



Howard County Council

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

COUNCILMEMBERS

Deb Jung, Chair
District 4

Liz Walsh, Vice Chair
District 1

Opel Jones
District 2

Christiana Rigby
District 3

David Yungmann
District 5

Minutes - Approved

Operating Budget Work Session #2

Friday, May 3, 2024

Hybrid Meeting (In-Person and WebEx)

Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>
10:00 a.m.

Chair Jung opened the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Council members present: Chair Deb Jung, Vice-Chair Liz Walsh, Council Member Opel Jones, Council Member Christiana Rigby, and Council Member David Yungmann.

Staff present: Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Office of Law; Lisa Geerman, Acting County Auditor; Lori Buchman, Auditor; Rebecca Gold, Auditor; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Owen Kahn, Legislative Analyst; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant; and Virginia Gambrell, Administrative Aide were also present.

Administration staff: Noted below.

Agenda

Legislative and Judicial

Board of Elections

The Board of Elections responded to questions from the Council on how much square feet they lease and how much they spend on lease spaces for offices and equipment storage; what changes the Board would like to make to accommodate changes in voting trends; and the efficiency of canvass operations and how centralizing work in one room could help. There was a brief discussion about ongoing early voting.

Circuit Court

The Circuit Court responded to questions from the Council on capital improvement at the courthouse; the use and status of the grant application for the federal child support enforcement officer funds; and the progress of transitioning the Orphan's Court into the Circuit Court.

Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff's office responded to questions from the Council on the proposed pay increase in the budget and the status of the contract negotiations; if the Sheriff's office has policies in place for certain dangerous situations; what the reorganization and reclassification efforts have on the proposed budget; and where the Sheriff's office staff is located. There was a discussion about the difficulties and strategies to fill vacant positions. There was a brief discussion comparing salary increases for sheriffs, teachers, and other employees.

State's Attorney

There was a general discussion about where the State's Attorney's staff is located, why there are satellite offices, and how the office is serving the State's Attorney. The State's Attorney responded to questions from the Council on how criminal cases have grown in complexity; the state of the body worn camera program and if part time positions would help the program; the proposed expansion of the citizen reentry program; what is driving the 8% increase in personnel costs; what the delta between Circuit Court cases and indictments is; and what percentage of police reports does the office pursue and what percent is dropped.

Social Services

The Department gave a brief overview of their work and budget request. The Department responded to questions from the Council on community trends, in particular in the years after COVID; how the Department manages applications; efforts to fill vacant positions and the status of various contractual positions; what is being done to integrate new technologies in the child support management system; how federal appropriation scales with changes in SNAP applications and temporary cash assistance need; and the use of proposed personnel cost increases.

Health Department

The Health Department gave a presentation on their work and FY 2025 budget requests. The Department responded to questions from the Council on new programs for homeless residents; what noise level is needed at Merriweather Post Pavilion for the Health Department to pursue citations; what other wrap around services the Department is providing; what the Department does with wastewater data to track COVID; and how in school wellness clinics work with resident insurance and if in school nurse services are sufficient. There was a general discussion on proposed renovations to Health Department facilities and why the Health Department and the County Council are required to pay for renovations out of their own budgets.

Economic Development Authority

The Economic Development Authority gave a presentation on their budget requests. The Economic Development Authority responded to questions from the Council on the office space that they share with the Board of Elections; why no loans were issues under the economic incentive program in the last year; the status of the Route 1 parcel assemblage fund and if the

Authority is keeping its eye on the \$2 million in upcoming funding; efforts to expand and promote green job opportunities; and the status of Catalyst loan recipients this year. There was a general discussion regarding the status of the feasibility study for the FDA food processor plant and its potential benefits to County farmers.

County Council

The Council discussed the proposed Council budget, including comparing salary alterations to the space renovations; and the availability of stipends for Board of Appeals members and Board of Liquor License Commissioner members.

Chair Jung closed the meeting at 12:43 p.m.

Council requested follow up:

- *Chair Jung and Council Member Walsh requested from Facilities a listing of maintenance and expected maintenance at the Circuit Court building.*
- *Council Member Walsh requested what pay increase proposal is reflected in the budget for the Sheriff's Office.*
- *Chair Jung and Council Member Rigby requested the Department of Social Services attend a Monthly Meeting to discuss their work.*
- *Chair Jung requested information from the Health Department on the noise complaints resulting from the Sunday in the Country concert.*
- *Council Member Yungmann requested legislation to authorize stipends for the Board of Appeals members and Board of Liquor License Commissioner members.*

5/3/2024 Operating Work Session Attendee List:

Budget Office

Holly Sun
Brook Mamo
Caitlin Nardolillo
James Kwak
Paul McIntyre

Circuit Court

Judge William Tucker
Jennifer R. Keiser
Deidre Barksdale

Sheriff's Office

Marcus Harris
Mark Verderaime
Nancy Nguyen

State's Attorney

Richard Gibson
Christopher Sandman
Vicki Rand

Board of Elections

Guy Mickley

Council Office

Michelle Harrod
Lisa Geerman

Social Services

Geneva Rieu
Kim McCreary

Health Department

Antigone Vickery
Moenik Bleu
Dan Triplett
Kelly Russo

Economic Development

Jennifer Jones

Visit the Council's website (<http://cc.howardcountymd.gov>) to view legislation, send written testimony, and sign-up electronically to testify at public hearings.

Persons needing accommodations to fully participate in the meeting, please contact the Council Office, 410-313-2001.