs Commission, and Kelly Kenney, Supervising County Attorney.

Mr. Hunt explained the background and purpose of the bill.

Mr. Borro spoke on the bill.

Ms. Leadbetter stated her husband is a veteran.

Ms. Fiedler asked about the composition.

Mr. Borro answered.

Ms. Rodvien and Ms. Hummer stated their spouses are veterans.

Mr. Smith stated he is an active-duty military officer.

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 97-25.

The Administrative Officer stated there were three submissions for Bill No. 97-25 of written testimony received through the online testimony tool, which were shared with the Council and posted on the County Council website.

The following person spoke on Bill No. 97-25:

Debra Luzietti-Myers, Odenton

There was no one else present who wished to speak and the public hearing was closed.

The Chair called for Bill No. 97-25, An Ordinance concerning: Boards, Commissions, and Similar Bodies – Veterans Affairs Commission; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Bill No. 97-25 was passed by the following roll call:

Aye – Ms. Leadbetter, Mr. Smith, Ms. Pickard, Mr. Volke, Ms. Fiedler, Ms. Rodvien
Ms. Hummer

Nay – None

BILL NO. 98-25

The Chair called for Bill No. 98-25, An Ordinance concerning: Public Works – Traffic – Zoning – Signs – For the purpose of authorizing the Director of the Department of Public Works to place certain permanent directional signs in a County right-of-way under certain circumstances; repealing certain signage provisions; revising the definition of “sign”; defining certain types of signs and sign-related terms; setting forth the purpose and intent for the regulation of signs; adding a grandfathering provision applicable to certain applications for signs; allowing signs in existence as of a certain date to remain in place under certain circumstances; establishing criteria for the replacement or alteration of certain signs in existence as of a certain date; establishing general provisions related to signs; requiring the Planning and Zoning Officer to prepare illustrations and graphic representations to assist in the application of the subtitle; exempting certain signs from certain permit and other requirements; requiring permits for certain signs; prohibiting the placement of certain types of signs; establishing the criteria for location of signs; setting forth methods for measurement of sign area and height; establishing standards for certain permanent signs; establishing regulations for and prohibitions of certain signs in County and private rights-of-way; establishing time, place, and manner criteria for temporary signs on private property; setting forth the allowable types, size, and location of certain freestanding and building signs by zoning district or use of a property; allowing a developer of certain developments to submit a signage program for approval to the Office of Planning and Zoning; and generally relating to public works and zoning; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Ethan Hunt, Director of Government Relations, was accompanied Lynn Miller, Assistant Planning and Zoning Officer, and Kelly Kenney, Supervising County Attorney.

Mr. Hunt explained the background and purpose of the bill.

Ms. Miller spoke on the bill.

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 98-25.

The Administrative Officer stated there were no submissions of public testimony received ahead of time for Bill No. 98-25.

The following persons spoke on Bill No. 98-25:

Michael Lofton, on behalf of GAN
Efe Brock, Annapolis
Kinley Bray, on behalf of NAIOP Maryland
Paul Higgins, Pasadena

There was no one else present who wished to speak and the public hearing was closed.

The Chair called for Bill No. 98-25, An Ordinance concerning: Public Works – Traffic – Zoning – Signs; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Amendment No. 1

The Administrative Officer read a brief summary of the amendment:

This amendment allows signs that have been in the same location for at least 20 years to remain in place or be replaced in-kind.

Mr. Hunt explained the amendment.

Mr. Volke asked about a previous bill.

Ms. Miller answered.

There was further discussion of the amendment.

On motion of Ms. Pickard, seconded by Mr. Smith, Amendment No. 1 was defeated by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Ms. Pickard, Ms. Rodvien, Ms. Hummer

Nay – Ms. Leadbetter, Mr. Smith, Mr. Volke, Ms. Fiedler

Amendment No. 2

The Administrative Officer read a brief summary of the amendment:

This amendment removes the fees associated with an application for an offsite directional sign.

Mr. Hunt explained the amendment.

Mr. Volke asked about remaining fees.

Ms. Miller answered.

Mr. Volke asked clarifying questions.

Ms. Miller responded.

On motion of Ms. Rodvien, seconded by Ms. Pickard, Amendment No. 2 was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Ms. Leadbetter, Mr. Smith, Ms. Pickard, Mr. Volke, Ms. Fiedler, Ms. Rodvien
Ms. Hummer

Nay – None

The Chair stated that Bill No. 98-25 will be heard at the next Council Meeting on February 2, 2026.

