



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
December 20, 2012

The work session was called to order by Chairperson Terrasa at 10:35 a.m. in the Banneker Room, George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City.

Members present: Calvin Ball; Greg Fox (departed at 12:32 p.m.); Mary Kay Sigaty; Jennifer Terrasa; and Courtney Watson (departed at 12:28 p.m.)

Council Resolution No. 181-2012 - Approving the application and receipt of financing for a Neighborhood Conservation Initiative Project in Howard County, further described in the Neighborhood Conservation Initiative Application, to be financed either directly by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development or through other departments or agencies of the State of Maryland.

The members discussed the resolution with Tom Carbo. The County purchased the property for redevelopment in September, 2012. The resolution seeks approval of a grant application. If the grant is not approved, alternate funding will be sought. Mr. Carbo has scheduled a community meeting at the North Laurel Community Center on Thursday, January 3, 2013 at 7:00 pm. A presubmission meeting will be scheduled in the spring, 2013. The County will be developing a transportation plan for the project and is also providing relocation assistance for the former residents.

Council Resolution No. 169-2012 - Introduced by: Courtney Watson - Encourage the General Assembly to provide the necessary resources to appropriate agencies to implement the use of multidisciplinary teams to address bullying, harassment, and intimidation among students.

Ms. Watson provided an amendment supported by the Board of Education. She indicated that the same proposal is under consideration or has been adopted in three other local jurisdictions. The members discussed options for State versus local participation; other opportunities to address bullying, including HCPSS' antibullying task force; the need to include the youth perspective; and the need for a coordinated effort among the many entities that provide services.

Council Resolution No. 179-2012 - Pursuant to Section 4.201 of the Howard County Code, declaring that development rights on approximately 68.1924 acres owned by Howard County, Maryland located at 6555 Belmont Woods Road, Elkrige, Maryland, are no longer needed by the County for public purposes; authorizing the County Executive to sell the development rights and, accordingly, place a preservation easement on the property; waiving the advertising and bidding requirements of Section 4.201 of the Howard County Code; providing that the County Executive is not bound to sell the development rights or place the preservation easement if he finds that it may have a further public use and submits his finding to the County Council for its consideration; and providing for a certain effective date.

The members discussed the resolution with John Byrd. The Office of Law is developing an amendment to address some of the concerns raised in the public hearing. The Administration will ensure that its program needs can be accommodated within the terms of the approved easement.

Council Resolution No. 178-2012 - Declaring that a total of approximately 18,992 square feet (.436 acres) of real property owned by Howard County and identified as Lots 9 and 36, Parcel 425, Tax Map 50 located in North Laurel, Howard County, Maryland are no longer needed for a public purpose and authorizing the County Executive to waive the advertising and bidding requirements of Section 4.201 of the Howard County Code in order to convey the property to Cornerstone Homes, Inc.; and providing that the County Executive is not bound to convey the property if he finds that the land may have a further public use and submits his finding to the County Council for its consideration.

The members discussed the resolution with Jim Irvin, John Byrd and Marsha McLaughlin. Topics included the identification of the properties proposed for disposition and acquisition and their potential uses. In brief, the properties that are being transferred could be developed with single family homes, while the properties being acquired will be committed to environmental protection.

Council Bill No. 41-2012 - Amending the allocation categories used in the Housing Unit Allocation Chart, clarifying certain definitions, providing for the application of this Act, and generally relating to adequate public facilities in Howard County.

Council Resolution No. 170-2012 - Adopting the Housing Unit Allocation Chart for Fiscal Year 2013 pursuant to the Adequate Public Facilities Act of Howard County; and providing for a certain effective date.

Council Resolution No. 171-2012 - adopting the Open/Closed Chart, pursuant to the Adequate Public Facilities Act of Howard County, to designate the school regions and school districts that are open for residential development; and providing for a certain effective date.

The members discussed the allocation legislation with Ms. McLaughlin. She will be offering an amendment to address allocations already in the pipeline. There was a further discussion of the percentage of allocations available in the Growth and Revitalization region that may be granted in a particular planning area.

Council Bill No. 36-2012 (ZRA 144) - Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the Marsha S. McLaughlin, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning - Creating a Community Enhancement Floating District; setting forth uses permitted as of right; excluding certain uses; allowing for certain accessory uses; requiring certain moderate income housing; requiring certain density be obtained through the density exchange option or through the neighborhood preservation density exchange option; requiring certain features or amenities as community enhancements; setting forth certain criteria and procedures for the establishment of a Community Enhancement Floating District; requiring certain plans; allowing certain modifications under certain conditions; and generally relating to the Howard County Zoning Regulations.

The members discussed the bill with Ms. McLaughlin and Paul Johnson. Topics included a height limitation, whether to require an assemblage, the excluded uses, the relationship to comprehensive zoning, whether to provide for separate residential and commercial CEF districts, and the prefiled amendments. Ms. McLaughlin was asked to provide additional maps.

The work session was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.