



Howard County Council

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

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

Minutes (Approved)
FY 2016 Operating Budget Work Session
May 6, 2015
8:30 a.m.
C. Vernon Gray Conference Room

Members Present: Mary Kay Sigaty, Chairperson; Jon Weinstein, Vice Chairperson; Calvin Ball; Greg Fox; Jen Terrasa

Staff Present: Jessica Feldmark, Council Administrator; Craig Glendenning, County Auditor

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 8:44 a.m.

Department of Police: Chief Gary Gardner, Major Luther Johnson, Terry Breeden, and Holly Sun presented the proposed budget for the Department of Police and answered questions from the Council. Chief Gardner explained that it is a no growth budget and stressed that space is the biggest need facing the agency.

Council members requested the following additional information:

- Separate follow-up after the budget to address remaining issues with implementation of the new DROP program
- Updated list of departmental cuts for FY15
- Explanation of two positions “missing” from speed camera fund

Department of Corrections: Jack Kavanagh, Trish Schupple, Diana Pettit, and Holly Sun presented the proposed budget for the Department of Corrections and answered questions from the Council. Mr. Kavanagh discussed the increase in overtime expenditures due to increased staffing requirements whenever an inmate is hospitalized and the increase in length of the correctional officer training academy.

Department of Fire and Rescue Services: Chief John Butler, Deputy Chief Frank Rommal, Deputy Chief John Jerome, Julia Lynch, Ryan Miller, Bill Anuszewski, and Holly Sun presented the proposed budget for the Department of Fire and Rescue Services and answered questions from the Council. Chief Butler explained that the FY16 budget will maintain the current level of service.

Council members requested the following additional information:

- Confirmation of the full amount of the departmental budget request
- Clarification on fleet charges for apparatus

Department of Planning and Zoning: Marsha McLaughlin, Lisa Hill, and Holly Sun presented the proposed budget for the Department of Planning and Zoning and answered questions from the Council. Ms. McLaughlin also discussed recent and upcoming staff turnover within the department.

Council members requested the following additional information:

- An update from the Administration on PALS projects with University of Maryland
- Clarification on whether end of year funds from FY 15 could be used to provide the grant requested by the Patapsco Heritage Greenway

Soil Conservation District: Bob Ensor and Holly Sun presented the proposed budget for the Howard Soil Conservation District and answered questions from the Council. Mr. Ensor explained that the budget includes no additional staff or increases. He also informed the Council the HSCD has purchased a building and moved its offices to that location.

Department of Public Works: Jim Irvin, Michelle Dudek, Tom Butler, Mark DeLuca, Daryl Paunil, Steve Gerwin, Amy Hart, Kris Jagarapu, Tom Meunier, Holger Serrano, and Holly Sun presented the proposed budget for the Department of Public Works and answered questions from the Council.

Council members requested the following additional information:

- A complete listing of current vacancies specifying which are funded to be filled in FY16
- An updated on trees treated, removed, and replaced due to Emerald Ash Borer
- Clarification with Finance and the Office of Community Sustainability regarding stormwater billing for mobile homes
- An update on the stormwater utility fund including projects completed and planned with cost per acre of impervious surface treated
- Analysis of commercial tipping fee to determine if residential fees are subsidizing commercial users
- Clarification on assets and cash in the Water and Sewer Special Benefits Charges Fund

Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits: Bob Frances, Bob Firmani, and Holly Sun presented the proposed budget for the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits and answered questions from the Council. Mr. Frances explained the rationale for the creation of the new fees being proposed.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.