

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Minutes of

Legislative Session 2022, Legislative Day No. 5

February 22, 2022 - 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rodvien at 7:00 P.M. and opened with the Invocation given by Kyle Pullen, a member of the Lighthouse Baptist Church in Severna Park, and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Mr. Volke. The meeting was held in the County Council Chambers, Arundel Center, Annapolis, Maryland. There were approximately 25 persons in the audience.

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

The County Auditor's Office was represented by Terry Gibson. Linda Schuett, Legislative Counsel, was also present.

ETHICS STATEMENT

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

INVITATION TO AUDIENCE

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

The following person spoke on Invitation to Audience:

Jennifer Sell, Severna Park

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

PRELIMINARY MOTION

On motion of Ms. Pickard, seconded by Mr. Pruski, 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. Pickard, seconded by Mr. Pruski, the minutes of the meeting of February 7, 2022 was approved as presented.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

BILL NO. 22-22 – AN ORDINANCE concerning: Hollywood on the Severn Special Community Benefit District – FOR the purpose of establishing the Hollywood on the Severn Special Community Benefit District; establishing the purposes of the District and the manner of assessment for the District; and designating a civic or community association to administer the expenditures of the District.

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

BILL NO. 23-22 – AN ORDINANCE concerning: Approval of the Lease Agreement for Quiet Waters Retreat – FOR the purpose of approving an agreement to lease part of County-owned property known as Quiet Waters Retreat to Chesapeake Conservation Center LLC.

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

BILL NO. 24-22 – AN ORDINANCE concerning: Personnel and Public Ethics – Positions in the Exempt Service – FOR the purpose of adding the position of Executive Director to the Police Accountability Board to the exempt service; adding the pay, pension, and financial disclosure requirements applicable to the Executive Director; increasing the number of exempt positions under the Chief Administrative Officer approved as part of the annual budget and appropriation ordinance to add the Executive Director and an administrative secretary; and generally relating to personnel and public ethics.

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

BILL NO. 25-22 – AN ORDINANCE concerning: General Provisions – Language Access – FOR the purpose of defining certain terms; requiring County agencies to provide equal access to public services, meetings, websites, and webpages for individuals with limited English proficiency; providing for the coordination, technical assistance, and formulation of minimum standards for equal language access; and generally relating to general provisions.

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

BILL NO. 26-22 – AN ORDINANCE concerning: Public Works – Weeds and Vegetation – FOR the purpose of prohibiting community associations from allowing rank vegetation and noxious weeds on property; exempting certain stormwater management ponds or devices from the prohibition against allowing rank vegetation and noxious weeds on property; and generally relating to public works.

Introduced by Ms. Rodvien, Chair
(by request of the County Executive)
and by Ms. Pickard and Ms. Rodvien

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 4-22 – RESOLUTION selecting SB & Company, LLC, an independent firm of certified public accountants, to perform the financial audit for fiscal year 2022
Introduced by Ms. Rodvien, Chair

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

BILL NO. 5-22 (As Amended)

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 5-22, as amended, An Ordinance concerning: Licenses and Registrations – Amusements – Licensing of Coin-Operated Amusement Devices – For the purpose of amending the definition of “coin-operated amusement device”; amending the regulations governing the licensing of coin-operated amusement devices; amending the classes of specific licenses; repealing a location prohibition; allowing prizes and awards of a certain wholesale value; prohibiting the transfer of a certain license; allowing suspension or revocation of a license under certain circumstances; and generally relating to licenses and registrations; and the Administrative Officer read the title.

Mr. Pruski, Sponsor, explained the amended bill.

Pete Baron, Director, Government Affairs, was accompanied by Holly Velez, Inspections and Permits, and Curran Ritter, Office of Law.

The Administration supports.

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 5-22, as amended.

The Administrative Officer stated there were no submissions of public testimony received for Bill No. 5-22, as amended.

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

The Chair called Bill No. 5-22, as amended, An Ordinance concerning: Licenses and Registrations – Amusements – Licensing of Coin-Operated Amusement Devices; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Bill No. 5-22, as amended, was passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Nay – None

BILL NO. 8-22

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 8-22, An Ordinance concerning: Zoning – 2022 Green Infrastructure Master Plan – For the purpose of repealing the 2002 Greenways Master Plan and amendments; adopting the 2022 Green Infrastructure Master Plan and appendices as a guide for the future conservation of natural lands in the County; making certain findings of

fact and stating the legislative intent relative to the Green Infrastructure Master Plan; making a conforming change; and generally relating to zoning and the County's 2022 Green Infrastructure Master Plan; and the Administrative Officer read the title.

Pete Baron, Director, Government Affairs, was accompanied by Matt Johnston, Environmental Policy Director, Christina Pompa, Office of Planning and Zoning, Michael Stringer, Office of Planning and Zoning, Steve Kaii-Ziegler, Director, Office of Planning and Zoning, Erica Jackson Matthews, Recreation and Parks, and Kelly Kenney, Senior Assistant County Attorney.

Mr. Baron explained the bill.

