

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Minutes of

Virtual Legislative Session 2022, Legislative Day No. 2

Emergency Session

January 7, 2022 - 8:00 A.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rodvien at 8:00 A.M. and Ms. Haire opened with the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom Webinar, beginning with roll call of all present.

The following members of the County Council were present:

Sarah F. Lacey	First District
Allison Pickard	Second District
Nathan Volke	Third District
Andrew C. Pruski	Fourth District
Amanda Fiedler	Fifth District
Lisa D.B. Rodvien	Sixth District
Jessica Haire	Seventh District

Linda Schuett, Legislative Counsel, was also present.

OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Laura Corby, Administrative Officer, read aloud a statement from the County Attorney regarding the Open Meetings Act.

ETHICS STATEMENT

Laura Corby, Administrative Officer, read aloud the Ethics Statement.

ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON AGENDA

Ms. Rodvien suggested the public hearing for Bill No. 6-22 and Bill No. 7-22 be consolidated.

Mr. Volke clarified the amount of time each citizen would have to speak.

Ms. Haire asked if there were a lot of people signed up for both bills.

Ms. Rodvien confirmed.

On motion by Ms. Rodvien, seconded by Ms. Pickard, the motion to consolidate the public hearing of Bill No. 6-22 and Bill No. 7-22 was passed by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Ms. Pickard, Mr. Pruski, Ms. Lacey, Ms. Rodvien

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

PRELIMINARY MOTION

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

MESSAGE FROM LOCAL HOSPITALS

David Marcozzi, MD, MHS-CL, FACEP, gave a brief message on the Baltimore Washington Medical Center COVID-19 statistics and spoke on ways for the public to protect itself.

Tener Goodwin Veenema, PhD, MPH, MS, RN, FAAN, spoke on the nursing shortage and the need to have a mask mandate.

Barry Meisenberg, MD, gave a brief message on the benefit of mask wearing and encouraged the use of all COVID-19 preventative measures.

The Council and the doctors discussed COVID-19 testing and protocols.

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

BILL NO. 6-22

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 6-22, An Ordinance concerning: COVID-19 and the Use of Face Coverings, and Bill No. 7-22, An Ordinance concerning: Extension of Proclamation of Civil Emergency; and the Administrative Officer read the titles.

Ms. Rodvien, Sponsor, explained the bill and the differences between Bill No. 6-22 and Bill No. 7-22.

Pete Baron, Director, Government Affairs, was accompanied by Dr. Nilesh Kalyanaraman, Health Officer, Greg Swain, County Attorney, and Lori Blair Klasmeier, Deputy County Attorney.

Mr. Baron spoke on the County Executive's executive order and explained the Administration's view of the bill.

Dr. Kalyanaraman voiced the need to protect hospitals, gave statistics on current COVID-19 cases, and expressed the importance of masks and mask mandates.

Ms. Rodvien requested the Council wait to ask questions until after the public hearing.

The Chair called for the combined public hearing on Bill No. 6-22 and Bill No. 7-22.

The Administrative Officer stated there was one thousand, four hundred, ninety one submissions of written public testimony received for Bill No. 6-22, and two hundred seventy submissions of written public testimony received for Bill No. 7-22 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. 6-22 and Bill No. 7-22:

Jimmy Glenn, Crofton
Casey Breslin Murphy, Severna Park
Jenna Mondora, Crownsville
Allison Durbin, Annapolis
Bonnie Fitzpatrick, Pasadena
Jeffrey Stramella, Arnold
Terrence Byrne, Hanover
Anna Chaney, Lothian
Chikaodi Okoro, Severn
Natalie Benjamin, Arnold
Joseph Clapsaddle, Arnold
Ryan McDonald, Glen Burnie
Doug Shade, Severna Park
Curtis Kingsland, Odenton
Sheri Owen, Annapolis
Megan Breslin, Odenton
Jennifer Clagett, Annapolis
James Zimmerer, Annapolis
Gina Witcher, Glen Burnie
Matt Minahan, Edgewater
Millie Bowers, Edgewater
Brenda Moulden, Glen Burnie
Sean Tavalozzi, Churchton
Deborah Mullen, Annapolis
Tamara Beger, Odenton
Melissa Angelis, Arnold
Monica Alvarado, Annapolis
Heather Berlett, Arnold
Karen Weiss, Pasadena
Russel Leone, Annapolis
Mary Grace Gallagher, Annapolis
James Packett, Davidsonville
Emmanuelle Carr, Glen Burnie
Cailey Locklair, Edgewater
Steve Rotton, Glen Burnie
Pamela Moats, Glen Burnie
Michelle Sobolewski, Severn
Edward Berlett, Arnold
Charles Henn, Edgewater
Christina Colvin, Pasadena
Joyce Toal, Davidsonville
Charles Mackes, Chestnut Hill Cove
David Camp, Glen Burnie
Becca Robison, Arnold
Linda Sienkiewicz, Severna Park
Jennifer Fold, Linthicum
Nicole Miller, Linthicum
Amanda Gormley, Elkridge

