



Howard County Council

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

COUNCILMEMBERS

Liz Walsh, Chair
District 1

Opel Jones, Vice Chair
District 2

Christiana Rigby
District 3

Deb Jung
District 4

David Yungmann
District 5

Minutes – Approved

Operating Budget Work Session #2

Wednesday, May 07, 2025

Hybrid Meeting (In-Person and WebEx)

Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>

10:00 a.m.

Council Members present: Liz Walsh, Christinia Rigby, Deb Jung, David Yungmann.

Staff present: Michelle Harrod, Administrator; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant; Rozanna Hightower, Administrative Support; Jim Almon, Legislative Analyst; Nick Rinehart, Legislative Analyst; Christopher Ashman County, Auditor; and Gary Kuc, County Solicitor.

Administrative Staff: noted below:

Chair Walsh started the meeting at: 10:10am

Agenda

Circuit Court

Judge William Tucker and Jennifer Keiser appeared before the Council to discuss the budget for the Circuit Court. Judge Tucker indicated they are requesting a Maintenance of Effort budget for Fiscal Year 2026. There was a general discussion regarding the need for a Domestic Violence Review Coordinator position, the process that the Court follows for domestic violence cases, and proposed personnel increases.

Police

Chief Gregory Der, Major Terrance Benn, and Sean Hollywood, Budget Director, appeared before the Council to discuss the Operating Budget for the Police Department. Chief Der gave opening remarks and a brief overview of the Police Department's budget request. There was general discussion regarding the new School Resource Officer (SRO) position in the Police's proposed budget, proposed Pay Go funds for ammunition and weapons, and revenue collected from speed cameras and school bus cameras. There was additional dialogue regarding overtime spending projections for the upcoming Fiscal Year, and the overall decrease in Contractual Services.

Fire

Chief Louis Winston, Deputy Chief Gordon Wallace, Assistant Chief Pat LePore, and Meaghan Kordusky presented the proposed Operating Budget for the Fire and Rescue Department. There were questions and discussion regarding overtime and personnel costs, the impacts on the federal cuts to FEMA and what services would be impacted, and the impacts of the closure of the Fire Training Academy in Emmitsburg on future training opportunities for the Department.

Maria Bernadzikowski, Director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) for Howard County, joined the discussion to answer Council questions about the impacts of FEMA cuts.

Corrections

Director of the Department of Corrections Margaret Chippendale, Deputy Director Gregory Smith, and Scott Tilton came before the Council to present the proposed budget for the Department of Corrections (DOC). There were questions from Council regarding the revenue and expenses of the Gift Card used by DOC employees, followed by a discussion on recidivism rates, employee vacancies, the timeline for a new Corrections facility, and overtime and benefits for employees.

Planning & Zoning

Director Lynda Eisenberg, Deputy Directors Mary Kendall and Chad Edmondson, Laura Boone, and Joy Levy appeared before the Council to present the proposed Operating Budget for the Department of Planning & Zoning (DPZ). There was a general discussion about personnel, the department's work on the Landscape Manual and Route 40 Design Manual, the process for Alternative Compliance to Forest Conservation and Streams & Steep Slopes regulations, and the need for more Zoning Enforcement staff.

There was a follow up request to DPZ for the list of names for the New Town Task Force.

Soil Conservation

David Plummer, the Director of the Soil Conservation District, appeared before the Council to discuss the proposed Operating Budget for the Soil Conservation District.

Department of Public Works

Director Yosef Kebede appeared before the Council, joined by Mark DeLuca, Kris Jagarapu, Mark Richmond, Sharon Walsh, Zach Hollenbeck, and Emily Iacchei, to present the proposed Operating Budget for the Department of Public Works (DPW).

There was a general discussion about the newly formed Department of General Services, personnel costs and operating transfers, the proposed Energy Savings Days throughout the year, and the Watershed Protection and Restoration fund and fees.

Capital Project C0337

Mr. DeLuca, Mr. Richmond, and Mr. Hollenbeck were called upon to provide a presentation and additional information on Capital Project C0337, as requested by Council at the April 28th Capital Work Session. There was a general discussion about the information shared in the presentation, costs of the overall project and each major sub-project, sources of funding, and what would happen if certain sub-projects were not built.

Overall, the Council requested follow-ups on the following items from DPW:

- A list of all DPW employees earning a salary less than \$55,000 per year.
- A list of costs of all of the easements that the County had to acquire for C0337.
- Additional details of the revenue source for the detailed expense provided for each sub-project in C0337.
- A chart that forecasts scenarios based upon the depth and velocity of flooding that would accumulate at the bottom of the hill in Old Ellicott City.
- A chart that projects future flooding scenarios with/without the completed sub-projects, and with/without the projects in design and under construction.

Chair Walsh closed meeting at: 3:15 pm

5/7/2025 Operating Work Session Attendee List:

Budget Office

Holly Sun
Brook Mamo
James Kwak
Lori Buchman
Andrew Galarza
Paul McIntyre

Circuit Court

Judge William Tucker
Jennifer R. Keiser

County Administration

Brian Shepter

Police

Chief Gregory Der
Terrance Benn
Sean Hollywood
Jayson Janowich
Jeffrey Specht
Gary McIlhenny

Fire & Rescue

Chief Louis Winston
Deputy Chief Gordon Wallace
Meaghan Kordusky

Asst. Chief Pat LePore

Corrections

Margaret Chippendale
Gregory Smith
Scott Tilton

Planning & Zoning

Lynda Eisenberg
Laura Boone
Mary Kendall
Chad Edmondson
Joy Levy

Soil Conservation District

David Plummer

Public Works

Yosef Kebede
Mark DeLuca
Kris Jagarapu
Allison Ford
Sharon Walsh
Mark Richmond
Emily Iaccehi
Zach Hollenbeck

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.