



Howard County Council

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

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

Minutes (approved)
Legislative Work Session
July 23, 2012

The work session was called to order by Chairperson Sigaty at 4:43 pm in the Banneker Room, George Howard Building, 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City.

Members present: Calvin Ball, Greg Fox, Mary Kay Sigaty, Jennifer Terrasa and Courtney Watson (arrived 4:57).

Council Resolution No. 109-2012 – Introduced by Council Member Greg Fox - Proposing to amend Section 603 “Submission and contents of the County budget” of the Howard County Charter by limiting the amount of contingency funds held in reserve to 3% of each fund in the current expense budget; and submitting this amendment to the voters of Howard County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Article X of the Howard County Charter and Article XIA of the Maryland Constitution.

Council Resolution No. 117-2012 - Introduced by, Council Member Greg Fox - Proposing to amend Section 202 “County Council” of the Howard County Charter by adding conviction of or pleading nolo contendere to a felony as cause for forfeiture of office by a County Council member; to amend Section 302 “The County Executive” of the Howard County Charter by adding conviction of or pleading nolo contendere to a felony as cause for forfeiture of office by the County Executive; to amend Section 405 “The Office of Law” of the Howard County Charter by adding conviction of or pleading nolo contendere to a felony as a cause for forfeiture of office by the County Solicitor; and submitting this amendment to the voters of Howard County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Article X of the Howard County Charter and Article XIA of the Maryland Constitution.

Council Resolution No. 99-2012 - Introduced by: Council Member Calvin Ball - Proposing to amend Section 202 “County Council” of the Howard County Charter by changing from three to four the maximum number of terms the Council Members can serve; and submitting this amendment to the voters of Howard County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Article X of the Howard County Charter and Article XIA of the Maryland Constitution.

Council Resolution No. 100-2012 - Introduced by: The Chair at the Request of the Charter Review Commission - Proposing to amend the Howard County Charter to make various technical changes; to amend Section 202 “The County Council” by removing an obsolete factor to be considered in redistricting; to amend Section 501 “The County Board of Appeals” by correcting a citation to the Annotated Code of Maryland; to amend Section 601 “Fiscal year and tax year definitions”, Section 615A “Budget Stabilization”, and Section 615B “Restrictions on Use of Surplus Revenues” in order to consolidate

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certain duplicate definitions; to amend Section 709 “Prohibitions” by correcting a typographical error; and submitting this amendment to the voters of Howard County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Article X of the Howard County Charter and Article XIA of the Maryland Constitution.

Council Resolution No. 101-2012 - Introduced by: The Chair at the Request of the Charter Review Commission - Proposing to amend Section 208 “Sessions of the County Council; quorum; rules of procedure”, Section 209 “Legislative Procedure”, Section 210 “Recording, printing and compilation of laws”, and Section 604 “Filing of proposed budget; copies” of the Howard County Charter by changing various publication and advertising requirements to provide that certain information also be made available in at least one electronic medium; proposing to amend Section 209 “Legislative procedure” of the Howard County Charter by permitting the County Council to extend the amount of time to post emergency legislation; and submitting this amendment to the voters of Howard County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Article X of the Howard County Charter and Article XIA of the Maryland Constitution.

Council Resolution No. 102-2012 - Introduced by: The Chair at the Request of the Charter Review Commission - Proposing to amend Section 209 “Legislative procedure” of the Howard County Charter by permitting the County Council to extend the amount of time to consider legislation before the Council; and submitting this amendment to the voters of Howard County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Article X of the Howard County Charter and Article XIA of the Maryland Constitution.

Council Resolution No. 103-2012 - Introduced by: The Chair at the Request of the Charter Review Commission- Proposing to amend Section 211 “The referendum” of the Howard County Charter by providing that the number of required signatures for a referendum be 5% of the qualified voters of the County calculated upon the whole number of votes cast in the County for Governor at the last preceding gubernatorial election; and submitting this amendment to the voters of Howard County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Article X of the Howard County Charter and Article XIA of the Maryland Constitution.

Council Resolution No. 104-2012 - Introduced by: The Chair at the Request of the Charter Review Commission - Proposing to amend Section 611 “Lapsed appropriations” of the Howard County Charter to permit the County to carry over grant funds from one fiscal year to the next; and submitting this amendment to the voters of Howard County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Article X of the Howard County Charter and Article XIA of the Maryland Constitution.

Council Resolution No. 105-2012 - Introduced by: The Chair at the Request of the Charter Review Commission - Proposing to amend Section 613 “Restrictions of capital projects; amendment to capital budget after adoption of budget”, of the Howard County Charter to clarify the application of the section to new capital projects; requiring the County Council to establish by law procedures for amending the budget when changes to existing capital projects are approved; and submitting this amendment to the voters of Howard County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Article X of the Howard County Charter and Article XIA of the Maryland Constitution.

Council Resolution No. 106-2012 - Introduced by: The Chair at the Request of the Charter Review Commission - Proposing to repeal Section 906 “Copies of books and papers on demand” and Section 907 “Inspection

of books, accounts, and papers” of the Howard County Charter and replace them with new Section 906 “Right to Inspect and Copy Public Records”; making the public access provisions of the County Charter consistent with the Maryland Public Information Act; expanding the public right to inspect records to include all persons; permitting persons to obtain copies of public records upon payment of a reasonable fee prescribed by the County Council; and submitting this amendment to the voters of Howard County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Article X of the Howard County Charter and Article XIA of the Maryland Constitution.

The members consulted with Guy Mickley, who recommended 2-4 charter amendments, not to exceed 5 amendments, for the 2012 ballot. Other amendments may be brought forward for the 2014 ballot. The members also discussed Bill No. 109 with Stan Milesky and Ray Wachs. Bill No. 99 and 117 were also discussed by the members.

Council Bill No. 26-2012 AN ACT adopting PlanHoward 2030 as the general plan for Howard County, Maryland, for the purpose of planning for land use and land conservation and multiyear development planning for transportation, public facilities, water, sewerage, parkland, housing, human services, and environmental protection; and generally relating to planning, zoning, and land use in Howard County, Maryland.

The members reviewed a series of draft amendments, including Administration amendments, with Marsha McLaughlin and Bill Mackey. Staff directed to combine certain draft amendments, including portions of Administration amendments, by chapter in the Plan. Other amendments will stand alone.

The work session adjourned at 9:30 pm.