Bill Moore, Davidsonville
Sophia Xecominos, Odenton
Sandy Sangok Shin, Crofton
Greg Miller, Linthicum
Jonathan Hoppe, Pasadena
David Morseberger, Davidsonville
Jake Starin, Glen Burnie
Suzanne Lewis, Severna Park
Mary Dadone, Edgewater
Heather Iliff, Arnold
Seth Lipko, Glen Burnie
Paul Arcand, Severna Park
Anthony Frank, Glen Burnie
Amy Leahy, Severna Park
Rachel Livingston, Edgewater
Kevin Roy, Crownsville
Dana Schulze, Millersville
Andy Lazris, Edgewater
Shannon Leadbetter, Crofton
Virginia Kolakoski, Annapolis
Diane Burnham, Glen Burnie
Bill Love, Severna Park
Amy Frondoso, Arnold
Tina Belford, Linthicum
Patricia Brightwell, Annapolis

Mr. Volke spoke on the expiration of the state of emergency and Bill No. 7-22.

Mr. Baron stated there would be an amendment to keep the bill relevant.

Mr. Swain explained how the bill could be retroactive.

On motion by Mr. Volke, seconded by Ms. Fielder, the motion to end the public hearing of Bill No. 7-22 was defeated by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Mr. Volke, Ms. Fiedler, Ms. Haire
Nay – Mr. Pruski, Ms. Lacey, Ms. Pickard, Ms. Rodvien

Kurt Svendsen, Arnold
Katrina Atsinger, Annapolis
Seth Winnick, Annapolis
Christine Hunt, Crownsville
William Simpson, Pasadena
John Ryan, Crownsville
Cynthia Bolin, Annapolis
Bobbi Howard, Edgewater
Chris Ronk, Severna Park
Jose Lebron, Annapolis

Lena Stinnett, Orchard Beach
Clinton Hardnett, Annapolis
Brian Mueller, Jessup

There was no one else present who wished to testify and the hearing was concluded.

The Chair called Bill No. 6-22, An Ordinance concerning: COVID-19 and the Use of Face Coverings, and Bill No. 7-22, An Ordinance concerning: Extension of Proclamation of Civil Emergency; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the titles.

RECESS

On motion by Ms. Rodvien, seconded by Ms. Pickard, the motion to take a 20 minute break was passed by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Mr. Volke, Mr. Pruski, Ms. Fiedler, Ms. Haire, Ms. Lacey, Ms. Pickard,
Ms. Rodvien
Nay – None

RECONVENE

The Council reconvened at 1:05 P.M. with all members present.

Mr. Volke asked how the Council could be allowed to vote on an emergency bill that was expired.

Mr. Swain explained the process of acting retroactively.

Ms. Haire asked for the demographics of hospitalized residents with COVID-19.

Dr. Kalyanaraman answered.

Ms. Fiedler asked where the policy for emergency bills was in the Code.

Mr. Swain responded.

Mr. Volke asked if the Health Department had looked into setting up additional COVID-19 testing sites using County ARP money and why the Health Department has not set up testing sites yet.

Mr. Baron stated the County Executive purchased thousands of tests with ARP money.

Dr. Kalyanaraman explained that there was not enough staffing to create additional testing sites.

Ms. Rodvien asked that the discussion only focus on Bill No. 6-22.

Ms. Fiedler asked how enforcing the mask mandate was going to be handled.

Dr. Kalyanaraman explained how the bills would be enforced and which departments would handle it.

Ms. Fiedler asked if food establishments would be involved.

Dr. Kalyanaraman answered.

Ms. Haire asked when Dr. Kalyanaraman thought the need to mask would end.