Mr. Stringer spoke on the Master Plan.

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 8-22.

The Administrative Officer stated there were twenty four submissions of written public testimony received for Bill No. 8-22 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. 8-22:

Matt Minahan, Edgewater
Sarah Knebel, Annapolis
Connor Curran, Pasadena
Melanie Hartwig-Davis, Edgewater
Eric Fisher, Annapolis
Fernando Berra, Pasadena

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

The Chair called Bill No. 8-22, An Ordinance concerning: Zoning – 2022 Green Infrastructure Master Plan; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Amendment No. 1

This amendment clarifies that the Green Infrastructure Network map is a conceptual map and that future land use decisions will be informed by site specific studies.

Ms. Pickard, Co-Sponsor, explained the amendment.

Mr. Baron expressed the Administration's comfort with the amendment.

Ms. Rodvien asked if the amendment added to the understanding of the bill.

Ms. Kenney stated the amendment enhances the Plan.

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

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

Amendment No. 2

This amendment makes Bill No. 8-22 contingent upon certain notice to property owners of their property being newly included in the 2022 Green Infrastructure Network; allows for property owners “opt-in” or “opt-out” of the 2022 Green Infrastructure Network; requires the 2022 Green Infrastructure Master Plan be revised to show all properties excluded from the Green Infrastructure Network; and delays the effective date of any ordinances that rely on the Green Infrastructure Network.

Ms. Haire, Sponsor, explained the amendment.

Mr. Baron explained why the Administration opposes the amendment.

Ms. Fiedler asked if there could be a bill that says the map would be part of the regulatory action.

Mr. Baron responded.

Mr. Volke asked to be added as a co-sponsor to the amendment, and what the opposition was to giving citizens the choice to “opt-in” instead of “opting-out”.

Mr. Baron explained that the map is not regulatory.

Mr. Pruski asked about the approval timeframe.

Ms. Haire responded.

Mr. Pruski clarified the Critical Area Commission.

Mr. Johnston spoke on the regulatory impact’s notifications.

Ms. Lacey expressed her thoughts of the amendment.

There was further discussion regarding Amendment No. 2.

On motion of Ms. Haire, seconded by Mr. Volke, Amendment No. 2 was defeated by the following roll call vote:

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

Amendment No. 3

This amendment clarifies the effect of the Green Infrastructure Master Plan on planned land use and development.

Ms. Haire, Sponsor, explained the amendment.

The Administration supports.

Ms. Rodvien shared her appreciation of the amendment.

On motion of Ms. Haire, seconded by Mr. Volke, Amendment No. 3 was adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

The Chair stated that Bill No. 8-22, as amended, will be heard on March 7, 2022.

BILL NO. 9-22

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 9-22, An Ordinance concerning: Personnel – Classified Service – Benefits – Holidays – Juneteenth – For the purpose of adding Juneteenth as a recognized holiday for eligible County employees; increasing the amount of annual leave for certain classified employees required to work on holidays; and generally relating to personnel; and the Administrative Officer read the title.

Pete Baron, Director, Government Affairs, was accompanied by Pete Hill, Equity, Diversion, and Inclusion Officer, Anne Budowski, Personnel Officer, and Lori Blair Klasmeier, Deputy County Attorney.

Mr. Baron explained the bill.

Mr. Pruski expressed his thanks for the bill.

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 9-22.

The Administrative Officer stated there was one submission of written public testimony received for Bill No. 9-22 through the online testimony tool, which was shared with the Council and posted on the County Council website.

The following person spoke on Bill No. 9-22:

Jennifer Sell, Severna Park

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

The Chair called Bill No. 9-22, An Ordinance concerning: Personnel – Classified Service – Benefits – Holidays – Juneteenth; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Mr. Volke asked what the County's cost for employees is per work day.

Mr. Gibson answered \$2 million per day including salary and benefit costs.

Mr. Volke asked what the County's number of holidays are now and expressed his concerns over the expense of the bill.

Mr. Baron explained that the citizens of the County would still be served.

Mr. Volke spoke on the Fiscal Note for the bill.

Mr. Pruski asked for history on collected bargaining.

Ms. Budowski responded.

Ms. Haire clarified who voted on the State level for Juneteenth.

Ms. Fiedler confirmed that employees would have the option to work on that day if they desire.

Mr. Baron agreed.

Ms. Rodvien expressed her feelings of the bill.

Bill No. 9-22 was passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Nay – Mr. Volke

BILL NO. 10-22

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 10-22, An Ordinance concerning: Approval of private disposition of County-owned properties being part of Old Admiral Court in Annapolis, Maryland – For the purpose of approving the terms and conditions under which the County may convey certain County-owned properties to 711 Bestgate Partners, LLC; and the Administrative Officer read the title.

Pete Baron, Director, Government Affairs, was accompanied by Stephen Walker, Office of Central Services, Chris Daniels, Office of Central Services, and Christine Niederer, Assistant County Attorney.

Mr. Baron explained the bill.

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 10-22.

The Administrative Officer stated there were no submissions of public testimony received for Bill No. 10-22.