BILL NO. 99-25

The Chair called for Bill No. 99-25, An Ordinance concerning: Subdivision and Development – Agricultural Land Preservation – Disclosure of Right to Farm – For the purpose of defining “agricultural operation”, “generally accepted agricultural management practices”, and “nuisance”; establishing a right to farm in Anne Arundel County; providing certain protections to agricultural operations from nuisance lawsuits under certain conditions; promoting and preserving farm lands and practices; providing notice regarding agricultural operations to purchasers of real property in an RA or RLD zoning district or within 500 feet of an agricultural operation; providing for civil penalties for violation of the notice provisions; establishing a complaint resolution process; and generally relating to subdivision and development; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Ms. Leadbetter explained the background and purpose of the bill.

Ethan Hunt, Director of Government Relations, was accompanied Lynn Miller, Assistant Planning and Zoning Officer, Anna Chaney, Chair of the Agriculture Commission, and Kelly Kenney, Supervising County Attorney.

Mr. Hunt spoke on the bill.

Mr. Volke asked about notice.

Ms. Leadbetter answered.

Ms. Hummer gave an example.

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 99-25.

The Administrative Officer stated there were no submissions of public testimony received ahead of time for Bill No. 99-25.

The following persons spoke on Bill No. 99-25:

Anna Chaney, Lothian
Max Gross, on behalf of AACAR
Brian Hewitt, Crownsville

There was no one else present who wished to speak and the public hearing was closed.

The Chair called for Bill No. 99-25, An Ordinance concerning: Subdivision and Development – Agricultural Land Preservation – Disclosure of Right to Farm; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Bill No. 99-25 was passed by the following roll call:

Aye – Ms. Leadbetter, Mr. Smith, Ms. Pickard, Ms. Fiedler, Ms. Rodvien, Ms. Hummer

Nay – None

Abstain – Mr. Volke

BILL NO. 101-25

The Chair called for Bill No. 101-25, An Ordinance concerning: General Provisions – Public Works – Landlord-Tenant Eviction – For the purpose of defining certain terms related to landlord-tenant eviction; providing for the purpose and applicability of the new title; establishing notice requirements for the eviction of tenants; providing for the storage and disposition of a tenant's belongings upon eviction; establishing penalties for violating any provision of the new title; and generally relating to landlord-tenant evictions and public works; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Ms. Hummer explained the background and purpose of the bill.

Ethan Hunt, Director of Government Relations, was accompanied by Erin Karpewicz, CEO, ACDS, and Kelly Kenney, Supervising County Attorney.

Mr. Hunt spoke on the bill.

Ms. Rodvien asked to be added as a sponsor.

Ms. Leadbetter and Ms. Rodvien disclosed they are not a landlord anymore.

Mr. Volke disclosed he is a landlord.

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 101-25.

The Administrative Officer stated there was one submission for Bill No. 101-25 of written testimony received through the online testimony tool, which was shared with the Council and posted on the County Council website.

The following persons spoke on Bill No. 101-25:

Jay McCleave, on behalf of Fraternal Order of Police

Matthew Pipkin, on behalf of Maryland Multi-Housing Association

Jim Johnson, on behalf of Hendersen Webb

Steven Waddy, on behalf of NAACP

There was no one else present who wished to speak and the public hearing was closed.

The Chair called for Bill No. 101-25, An Ordinance concerning: General Provisions – Public Works – Landlord-Tenant Eviction; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Amendment No. 1

The Administrative Officer read a brief summary of the amendment:

This amendment changes the notice of eviction to 14 days, removes the reclamation period, and prohibits the landlord from disposing of the personal property for 24 hours.

Ms. Hummer explained the amendment.

Mr. Volke asked for clarification on the process.

Ms. Hummer answered.

On motion of Ms. Hummer, seconded by Ms. Pickard, Amendment No. 1 was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Ms. Leadbetter, Mr. Smith, Ms. Pickard, Mr. Volke, Ms. Fiedler, Ms. Rodvien

Ms. Hummer

Nay – None

Amendment No. 2

The Administrative Officer read a brief summary of the amendment:

This amendment removes the duplicative requirement that Department of Social Services be contacted under certain circumstances.

Ms. Hummer explained the amendment.

The Administration supports.

On motion of Ms. Hummer, seconded by Ms. Pickard, Amendment No. 2 was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Ms. Leadbetter, Mr. Smith, Ms. Pickard, Mr. Volke, Ms. Fiedler, Ms. Rodvien

Ms. Hummer

Nay – None

The Chair stated that Bill No. 101-25, as amended, will be heard at the next Council Meeting on February 2, 2026.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CALL OF RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL READING AND/OR VOTE

RESOLUTION NO. 36-25

The Chair called for Resolution No. 36-25, A Resolution proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch; and the Administrative Officer read the title.

Mr. Smith explained the resolution.

Ethan Hunt, Director of Government Relations, was accompanied by Kelly Kenney Supervising County Attorney.

The Administration supports.

The Chair stated the public hearing was kept open at the last meeting for Resolution No. 36-25.

