



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 #5

Friday, May 16, 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, Opel Jones, Christinia Rigby, Deb Jung, David Yungmann.

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

Administrative Staff: noted below.

Chair Walsh started the meeting at: 10:15am

Agenda

Pending Issues – Capital and/or Operating

C0337 Ellicott City Safe and Sound

Holly Sun, Budget Administrator, was joined by Brooke Mamo, Deputy Budget Administrator, Brian Shepter, Deputy Chief of Staff to County Executive Ball, Mark DeLuca and Mark Richmond of the Department of Public Works (DPW) to answer any follow up questions on pending issues with Capital Project C0337 and information provided by the Budget Office to Council.

There was a discussion with Council members regarding the information provided on easements acquired for the project, funding sources for each subproject, and federal and state grants received for this project.

Debt Services

Dr. Sun and Mr. Mamo appeared before the Council to answer any questions from Council members related to debt service. There was discussion regarding bond issuance, amount of increase to the debt service, and discrepancies in the Agricultural Land Preservation Program (ALPP) debt service statements.

Pay-Go Funds

Brandee Ganz, Chief Administrative Officer, Angela Cabellon, Chief of Staff to County Executive Ball, and Felix Facchine, Deputy Chief of Staff, appeared before the Council to answer questions from Council about Pay-Go Funds.

There was general discussion regarding Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liabilities, Pay-Go funding appropriated for various Capital Projects, appropriations from Pay-Go to the Hospital, and what the County Charter states about the use of Pay-Go funding by the County Executive and the powers of the County Council.

Budget Amendments - Downtown Columbia Tax Increment Financing (TIF) projects

Carl DeLorenzo, Director of Policy and Programs for the County Administration, and Greg Fitchett, Executive Vice President of Government Affairs and Business Development for Howard Hughes Corporation, appeared before the Council to respond to questions about capital projects related to the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) projects.

There was a discussion about the scope and purpose of the amendments, the proposed amendments by Ms. Walsh regarding adding conditions to the budget legislation about the proposed Lakefront Library project site for Capital Project L0020, and the costs associated with each proposed library location.

Non-Departmental Expenses

Brandee Ganz, Chief Administrative Officer, Angela Cabellon, Chief of Staff to County Executive Ball, and Felix Facchine, Deputy Chief of Staff, re-appeared before the Council to answer questions from Council about non-departmental expenses.

There was general discussion about one time Community Service Partnership (CSP) funding, Arts Council funding, and costs for bike lane leaf removal.

Contingency Reserves

Ms. Ganz, Ms. Cabellon, and Mr. Facchine answered questions from Council about Contingency reserves. There was a general discussion about the purpose of Council Bill 45-2025, the existing policy reserve, and what powers the Council has to control what is set aside besides the “Rainy Day” fund.

Budget Amendments

There was general discussion about proposed budget amendments from Council members and from the Administration.

Additionally, Brian Hull of Howard County Public Schools and Jennifer Mallo of the Board of Education joined the discussion to answer questions on the amendments to Council Resolution 92-2025.

Chair Walsh adjourned the work session at 2:50 pm.

5/16/2025 Operating Work Session Attendee List:

Budget Amendments - Schools

Brian Hull
Jennifer Mallo

Budget Amendments – Downtown Columbia

Greg Fitchett
Carl DeLorenzo

Budget Office

Holly Sun
Brook Mamo
Lori Buchman
Andrew Galarza
Paul McIntyre

Capital Project C0337

Brian Shepter
Mark DeLuca
Mark Richmond

Debt Services

Rafiu Ighile
Angie Price

Pay-Go-Funds

Brandee Ganz
Angela Cabellon
Felix Facchine

Non-Departmental

Budget Office
Holly Sun
Brook Mamo
Lori Buchman
Andrew Galarza

Finance

Rafiu Ighile
Angela Price

Contingency Reserves

Budget Office
Holly Sun
Brook Mamo
Lori Buchman
Andrew Galarza

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.