



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 #4
Monday, May 13, 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 10:03 a.m.

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

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; 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

County Executive

The Office of the County Executive gave an overview of their FY 2025 operating budget requests. Ms. Ganz and her team responded to questions from the Council on the focus of funding for undeveloped land in the County; the planned allocation of ARPA funds and where certain data can be found on the dashboard for ARPA funds; what is driving the increase in the operating budget request, including for personnel; and what the strategy is to attract investment in technology businesses and if there is a way to incorporate the County Council.

County Administration

The Administration gave an overview of County administration FY 2025 budget requests.

The Office of Human Resources responded to questions from the Council on the salary and classification study and how current employees compare to competitors; the results of the racial equity study; reclassification within the County Council's office; how the County compensation

tables compare to potential competitors; the County worker safety, and the impacts of workers compensation claims; if the Council and County Executive receive a COLA and how it is calculated; what human resources does to address multiple or recurring vacancies; and how the County has adapted recruitment strategies to bring on high skilled workers.

The Office of Community Sustainability responded to questions from the Council on grant funding; implementing the Climate Action Resiliency Plan this year; the use of funds from the plastic bag fund; possibility to eliminate single use plastic bags; details of the Trees for Bees program; the status of water monitoring projects that are being completed and removed from the proposed budget; and impact of increased fees for the watershed protection fund and the stormwater fund.

Central fleet responded to questions from the Council on the purchase of zero-RPM dump trucks; fuel tracking strategy; details on electric vehicle purchases; management and cost of fuel operations; additions to the fleet by department and position; and if the County pays the State gas tax or the Federal gas tax.

The Office of Purchasing responded to a question from the Council on multi-year agreements that are submitted to the Council and if there are any automatic renewal agreements.

The Office of Workforce Development responded to a question from the Council on their 14 FTE positions and how they are funded.

Office of Law

The County Solicitor gave an overview of the Office of Law's budget requests for FY 2025. The Office of Law responded to questions from the Council on work performed by categories; and what role the Office plays in advising other government entities of legal issues.

Transportation

The Office of Transportation gave an overview of its FY 2025 budget requests. The Office responded to questions from the Council on how the State budget affects the County; the plans for the micro transit network along Route 1; the Administrator's role on the BWI Roundtable; strategies for use of electric vehicles; details of the budget as it relates to service with Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties; details of certain bus routes; trends in ridership; and retaining operators and drivers.

Community Resource Services

The Department responded to questions from the Council on how the reorganization will impact the Department and its services; the expected revenue in the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund and how the fund will be used; what is being done with the opioid abatement fund; and the status of various Department initiatives.

Non-Departmental Funds and Expenses

There was a general discussion on the budget requests for OPEB, including the portion from non-departmental funds; the necessity of consistent investment in OPEB; details and comparison to other jurisdictions regarding funding level; the State requirements for the County providing certain benefits for employees; how OPEB contributions relate to the County bond ratings; and State versus County responsibility for the OPEB fund.

The Administration responded to questions from the Council on the proposed funding for development code rewrites; cost of the Gateway Master Plan contract; status of establishing the APFO Task Force; and if DPZ is planning on undergoing comprehensive rezoning.

There was a general discussion about non-departmental funds that have minimum explanation in the budget book, including why some line items have less specificity than others; the use of certain line items such as ammunition and firing range improvements; and how funds are being utilized year by year.

There was a general discussion on about utilizing pay as you go funding for shock trauma facility; other institutions or agencies make contributions; and justification for use of funds to taxpayers.

The Administration responded to questions from the Council on the youth engagement program; and the Boys and Girls Club of Metropolitan Baltimore and how funds are being distributed.

There was a general discussion about how to receive more information on budget items that were not discussed. The Council agreed to postpone some topics until the next budget work session.

Chair Jung closed the meeting at 3:38 p.m.

Council requested follow up:

- *Council Member Walsh requested what the exact amount of ARPA money is being allocated to childcare programs.*
- *Council Member Jones requested an offline discussion of the results of the racial equity study.*

- *Chair Jung requested a list of organizations receiving money through the plastic bag fee.*
- *Council Chair requested a list of County employees that have assigned or take home cars, excluding public safety employees.*
- *Council Member Walsh requested more information on the micro transit project along Route 1.*
- *Chair Jung requested the exact amount paid for the Gateway Master Plan.*
- *Council Member Yungmann requested more information on what DPZ is proposing using the \$1 or \$1/2 million that is allocated for development code rewrites.*
- *Chair Jung and Council Member Yungmann requested information on what jurisdictions make contributions to shock trauma, the justification for the Howard County contribution, how many Howard County residents go to shock trauma and other nearby hospitals (Northwest, Suburban, UM, and St. Agnes).*
- *Chair Jung requested additional information about the youth engagement program, including specific contact people for the program and who is receiving grants.*

5/13/2024 Operating Work Session Attendee List:

Budget Office

Holly Sun
Brook Mamo
James Kwak
Norman Schnobrich
Paul McIntyre
Caitlin Nardolillo

County Executive

Angela Cabellon
Felix Facchine

County Administration

Brandee Ganz
Raul Delerme
Jamar Herry
Timothy Lattimer
Lindsay DeMarzo
Sheila Little
Ji Mar
Anju Bennett
Gabriel Ross
Dean Hof
Michelle McFadden
Mark Miller
Robert Phillips
Patrick Pope
Jennifer Sager
Yolanda Sonnier

Office of Law

Gary Kuc
Maria Schmidt

Transportation

Clarence Dickerson
David Cookson

Non-Departmental

Circuit Court
Jennifer Keiser

Corrections

Margaret Chippendale
Greg Smith
Scott Tilton

County Administration

Brandee Ganz
Robert Phillips
Timothy Lattimer
Mark Miller

DCRS/CSP

Jacqueline Scott
Cheryl Mattis
Kellie Brown
Rose Burton
Megan Godfrey

Inspections, Licenses and Permits

Bob Frances
Bob Firmani
Don Mock

DPW

Yosef Kebede
John Seefried
Silvia Gould
Sharon Walsh
Kris Jagarapu

DPZ

Lynda Eisenberg
Laura Boone
Jessica Bellah
Mary Kendall

EDA

Jennifer Jones

Housing

Kelly Cimino
Tom Wall

Police

Gregory Der
Sean Hollywood
Gary McLhinney
Terrence Benn
Thomas Ehart
Jayson Janowich

Recreation and Parks

Nick Mooneyhan
Bryan Moody
Dawn Pohlshy
Bill Eckert
Mike Milani

Sheriff

Marcus Harris
Mark Verderaime
Nancy Nguyen

Transportation

Clarence Dickerson
David Cookson

Finance

Rafiu Ighile
Angela Price

DTCS

TJ Mayotte
Sandra Tello
Donna Richardson

Finance

Rafiu Ighile
Angela Price
Angela Moore

Community Resource Services

Jacqueline Scott
Cheryl Mattis
Stephanie Adibe
Kellie Brown

Community Services Partnerships Grant

Jacqueline Scott
Cheryl Mattis
Kellie Brown
Rose Burton
Megan Godfrey

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