The Administrative Officer stated there were twenty-nine submissions for Resolution No. 36-25 of written testimony received through the online testimony tool, which were shared with the Council and posted on the County Council website.

The following persons spoke on Resolution No. 36-25:

Salvador Vega, Glen Burnie
Pablo Blank, on behalf of CASA, Inc.
Rossio Smith, Glen Burnie
Paul Higgins, Pasadena
Steven Waddy, Severn

There was no one else present who wished to speak and the public hearing was closed.

The Chair called for Resolution No. 36-25, A Resolution proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to create an office, known as the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and an officer, known as the Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer, as part of the Executive Branch; and the Administrative Officer read the title.

Amendment No. 1

The Administrative Officer read a brief summary of the amendment:

This amendment amends the duties of the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs.

Mr. Smith explained the amendment.

The Administration supports.

On motion of Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Rodvien, Amendment No. 1 was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Ms. Rodvien, Ms. Leadbetter, Mr. Smith, Ms. Pickard, Mr. Volke, Ms. Fiedler,
Ms. Hummer

Nay – None

Mr. Volke asked about the location in the Charter.

Mr. Smith answered.

There was further discussion of the resolution.

Resolution No. 36-25, as amended, was defeated by the following roll call:

Aye – Mr. Smith, Ms. Pickard, Ms. Rodvien, Ms. Hummer

Nay – Ms. Leadbetter, Mr. Volke

Abstain – Ms. Fiedler

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CALL OF BILL FOR FINAL READING AND/OR VOTE

BILL NO. 100-25

The Chair called for Bill No. 100-25, An Ordinance concerning: Purchasing – Procurement – Project Labor Agreements – For the purpose of establishing requirements for the use of Project Labor Agreements on certain County-funded construction projects; promoting fair labor standards, local hiring, and workforce development opportunities for County residents; and generally relating to purchasing; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Mr. Smith explained the background and purpose of the bill.

Ethan Hunt, Director of Government Relations, was accompanied by Susan Herrold, Central Service Officer, Catrice Parsons, Purchasing Agent, Central Services, Beth O’Connell, Chief Engineer, Department of Public Works, Chris Trumbauer, Budget Officer, and Kelly Kenney, Supervising County Attorney.

Mr. Hunt spoke on the bill.

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 100-25.

The Administrative Officer stated there were twenty-one submissions for Bill No. 100-25 of written testimony received through the online testimony tool, which were shared with the Council and posted on the County Council website.

The following persons spoke on Bill No. 100-25:

Andrew Griffin, on behalf of Utility Contractors Association
Jon McLaughlin, on behalf of IBEW Local 24
Roxy Mejia, on behalf of IUPAT District Council 51
Greg Akerman, on behalf of Baltimore-DC Building Trade
Joe Parker, on behalf of Heritage Mechanical
Kody VanFleet, Orchard Beach
Barrett Tucker, Chester
Todd Taylor, Pasadena
Kenneth Wade, Crofton
Michael Mason, on behalf of American Council of Engineers
Jeff Ferguson, Harwood
Harry Homes, JR, on behalf of IEC
Thomas Coale, on behalf of Calvert Utilities LLC
Kevin O'Keeffe, on behalf of Independent Electrical Contractors
Concepcion Morales, on behalf of Eastern Atlantic Regional
AJ Odell, Owings Mills
Chris Gravey, on behalf of ABC Chesapeake Shores
Doug Portner, on behalf of Harbor Roofing and Contracting
Casey Weisman, on behalf of Weisman Electric Company

There was no one else present who wished to speak and the public hearing was closed.

The Chair called for Bill No. 100-25, An Ordinance concerning: Purchasing – Procurement – Project Labor Agreements; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Amendment No. 1

The Administrative Officer read a brief summary of the amendment:

This amendment increases the cost of a County construction project subject to this section and eliminates the mandatory directive.

Mr. Smith explained the amendment.

Mr. Volke asked for clarification of the amendment.

Mr. Smith answered.

There was further discussion on the amendment.

On motion of Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Volke, Amendment No. 1 was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Mr. Smith, Ms. Pickard, Ms. Rodvien, Ms. Hummer
Nay – Ms. Leadbetter, Mr. Volke, Ms. Fiedler

The Chair stated that Bill No. 100-25, as amended, will be heard at the next Council Meeting on February 2, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of Mr. Volke, seconded by Ms. Fiedler, the meeting adjourned at 10:32 P.M by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Ms. Leadbetter, Mr. Smith, Ms. Pickard, Mr. Volke, Ms. Fiedler
Nay – Ms. Rodvien, Ms. Hummer

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Anna Macaulay

By Anna Macaulay

/s/ Kaley Schultze

For Kaley Schultze
Administrative Officer