



Howard County Council

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

Legislative Work Session # 1
Friday, September 20, 2019
C. Vernon Gray Room
10:00 a.m.

Minutes (Approved)

COUNCILMEMBERS

Christiana Mercer Rigby, Chairperson
District 3

Opel Jones, Vice Chairperson
District 2

Deb Jung
District 4

Liz Walsh
District 1

David Yungmann
District 5

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Council Members Present: Opel Jones (partial), Deb Jung, Christiana Mercer Rigby, Liz Walsh, Dave Yungmann.

Staff Present: Diane Schwartz Jones, Council Administrator, Theodore Wimberly, Council Administrative Manager; Michelle Harrod, Deputy County Auditor; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor.

Council Bill 38-2019

Discussion participants included:

Dr. Matthew Baker, Professor, UMBC
Shaina Hernandez
Peter Conrad, Deputy Director, DPZ
Mark DeLuca, Deputy Director, DPW
Christine Uhlhorn, Fire and Rescue
Jason Thompson, Parks and Rec

Meagan Eaves, BGE
David Woessner
Jim Irvin, DPW
Chad Edmondson, DPZ
Raul Delerme, Rec and Parks

Councilmember Walsh, the bill sponsor, briefly described the intent of the bill to prioritize redevelopment of sites already paved.

There was a general discussion about the intent of Bill 38-2019 and current County practice of waivers and alternative compliance pathways related to forest conservation, steep slopes, limits of disturbance, and stormwater management.

Administration representatives generally discussed considerations that go into the Department's issuance of forest conservation and other waivers and approval of alternative compliance pathways.

Councilmembers discussed the impacts of the bill on private property, including small projects like driveways, single home construction and larger projects and whether the intent is to make it

harder or not allow any development. The relationship of development to climate change was raised.

Dr. Matthew Baker provided an overview of hydrology, topography, geology, various environmental resources, and generally the relationship planning decisions may have on environmental resources, revised approaches to storm water management, and the effects of extreme storms.

Administration staff provided a general overview of public, utility and road projects that could be affected by Bill 38-2019 including the impacts of a 75% open space requirement and a 25% restriction on limits of disturbance. The Department of Public Works distributed 5 case studies, a memorandum reviewing impacts and a list of capital projects was provided.

General discussion about concerns about possible economic impacts of bill on jobs and revenues. Council discussed requesting auditors to provide an analysis of fiscal and economic impacts.

The Department of Recreation and Parks provided an overview of the status of Troy Park and a summary of properties in the Patapsco Lower North Branch.

Council Resolution 122-2019 Fee in Lieu of Stormwater Management Facilities

Participants: Shaina Hernandez, Peter Conrad, Chad Edmondson, Mark DeLuca, Jim Irvin

Peter Conrad, Deputy Director of Department of Planning and Zoning provided an overview of CR 122-2019. The fee in lieu has not been updated in ten years.

Council Resolution 123-2019 amending Volume I (Storm drainage) of the Design Manual

Participants: Shaina Hernandez, Peter Conrad, Mark DeLuca, Chad Edmondson, Jim Irvin

Deputy Director Conrad explained the purpose of CR 123-2019 and the design manual changes, which as a resolution can take effect upon adoption.

Council Bill 41-2019 to establish a new Community Zoning Case Navigator position

Discussion deferred to subsequent council work session.

Council Resolution 120-2019 Complete Streets

Participants: Bruce Gartner, Administrator, Office of Transportation, Glenn Schneider, Horizon Foundation, Jim Irvin, Director Department of Public Works, Chris Eatough, Office of Transportation

Administrator Gartner provided an overview of CR 120–2019, the process and timeline for design standards. Councilmembers expressed an interest in interim standards pending development of design standards.

General discussion about the benefits of Complete Streets, need to make progress, and bill vs. resolution.

Council chair requested semi-annual updates on progress of implementation of Complete Streets policy.

Council Resolution 89-2019 Conveyance of Property to Dorsey Overlook, LLC

Participants: Jim Irvin, Dick Boulton, Thomas Coale, Esquire, Buffy Illum, Laurie Liskin

Director Irvin provided an overview of the proposed disposition and use to be made of the property.

There was general discussion about the appraisal offered in support of the proposed price and the possibility of getting a new appraisal. Councilmembers requested an opinion from the Office of Law on the proper standard for appraisals.

Members of the community discussed concerns about proposed use of the road.

MEETING recessed at 4:35

Council Bill 42-2019 – School Facilities Surcharge

Item deferred to later work session.

Council Resolution 112-2019 a request to HC Board of Education to consider certain Factors

Item deferred to later work session.

The work session recessed at 3:55 p.m.