



Howard County Council

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

COUNCILMEMBERS

Jennifer Terrasa, Chairperson
District 3
Mary Kay Sigaty, Vice Chairperson
District 4
Courtney Watson
District 1
Calvin Ball
District 2
Greg Fox
District 5

Minutes (Approved) Legislative Work Session March 21, 2013

The work session was called to order by Chairperson Terrasa at 4:58 p.m. in the Banneker Room, George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City.

Members present: Calvin Ball; Greg Fox; Mary Kay Sigaty; Jennifer Terrasa; and Courtney Watson.

Council Bill No. 11-2013 - Pursuant to Section 612 of the Howard County Charter, approving a multi-year agreement between Howard County, Maryland and Grant Capital Management, Inc., a Maryland corporation, where Grant Capital will finance the acquisition of certain equipment including, without limitation, Fire Department apparatus, furniture, library books and computers through a Tax-Exempt Master Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement.

The members deferred discussing the matter pending further information from the County Administration.

Council Bill No. 8-2013 - Establishing a Watershed Protection and Restoration fund as a dedicated, non-lapsing, enterprise fund; specifying the purposes of the fund and allowing certain revenue to be deposited into the fund; allowing the fund to be used for certain purposes; establishing a Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee; establishing the method, frequency and enforcement of the collection of the Fee; setting forth certain provisions specific to particular types of properties; creating a certain credit and reimbursement program to adjust the amount of the Fee that certain properties will pay; allowing for certain adjustments; allowing for a certain Assistance Program; allowing certain appeals; authorizing the adoption of certain regulations; defining certain terms; amending certain definitions; providing for certain enforcement; and generally relating to the Watershed Protection and Restoration Program in Howard County.

Council Resolution No. 21-2013 - Approving schedules for various charges related to the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee including the impervious unit rate and the amounts for certain credit, reimbursement and assistance programs.

The members discussed the legislation with Josh Feldmark, Mark DeLuca, Jim Caldwell, Margaret Ann Nolan and AMEC representative Elizabeth Treadway. Mr. DeLuca gave a power

point presentation entitled Watershed Implementation Plan that included policy development, project planning and implementation, phases 1 and 2 implementation, and reporting. He concluded that a dedicated funding source is needed to meet the estimated costs associated with the 2025 Bay TMDL Target Goals. Other topics of discussion included project ownership (public versus private), the substance and impact of legislation (HB 508) pending before the Maryland General Assembly, impervious coverage for Schools, County and State properties, whether the fee and other aspects of the program could be established by Executive order, the draft credit program, alternate funding models, and the ramifications of extending the life of the bill on billing by Finance. The members also discussed potential amendments.

The work session was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.