Dr. Kalyanaraman explained the reason for needing to have the mask mandate right now and what medications may come in the future.

Ms. Haire clarified what Dr. Kalyanaraman explained.

Mr. Volke asked if Dr. Kalyanaraman had requested the hospital personnel come speak to the Council.

Dr. Kalyanaraman stated he speaks with the hospitals weekly regarding challenges. He stated he did not ask them to be involved in today's meeting.

Mr. Volke clarified his reason for asking about the hospital speakers.

Ms. Haire asked how much of the County has been vaccinated.

Dr. Kalyanaraman responded with the different percentages vaccinated.

Ms. Fiedler asked if the Health Department could purchase vitamins and distribute them to positive tested people to help, and if ARP money could be used toward a telehealth program.

Dr. Kalyanaraman stated the telehealth program could not be easily set up and he has not seen any studies on the benefits of vitamins for COVID-19.

There was discussion on the use of ARP monies for testing sites and staff.

Ms. Fielder asked about the fines for not following the mask mandate.

Dr. Kalyanaraman answered.

There was further discussion concerning the hospitals that spoke at the meeting.

On motion of Ms. Pickard, seconded by Ms. Rodvien, the motion to call the question and close the debate was defeated by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Mr. Pruski, Ms. Lacey, Ms. Pickard, Ms. Rodvien

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

Ms. Haire asked about the case rates in Anne Arundel County compared to other counties that have mask mandates.

Dr. Kalyanaraman responded.

Ms. Rodvien explained the reason behind the bill and asked if there were times the hospitals have had to turn away ambulances.

Dr. Kalyanaraman stated the hospitals have had to divert ambulances.

Ms. Fiedler stated there is a triage process in place at the hospitals and asked for clarification from Dr. Kalyanaraman regarding emergency surgeries being deferred.

Dr. Kalyanaraman explained the surgeries that were considered urgent.

Mr. Volke clarified the COVID-19 case numbers and asked for the number of patients that had COVID-19 along with underlying conditions.

Dr. Kalyanaraman stated he did not have that information.

Ms. Haire asked for clarification on the testing of masks and how well they work in the real world.

Dr. Kalyanaraman explained the masking requirement.

Mr. Pruski asked if masks help with prevention in regards to staffing issues at hospitals.

Dr. Kalyanaraman agreed.

Mr. Baron stated the Administration listened to hospital concerns and that was why the mask mandate is being requested.

Ms. Fiedler asked if any county has an outdoor mask mandate in its executive orders.

Mr. Baron responded.

Mr. Swain stated Baltimore County was the closest to requiring outdoor masking.

Ms. Fiedler clarified that Anne Arundel County would be the only County with outdoor mask mandates.

Mr. Volke asked how a mask mandate would decrease hospitalizations.

Dr. Kalyanaraman answered.

Bill No. 6-22 was defeated by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Mr. Pruski, Ms. Lacey, Ms. Pickard, Ms. Rodvien

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

BILL NO. 7-22

Pete Baron, Director, Government Affairs, was accompanied by Dr. Niles Kalyanaraman, Health Officer, Greg Swain, County Attorney, and Lori Blair Klasmeier, Deputy County Attorney.

Mr. Baron stated there was an amendment concerning the needed time adjustment.

Amendment No. 1

This amendment applies the Ordinance retroactively to Executive Orders 55 and 56.

Mr. Baron explained the amendment.

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

Aye – Mr. Pruski, Ms. Lacey, Ms. Pickard, Ms. Rodvien

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

Ms. Lacey spoke on the particle size of COVID-19, responded to a Benjamin Franklin quote from the public hearing, stated no person testified that they would want their personal physician to practice medicine without a mask, and that the hospitals were not available for the standard of care they normally give.

Mr. Pruski thanked the public for testifying and expressed his views on the bill.

Ms. Pickard shared her view of the bill and spoke on testimony she received over the week.

Ms. Fiedler gave her outlook of the bill.

Ms. Rodvien expressed her opinion of the outcome of the bill.

Bill No. 7-22 was defeated by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Mr. Pruski, Ms. Lacey, Ms. Pickard, Ms. Rodvien

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of Ms. Pickard, seconded by Mr. Pruski, the meeting adjourned at 2:33 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Anna Macaulay

By Anna Macaulay

/s/ Laura Corby

For Laura Corby
Administrative Officer