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

The Chair called Bill No. 10-22, An Ordinance concerning: Approval of private disposition of County-owned properties being part of Old Admiral Court in Annapolis, Maryland; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Bill No. 10-22 was passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Nay – None

BILL NO. 11-22

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 11-22, An Ordinance concerning: Current Expense Budget – Board of Education – Supplementary Appropriation – For the purpose of making supplementary appropriations from unanticipated revenues to the Local Education Fund for the current fiscal year; and generally relating to making supplementary appropriations to the current expense budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022; and the Administrative Officer read the title.

Pete Baron, Director, Government Affairs, was accompanied by Alex Szachnowicz, Chief Operating Officer, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Matt Stanski, AACPS Director of Financial Operations, and Lori Blair Klasmeier, Deputy County Attorney.

Mr. Baron explained the bill.

Mr. Pruski stated his spouse is an employee of the school district.

Ms. Rodvien stated she is a teacher with the school district.

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 11-22.

The Administrative Officer stated there were no submissions of public testimony received for Bill No. 11-22.

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

The Chair called Bill No. 11-22, An Ordinance concerning: Current Expense Budget – Board of Education – Supplementary Appropriation; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Bill No. 11-22 was passed by the following roll call vote:

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

BILL NO. 12-22

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 12-22, An Ordinance concerning: Capital Budget and Program – Board of Education Security Related Upgrades and Maintenance Backlog capital projects – Supplementary Appropriations – For the purpose of amending the Capital Budget for the current fiscal year by making a supplementary appropriation of funds to the Board of Education Security Related Upgrades and Maintenance Backlog capital projects; amending the Capital Program and Capital Projects Bond Ordinance for the current fiscal year; and generally relating to appropriations of funds in projects in the Capital Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022; and the Administrative Officer read the title.

Pete Baron, Director, Government Affairs, was accompanied by Alex Szachnowicz, Chief Operating Officer, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Matt Stanski, AACPS Director of Financial Operations, and Lori Blair Klasmeier, Deputy County Attorney.

Mr. Baron explained the bill.

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 12-22.

The Administrative Officer stated there were no submissions of public testimony received for Bill No. 12-22.

The following person spoke on Bill No. 12-22:

Carolyn Smith, Severna Park

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

The Chair called Bill No. 12-22, An Ordinance concerning: Capital Budget and Program – Board of Education Security Related Upgrades and Maintenance Backlog capital projects – Supplementary Appropriations; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Ms. Fiedler thanked Ms. Smith for testifying.

Bill No. 12-22 was passed by the following roll call vote:

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

BILL NO. 13-22

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 13-22, An Ordinance concerning: Finance, Taxation, and Budget – Personal Property Tax Credits and Exemptions – Reduction in

Assessment – Qualified Data Center Personal Property – For the purpose of defining certain terms; establishing reductions of assessment of qualified data center personal property used in a qualified data center for the purpose of County personal property tax; adding the eligibility requirements for the reduction, the amount of the reduction, and the application process; establishing when the reduction in assessment begins and when the reduction terminates; requiring a certain annual report; and generally relating to finance, taxation, and budget; and the Administrative Officer read the title.

Mr. Pruski, Sponsor, explained the bill.

Pete Baron, Director, Government Affairs, was accompanied by Ben Birge, COO, Economic Development, Wes MacQuilliam, Business Development Associate, AAEDC, Karin McQuade, Controller, Office of Finance, Billie Penley, Office of Finance, and Lori Blair Klasmeier, Deputy County Attorney.

The Administration supports.

Mr. Birge spoke on a related 2020 tax bill.

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 13-22.

The Administrative Officer stated there were no submissions of public testimony received for Bill No. 13-22.

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

The Chair called Bill No. 13-22, An Ordinance concerning: Finance, Taxation, and Budget – Personal Property Tax Credits and Exemptions – Reduction in Assessment – Qualified Data Center Personal Property; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Bill No. 13-22 was passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Nay – None

BILL NO. 14-22

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 14-22, An Ordinance concerning: Public Safety – Distribution of Literature to Purchasers of Guns or Ammunition – Violations – For the purpose of making a violations a Class E civil offense; providing for a delayed effective date; and generally relating to public safety; and the Administrative Officer read the title.

Mr. Volke, Sponsor, explained the bill.

Pete Baron, Director, Government Affairs, was accompanied by Lori Blair Klasmeier, Deputy County Attorney.

Mr. Baron explained the Administration's approach on the bill.

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 14-22.

The Administrative Officer stated there were no submissions of public testimony received for Bill No. 13-22.

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

The Chair called Bill No. 14-22, An Ordinance concerning: Safety – Distribution of Literature to Purchasers of Guns or Ammunition – Violations; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Bill No. 14-22 was defeated by the following roll call vote:

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

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Rodvien spoke on the late night shooting in Annapolis.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of Mr. Volke, seconded by Ms. Pickard, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Anna Macaulay

By Anna Macaulay

/s/ Laura Corby

For Laura Corby
Administrative Officer