



Howard County Council

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

COUNCILMEMBERS

Deb Jung, Chairperson
District 4
Liz Walsh, Vice Chairperson
District 1
Opel Jones
District 2
Christiana Rigby
District 3
David Yungmann
District 5

Work Session Minutes (Approved)

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Virtually (via Webex)

Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-Us>

1:00 p.m.

Chair Jung opened the meeting at 1:05p.m.

Councilmembers Present: Chairperson Deb Jung; Vice-chairperson Liz Walsh; Opel Jones, Christiana Rigby (left early) and David Yungmann

Staff Present: Diane Schwartz Jones, Council Administrator; Craig Glendenning, Council Auditor; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Michelle Harrod, Deputy Auditor; Margery Sayers, Executive Assistant; and Charity Respass, Administrative Assistant

Executive Staff: Jennifer Sager, Maureen Arthurs Evans, Holly Sun, Brook Mamo, Janet Irvin

Charter Review Commission (CRC) representatives

Chair Jung presented the members of the Charter Review Commission with an Honorary Resolution thanking them for their service as members of the Charter Review Commission.

Council Resolution 93-2020 –altering certain dates for the Council to appoint a Councilmanic Redistricting Commission and for the Commission to prepare a plan of Councilmanic Districts and present the plan to the Council.

Council Chair Jung provided an overview of the proposal. Council Administrator Jones explained that the proposed language is based on CRC recommendation and reflects dates for the Council to meet the outside date needed by the Board of Elections. Guy Mickley, Director of the Board of Elections explained the change to timing of elections that has created the problem to be addressed by the proposed Charter change.

Council Resolution 94-2020 –altering the method for appointing members of a Councilmanic Redistricting Commission.

Councilmember Yungmann explained the proposal and the objective to get better representation of unaffiliated voters and to assure that composition was more representative rather than appointments by insiders of parties. Councilmember Walsh expressed concern about the

provision for unanimous appointment. On behalf of the CRC, Chair Sonnier indicated that the CRC recommended a change because the unaffiliated voters are not represented and further recommended that representation should align with districts and that elected officials and their households should not be on the redistricting commission. Councilmember Jones noted that Central Committee meetings are open to the public.

Council Resolution 95-2020 – altering various charter provisions by changing the term “Councilmanic” to “Council”.

Councilmember Jones explained the proposed change to make the term current and representative.

Council Resolution 96-2020 –altering the minimum time between introduction of a bill and the public hearing on the bill.

Councilmember Yungmann explained the proposed change and the desire to have opportunity to accommodate multiple work sessions if needed. There was discussion of comparison to other jurisdictions and request that Council Administrator share the research.

Council Resolution 97-2020 –by requiring the County Auditor to accompany the County Executive and the Council Chair on all discussions with officials of credit rating agencies.

Councilmember Jung explained the proposal and Council Auditor Glendenning explained the historical role of the Auditor and rating agency visits and the benefits both in terms of unity of branches of government and assistance to the Council. In response to a question about why this would be done as a charter amendment versus legislation, County Solicitor Kuc noted that as legislation, it could be subject to veto or petition to referendum.

CRC member Carolyn Stansky advised that sending auditor sends a message of strength and transparency where the County Executive proposes the budget and council approves spending.

Councilmembers and Administration staff generally discussed whether the function was an Executive function and whether the Council Chair could report back to the Council.

Council Resolution 98-2020 –providing that certain appointments are subject to confirmation by the County Council.

Councilmember Yungmann explained the proposed Amendment as enabling a hearing and answering questions of the public. Councilmember Yungmann shared a chart comparing other jurisdictions. In response to a question from the Chair, Councilmember Yungmann indicated intent that the approval would apply prospectively upon initial appointment.

Council Resolution 99-2020 –reducing from five years to three years the number of overlapping terms a Howard County resident may serve on a citizen board.

Councilmember Jones explained the proposal.

Council Resolution 100-2020 –altering certain dates for the County Executive to submit to the Council the proposed current expense budget, the operating expense program for certain fiscal years, parts of the budget message, the proposed capital budget, and the capital program for certain fiscal years; altering the contents of the current expense budget and the capital budget and capital program; and requiring the Executive to submit certain revenue information to the Council on or before a certain date.

Councilmember Yungmann explained the proposal. Brook Mamo with the Budget office described the process for budget work, discussed concerns with the proposal and differences between the Howard County Budget Office and other jurisdictions budget offices.

Council Resolution 101-2020 –allowing the County Council to appropriate funds to capital projects or departments.

Council Chair Jung explained the proposal. CRC Chair Sonnier indicated that the CRC talked about the budget but could not come to agreement to provide a recommendation.

Council Resolution 102-2020 –proposing to add County Charter Section 619 to require fiscal analyses for specified ordinances and resolutions.

Councilmember Yungmann explained the proposal and the importance of the administration considering the fiscal impact of the legislation it creates.

There was general discussion about why the proposal is as a Charter Amendment. County Solicitor Kuc advised that it is a structure of government question. The Budget Administrator indicated that it could require additional staff.

Council Resolution 104-2020 –to prohibit specified kinds of discrimination with respect to certain personnel actions in the County Merit System.

Councilmember Jones explained the proposed Charter amendment. There was general discussion about how the amendment compares to existing law and to whom it would apply.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04p.m.