



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Calvin Ball, Chairperson
District 2
Jon Weinstein, Vice Chairperson
District 1
Jennifer Terrasa
District 3
Mary Kay Sigaty
District 4
Greg Fox
District 5

Budget Work Session
C. Vernon Gray Room
Friday, May 13, 2016
8:30 am

Minutes - Approved

The Chairperson opened the work session at 8:40 a.m.

Members Present: Calvin Ball, Chairperson; Jon Weinstein, Vice Chairperson; Greg Fox; Mary Kay Sigaty; Jen Terrasa.

Staff Present: Jessica Feldmark, Council Administrator; Craig Glendenning, County Auditor; Jim Vannoy, Senior Assistant County Solicitor

Behavioral Health Task Force Update: Donna Wells, Nikki Highsmith-Vernick, Maura Rossman, Elizabeth Kromm, and Carl DeLorenzo provided an update on progress made to date as well as plans for continued implementation of the task force recommendations and answered questions from the Council.

Council Members requested the following additional information:

- Any available baseline data on connection rates from hospital discharge to follow-up behavioral health appointments to see growth in success

Mental Health Authority: Donna Wells provided an overview of the proposed budget and answered questions from Council Members.

Health Department: Maura Rossman, Antigone Vickery, and Moenik Blue provided an overview of the proposed budget and answered questions from Council Members. Dr. Rossman, Mr. DeLorenzo, and Dr. Sun also answered questions regarding Healthy Howard and the elimination of CSP funding.

University of Maryland Extension: Rick Walter provided an overview of the proposed budget and answered questions from Council Members.

Community Service Partnerships: Phyllis Madachy, Kathy Swanson, and Cheryl Mattis provided an overview of the proposed CSP grants and answered questions from Council Members. Anne Heavner of Rebuilding Together, Joan Driessen of ACS, Hector Garcia of FIRN, Jennifer Pollitt-Hill of HopeWorks, and Bita Dayhoff of Community Action Council also answered questions from Council Members.

Council Members requested the following additional information:

- A detailed timeline for the nonprofit center, including relocation of the Board of Elections
- Clarification of the Administration's long-term commitment to subsidizing rent and what is the back-stop for organizations
- A County-wide space-planning overview from DPW
- An amendment to move funding for the Commission for Veterans and Military Families to the Department of Community Resources and Services
- For future budget books, to include a listing of specific organizations and grant amounts
- FY16 grant agreement for Humanim
- From CAC, a list of all its locations, the square footage of each, and the rent and utilities currently paid for each

Department of Social Services: Karen Butler provided an overview of the proposed budget and answered questions from Council Members.

Department of Housing and Community Development: Tom Carbo, Ada Best, and Kelly Cimino provided an overview of the proposed budget and answered questions from Council Members.

Council Members requested the following additional information:

- Additional details on the RENEW Howard program, its eligibility criteria, and its implementation policies

Department of Community Resources Services: Phyllis Madachy, Jackie Scott, and Cheryl Mattis provided an overview of the proposed budget and answered questions from Council Members.

Council Members requested the following additional information:

- An update on security plans for the East Columbia 50+ Center during the renovation of the library
- The Administration's response to why the current renovation plans for the library do not include the 50+ Center as well, and what if any plans there are for future renovation/expansion of the 50+ Center
- Additional detail on the advance medical directive portal, who will lead the creation of the portal and who will maintain the data and be responsible for its security

Office of Transportation: Clive Graham and Jai Saunders provided an overview of the proposed budget and answered questions from Council Members.

Department of Recreation and Parks: John Byrd, Mike Milani, Bill Eckert, and Laura Wetherald provided an overview of the proposed budget and answered questions from Council Members.

Council Members requested the following additional information:

- An explanation of why the SOAR program is no longer available in conjunction with the School System's Extended School Year program
- Dates of upcoming community meetings on land preservation program

Non-Departmental Revenue, Fees, and Funds: Holly Sun and Brook Mamo provided an overview of the proposed changes in fees and answered questions from Council Members.

Council Members requested the following additional information:

- DPW to attend May 18 work session to discuss fees
- Comparison of septic waste hauler fees to other jurisdictions
- Actual costs associated with septic waste hauler fees
- For all increasing fees, a comparison to other jurisdictions
- An opinion from Office of Law on the legality of late fees

Non-Departmental Expenses: Holly Sun and Brook Mamo provided an overview of the proposed non-departmental expenses and answered questions from Council Members. Rafiu Ighile joined them to answer questions about contributions to the Rainy Day Fund and OPEB.

Council members requested the following additional information:

- Additional detail on the Administration's decision to fund flu vaccines for individuals whose health insurance would cover the flu vaccine
- Additional detail on the Business Investment Fund
- Additional detail on other AAA-rated jurisdictions' fund balance levels
- An updated list of current contingent positions (by end of August)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.