



Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland

Open Session Minutes

December 10, 2019

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by the full assemblage.

CALL TO ORDER

President Jeffrey A. Cline called the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland, to order at 9:00 a.m. at 100 West Washington Street, Room 1113, Hagerstown, Maryland, with the following members present: Vice President Terry L. Baker and Commissioners Wayne K. Keefer, Cort F. Meinelschmidt, and Randall E. Wagner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Keefer, moved to approve the minutes of December 3, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Meinelschmidt, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to convene in closed session at 9:01 a.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and to conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct, in accordance with Sections 3-305(b) (1) and (12) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The motion passed unanimously.

In closed session, the Commissioners discussed specific employment recommendations with staff and gave staff direction in regards thereto. The Commissioners received information regarding potential changes to organizational relationships and bylaws related to certain appointees over whom the Board has jurisdiction and directed staff as to further actions. The Commissioners were also briefed by legal counsel on the status of an investigative proceeding on possible criminal conduct.

Present during closed session were Commissioners Jeffrey A. Cline, Terry L. Baker, Wayne K. Keefer, Cort F. Meinelschmidt, and Randall E. Wagner. Also present were Kirk C. Downey, County Attorney/Interim County Administrator; Krista L. Hart, County Clerk; Kendall Desaulniers, Deputy County Attorney; Andrew Bright, Assistant County Attorney; and at various times Rachel Brown, Director, Human Resources; Dave Hays, Director, Emergency Services; Jill Baker, Director, Planning and Zoning; Ashley Holloway, Director, Plan Review and Permitting; Joseph Michael, Deputy State's Attorney; Andrew Eshleman, Director, Public Works; Erin Overdorff, Administrative Assistant, Ag Center; Dave Brooks, Facility Supervisor; Sue Harr, President, Ag Center Board of Directors; and Dennis Reeder, Vice-President, Ag Education Center Board of Directors.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Keefer, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to reconvene in open session at 10:21 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Keefer left the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Commissioner Meinelschmidt provided the Board with an update on the MD Association of Counties Winter Conference.

Commissioner Keefer returned to the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY STAFF

Human Resource Personnel Requests; Rachel Brown, Director

Senior Plan Reviewer / Floodplain Manager – Plan Review and Permitting

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Meinelschmidt, moved to approve hiring Gail Abbott for this position (Grade 15, Step 3, \$62,650). This position is vacant due to the retirement of Mark Stransky. The motion passed unanimously.

CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION

None

LEASE OF EXCAVATOR - DEPARTMENT OF SOLID WASTE

David Mason, Deputy Director, Solid Waste, presented information regarding a potential lease and requested a funding source for said lease. He explained that the Solid Waste department has a need to lease an excavator for the day-to-day functions of the department. Additionally, he shared the lease will be presented in the FY21 budget; however, the need is present now. In order to fund the lease in the current budget period, Mr. Mason has proposed to trade various pieces of equipment.

Commissioner Meinelschmidt asked for a purchase versus lease option and instructed Mr. Mason to return with that information.

The Commissioners reached a consensus to review a purchase versus lease option at a future meeting.

RESPONSE TO MINIMUM WAGE LEGISLATION

Sara Greaves, CFO, and Rachel Brown, Director, Human Resources, presented for consideration, an approach for the FY2021 budget and future years as it pertains to the minimum wage legislation. Ms. Brown provided an outline which involved the regular part-time positions and temporary part-time positions, thus creating a new wage/step scale for those employees.

Commissioner Meinelschmidt expressed his concern for this method to have the potential to create congestion on the pay scale, with higher grades being paid less than lower grades. Commissioner Wagner would like to see a total fiscal impact.

The Commissioners reached a consensus that staff should address the potential pay scale congestion and return with total cost for further discussion.

CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Wagner, moved to convene in closed session at 10:43 a.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals, in accordance with Section 3-305(b) (1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The motion passed unanimously.

In closed session, the Commissioners discussed credentials and qualifications of specific employees within a specific department and gave staff further instruction regarding the matter.

Present during closed session were Commissioners Jeffrey A. Cline, Terry L. Baker, Wayne K. Keefer, Cort F. Meinelschmidt, and Randall E. Wagner. Also present were Kirk C. Downey,

County Attorney/Interim County Administrator; Krista L. Hart, County Clerk; Kendall Desaulniers, Deputy County Attorney; Andrew Bright, Assistant County Attorney; and at various times Rachel Brown, Director, Human Resources; and Jeremy Mose, Deputy Director, Water Quality Operations.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Meinelschmidt, seconded by Commissioner Keefer, moved to reconvene in open session at 10:51 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners recessed at 10:51 a.m. and returned to the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING: WATER AND SEWERAGE PLAN AMENDMENT, CITY OF HAGERSTOWN WS-19-003

President Cline convened a public hearing at 11:00 a.m. to obtain public comment regarding a request from the City of Hagerstown, through the Planning and Codes Administration Department, for an amendment to the Water and Sewerage Plan. The request proposes additional text in Chapters 2, 3, and 4, to include references and information related to the City of Hagerstown's recently adopted Comprehensive Plan, *visionHagerstown 2035*. President Cline reviewed the procedures for the Public Hearing.

Jill Baker, Director, Planning and Zoning; and Nancy Hausrath, Director of Utilities, City of Hagerstown, presented the staff report dated November 13, 2019 for WS-19-003 on behalf of the Washington County Department of Planning and Zoning. Ms. Baker the proposed text describes Hagerstown's growth management strategy and enumerates current policies regarding the provision of service from its water and sewer facilities to development outside municipal limits and outside of the Medium Range Growth Area. A public information meeting was held by the Washington County Planning Commission (Planning Commission) on October 7, 2019 to obtain public comment on the application. The Planning Commission discussed the proposed changes during its regular meeting on November 4, 2019, at which time staff recommended minor changes to the text, which would serve to further clarify certain language and definitions within the proposed text as submitted by the City of Hagerstown. The Planning Commission acted at its regular meeting on November 4, 2019 to recommend approval of the proposed text including the minor recommended changes made by staff.

The hearing was opened for public comment and no individuals offered comments.

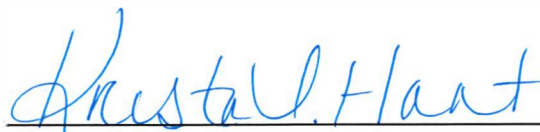
The matter was opened for questions and/or comments from the Commissioners.

The public hearing was closed at 11:03 a.m.

Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Meinelschmidt, moved to approve the request for text amendments to the Water and Sewerage Plan with the City of Hagerstown, as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Baker, moved to adjourn at 11:06 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.



Krista L. Hart, County Clerk

