



Howard County Council

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

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

Minutes - Approved

Monthly Meeting
Monday, January 13, 2025
Hybrid Meeting (Virtual and In-Person Meeting)
Video Streamed on <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/watch-us>
10:30 a.m.

The Monthly Meeting was called to order at 10:45 am.

Council Members Present: Liz Walsh, Christiana Rigby, Deb Jung, David Yungmann.

Council Staff Present: Michelle Harrod, Council Administrator; Isaiah Anderson, Executive Assistant; Virginia Gambrell, Administrative support; Theo Wimberly, Administrative Manager; Nick Rinehart, Legislative Analyst; Jim Almon, Legislative Analyst; Gary Kuc, County Solicitor; Amanda Mihill, Office of Law; Lisa German, Acting County Auditor.

Agenda:

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)

Rafiu Ighile, Director of Finance, and Jonathan Griffin, Manager of Quality Review, Clifton Larson Allen (CLA), presented the ACFR for the Fiscal year ending on June 30, 2024. Mr. Griffin gave a presentation that discussed audit scope, approach, results, and required communications. He shared that the audit of the financial report resulted in an “Unmodified Opinion” and showed no weaknesses or deficiencies,

There was general discussion about the large variation in the projected and actual interest accrued on investments; the General Fund and breakdown of fund balances; and the details about updated regulations required by the General Auditing Standards Board (GASB).

Council Members expressed their appreciation for the positive results of the financial report audit and lauded the Department of Finance for their efforts.

Council requested follow ups:

- *From Finance – 8-year history of interest revenue including Projected amounts, Actual amounts, Variance, and interest rate.*
- *From CLA – A history of Projected vs Actual amounts of interest rates / revenues from other industries.*

Update on Climate Forward

Tim Lattimer, Director of the Howard County Office of Community Sustainability (OCS), provided an update on the Climate Forward initiative and presented on highlights of the 2024 Annual Report, progress made towards those goals, and mitigation/resiliency strategies the County is currently employing and implementing.

Mr. Lattimer emphasized that to meet Howard County’s Climate Forward Goals of 60% greenhouse gas reduction by 2030 and Net Zero by 2045, there would need to be a sustained 4.7% annual reduction of emissions to reach the 2030 goal.

There was general discussion about the need to increase number of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in the Howard County vehicle fleet; emissions from transportation and buildings; the need to reduce heat island effect through more forest conservation; the status of Solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) projects; and local opportunities to help reduce emissions.

Goals of New Building Electrification and Building Code

Bob Frances, Director of Department of Inspections, Licensing & Permits (DILP) gave a presentation on considerations for Comprehensive Building decarbonization and considerations to adopt electrified building code, as part of a follow on to CB5-2023, which adopted the current building codes.

There was general discussion about the current federal court challenges to implementation efforts of electric building code changes and the timeline for introduction of legislation and adoption. Erin Sherman of RMI provided a status update on the current legal challenges. Mr. Frances stated that the Council would receive draft legislation for the building code no later than June 2025.

Council requested follow ups:

- *Chair Walsh and Ms. Jung requested from Mr. Frances or Ms. Sherman details on the Energy Code / Safe Harbor report mentioned during the meeting.*

Reports

There was no report from the Chair this month. The MACo, Council Administrator’s report, and County Auditor’s report were not discussed.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:41 pm.

Legislative Monthly Meeting - Participants
Monday, January 13, 2025

ACFR

Jonathan Griffin - CLA
Cory Schlee - CLA
Rafiu Ighile
Angela Price

Climate Forward/Comp Building Decarbonization

Bob Frances
Don Mock
Timothy Lattimer
Leah Miller
Erin Sherman
Phil Webster