

**BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2026, LEGISLATIVE DAY NO. 9**  
**April 20, 2026 6:00 P.M.**

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A. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ertel at 6:02 P.M. The Chairman asked the audience to rise for a moment of silent meditation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. There were approximately 42 persons in attendance. The following Councilmembers were present:

PAT YOUNG	FIRST DISTRICT
IZZY PATOKA	SECOND DISTRICT
*WADE KACH	THIRD DISTRICT
JULIAN E. JONES	FOURTH DISTRICT
DAVID MARKS	FIFTH DISTRICT
MICHAEL ERTEL	SIXTH DISTRICT
TODD CRANDELL	SEVENTH DISTRICT

\*Attended via WebEx video teleconference.

**B. APPROVAL OF JOURNAL**

Upon motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Crandell, the reading of the Journal Entries for the meeting of April 6, 2026 was waived and accepted by the following roll call vote:

Aye - Young, Patoka, Kach, Jones, Marks, Ertel, Crandell  
Nay – None

**C. ENROLLMENT OF BILLS**

The Chairman stated that the following Bills were passed by the County Council and signed by the County Executive. He certified and delivered to the Secretary, Bills 20-26, 23-26, 24-26 and 25-26.

**D. INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Bill 38-26** entitled An Act for the purpose of levying and imposing a property tax for the use of Baltimore County for taxable year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending on the thirtieth day of June following; fixing the rate of county taxation for such taxable year; fixing the rate to be charged when property taxes are paid on a semi-annual basis; and generally relating to the property tax.

**Bill 39-26** entitled An Act for the purpose of providing for certain changes to the Baltimore County Classification and Compensation Plans by amending certain pay schedules; adding certain new classifications; amending certain pay grades for certain classifications; amending certain rules and regulations of the Classification and Compensation Plans regarding promotions and premium pay; amending the compensation for the Chief Administrative Officer; and generally relating to the governance and compensation of the personnel of Baltimore County Government.

**Bill 40-26** entitled An Act for the purpose of providing for retiree COLAs for sworn Police personnel who are retired through ordinary or accidental disability; complying with a Settlement Agreement entered into by the County in litigation concerning the proper rate of interest (regular rate of interest compounded annually) to be used to calculate a contribution deficiency for a member of the county's Employees' Retirement System ("ERS") who transferred from a noncontributory system to the ERS; clarifying that for 9-1-1 members the DROP calculation should be calculated at the same rate as the members' pension benefit; clarifying that in order to qualify for continuation in service, Police and Fire members over age 65 should be deemed both mentally and physically capable of carrying out their duties; providing additional time for the County's Actuary to furnish the required analysis for salary/retirement enhancements; and generally relating to the Employees' Retirement System.

**Bill 41-26** entitled An Act to adopt the County Budget, consisting of the Current Expense Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the Capital Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and the Capital Improvement Program for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2028, June 30, 2029, June 30, 2030, June 30, 2031 and June 30, 2032; and to appropriate funds for all program expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 as hereinafter indicated.

**Bill 42-26** entitled An Act for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Baltimore County, Maryland to borrow money in a principal amount not exceeding \$5,000,000 for refuse disposal projects, to be undertaken and to provide that the full amount of such borrowing shall be submitted to a referendum of the registered voters of Baltimore County for their approval or rejection, pursuant to Section 718 and Section 705(a) of the Baltimore County Charter.

**Bill 43-26** entitled An Act the purpose of authorizing and empowering Baltimore County, Maryland to borrow money in a principal amount not exceeding \$18,620,000 for the purpose of community college projects to be undertaken and to provide that the full amount of such borrowing shall be submitted to a referendum of the registered voters of Baltimore County for their approval or rejection, pursuant to Section 718 and Section 705(a) of the Baltimore County Charter.

**Bill 44-26** entitled An Act for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Baltimore County, Maryland to borrow money in a principal amount not exceeding \$54,380,000 for public works purposes, for the class of projects which includes, among other things, streets and highways, bridges and storm drainage systems, to be undertaken and to provide that the full amount of such borrowing shall be submitted to a referendum of the registered voters of Baltimore County for their approval or rejection, pursuant to Section 718 and Section 705(a) of the Baltimore County Charter.

**Bill 45-26** entitled An Act for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Baltimore County, Maryland to borrow money in a principal amount not exceeding \$2,000,000 for the purpose of parks, preservation and greenways projects to be undertaken and to provide that the full amount of such borrowing shall be submitted to a referendum of the registered voters of Baltimore County for their approval or rejection, pursuant to Section 718 and Section 705(a) of the Baltimore County Charter.

**Bill 46-26** entitled An Act for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Baltimore County, Maryland to borrow money in a principal amount not exceeding \$200,000,000 for public school buildings, buildings for school purposes, buildings to support school operations and site projects to be undertaken and to provide that the full amount of such borrowing shall be submitted to a referendum of the registered voters of Baltimore County for their approval or rejection, pursuant to Section 718 and Section 705(a) of the Baltimore County Charter.

**Bill 47-26** entitled An Act for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Baltimore County, Maryland to borrow money in a principal amount not exceeding \$6,000,000 for land preservation to be undertaken and to provide that the full amount of such borrowing shall be submitted to a referendum of the registered voters of Baltimore County for their approval or rejection, pursuant to Section 718 and Section 705(a) of the Baltimore County Charter.

**Bill 48-26** entitled An Act for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Baltimore County, Maryland to borrow money in a principal amount not exceeding \$4,000,000 for community improvement projects to be undertaken and to provide that the full amount of such borrowing shall be submitted to a referendum of the registered voters of Baltimore County for their approval or rejection, pursuant to Section 718 and Section 705(a) of the Baltimore County Charter.

**Bill 49-26** entitled An Act for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Baltimore County, Maryland to borrow money in a principal amount not exceeding \$20,000,000 for waterway improvement projects to be undertaken and to provide that the full amount of such borrowing shall be submitted to a referendum of the registered voters of Baltimore County for their approval or rejection, pursuant to Section 718 and Section 705(a) of the Baltimore County Charter.

**Bill 50-26** entitled An Act for the purpose of authorizing and empowering Baltimore County, Maryland to borrow money in a principal amount not exceeding \$81,750,000 for public operational buildings, including, but not limited to general, health, police, fire, recreation, library, senior center and jail buildings or facilities and necessary or desirable equipment to be undertaken and to provide that the full amount of such borrowing shall be submitted to a referendum of the registered voters of Baltimore County for their approval or rejection, pursuant to Section 718 and Section 705(a) of the Baltimore County Charter.

**Bill 51-26** entitled An Act for the purpose of amending the 2025-2026 Current Expense Budget, by appropriating to the Gifts and Grants Special Revenue Fund monies derived from state funds and made available to the County through the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy.

**Bill 52-26** entitled An Act for the purpose of amending the County Charter to update the membership of the Charter Review Commission to reflect the nine Council appointments; and generally relating to the Charter Review Commission.

**Bill 53-26** entitled An Act for the purpose of prohibiting the sale, purchase, trade, acquisition, use, carrying or possession of certain dangerous weapons, including metal knuckles and switchblade knives; establishing that any person who violates such prohibition is guilty of misdemeanor and may be subject to a fine, imprisonment, or both; and generally relating the prohibition of dangerous weapons.

**Bill 54-26** entitled An Act for the purpose of designating the Cowenton-Ebenezer Commercial Revitalization District as a Design Review Area that is subject to review by the Design Review Panel; and generally relating to Design Review Areas.

**Bill 55-26** entitled An Act for the purpose of permitting certain service garages by-right to be located in the Manufacturing, Light (M.L.) Zone under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the M.L. Zone.

**Bill 56-26** entitled An Act for the purpose of permitting a natural burial ground (pet and owner of pet) by-right in the Resource Conservation (R.C.2) Zone (Agricultural) under certain circumstances; establishing certain definitions; permitting the owner of a pet to authorize the burial of their pet on a natural burial ground (pet and owner of pet) under certain circumstances; establishing that a natural burial ground (pet and owner of pet) is not a pet cemetery; requiring the review of certain submittals by the Director of the Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability; and generally relating to uses permitted in the R.C. 2 Zone and natural burial grounds.

**E. CALL OF BILLS FOR FINAL READING AND VOTE**

**Bill 27-26**, CEB – Special Supplemental Nutrition Program – WIC, was called. Councilman Marks questioned Mr. Richardson. There being no discussion, upon motion by Councilman Patoka, seconded by Councilman Jones, this Bill passed by the following roll call vote:

Aye - Young, Patoka, Kach, Jones, Marks, Ertel, Crandell  
Nay – None

**Bill 28-26**, Zoning Regs. – Uses Permitted in the B.L. Zone – Lawn Treatment Company, was called. Councilman Kach commented. There being no further discussion, upon motion by Councilman Kach, seconded by Councilman Marks, this Bill passed by the following roll call vote:

Aye - Young, Patoka, Kach, Jones, Marks, Ertel, Crandell  
Nay – None

**F. APPROVAL OF FISCAL MATTERS**

The Chairman stated that the Council would now consider Fiscal Matters. Extensive testimony on each item was taken at the Council’s work session on April 14, 2026. The witnesses who testified at the work session were available to restate their testimony if needed. If a Councilmember had any questions regarding a particular Fiscal Matter, that item would be discussed as a separate matter. Chairman Ertel then called upon the Secretary to read the cover letters for Fiscal Matters 1 through 7.

**1. Contract – People Encouraging People, Incorporated – Community-based, intensive outpatient services**

A contract with People Encouraging People, Incorporated, to provide community-based, intensive outpatient services for eligible Baltimore County residents.

**2. Contracts – (2) – Intensive Residential Rehabilitation Program services**

Two contracts with Mosaic Community Services, Inc. and Prologue, Inc., to provide intensive Residential Rehabilitation Program services to individuals with complex mental health and other secondary diagnoses who are discharged directly from a State Hospital.

**3. Contract – Law Offices of Lisa M. Harris, LLC d/b/a Harris, Jones & Malone, LLC – Labor relations services**

A contract with Law Offices of Lisa M. Harris, LLC d/b/a Harris, Jones & Malone, LLC, to provide labor relations services for the County.

**4. Contract – Institute for Community Alliance – Homeless Management Information System – Administration, reporting & compliance**

A contract with Institute for Community Alliances, to provide for the continuation of Homeless Management Information System administration, reporting and compliance.

**5. Purchase Order – NV5 Consultants, Inc. – Third party verification services for Building Energy Performance Standards Compliance**

A purchase order with NV5 Consultants, Inc., to provide third party verification services for Building Energy Performance Standards Compliance.

**6. Contract – Bode Cellmark Forensics, Inc. – DNA and Serology forensic testing services**

A contract with Bode Cellmark Forensics, Inc., to provide DNA and Serology forensic testing services.

**7. Contract – Baltimore County Revenue Authority – Parking spaces – Parking facilities – Towson**

A contract with the Baltimore County Revenue Authority, to provide parking spaces at various parking facilities in the Towson area.

There being no discussion, upon motion by Councilman Patoka, seconded by Councilman Crandell, Fiscal Matters 1 through 7 were unanimously approved.

**G. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**1. Res. 13-26 – Approval of Maryland Rural Legacy Plan Applications (3)**

At the direction of the Chairman, the Secretary read this Resolution to approve and rank three Rural Legacy Area Plan applications submitted to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for consideration and approval by the Maryland Rural Legacy Board for funding in fiscal year 2027. These plans include the Gunpowder Valley, Manor, and Piney Run Watershed Rural Legacy Areas. There being no discussion, upon motion by Councilman Kach, seconded by Councilman Young, this Resolution was unanimously approved.

**2. Res. 14-26 – Property Tax Exemption – BLIND – Diane L. Handley**

At the direction of the Chairman, the Secretary read this Resolution to approve the refund of certain real property taxes collected from Diane L. Handley who is entitled to a partial exemption from State and County real property taxes by reason of the exemption afforded to blind persons under State law. There being no discussion, upon motion by Councilman Kach, seconded by Councilman Patoka, this Resolution was unanimously approved.

**3. Res. 15-26 – Accept monetary donation – Lawrence M. Rivitz – Fire Department**

This Resolution was for introduction only.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, upon motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Patoka, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 P.M.



Thomas H. Bostwick  
Legislative Counsel/Secretary