

BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2026, LEGISLATIVE DAY NO. 10
May 4, 2026 6:00 P.M.

A. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ertel at 6:04 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 47 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.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Councilman Patoka requested to speak briefly and to present a Council Resolution. Councilman Patoka stated that the month of May has been designated by the Lupus Foundation of America as “Lupus Awareness Month” in order to the make the chronic autoimmune disease more visible. Mr. Patoka then directed the Secretary to highlight some of the provisions in the Resolution, and to indeed designate May 2026 as Lupus Awareness Month in Baltimore County.

B. APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

Upon motion by Councilman Marks, seconded by Councilman Jones, the reading of the Journal Entries for the meeting of April 20, 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 27-26 and 28-26.

G. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

3. Reappointment – Baltimore County Ethics Commission – Kevin Murphy

At the direction of the Chairman, the Secretary read this correspondence from the County Executive appointing Kevin Murphy, to the Baltimore County Ethic Commission, subject to confirmation for a three-year term expiring June 30, 2029. Kevin Murphy appeared and commented. There being no discussion, upon motion by Councilman Ertel, seconded by Councilman Jones, this reappointment was unanimously confirmed.

D. INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill 57-26 entitled An Act for the purpose of amending the 2025-2026 Current Expense Budget, by appropriating to the General Fund monies derived from unreserved, undesignated General Fund Surplus.

Bill 58-26 entitled An Act for the purpose of amending the 2025-2026 Current Expense Budget, by appropriating to the General Fund monies derived from unreserved, undesignated General Fund Surplus.

Bill 59-26 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 federal funds and made available to the County through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Bill 60-26 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 for Children.

Bill 61-26 entitled An Act for the purpose of amending the County Charter to add representatives to the Board of Recreation and Parks; amending the duties and functions of the Board; converting gendered language to gender-neutral language; and generally relating to the County Charter and the Board of Recreation and Parks.

Bill 62-26 entitled An Act the purpose of adding conditions to the approval of warehouses and compartmentalized warehouse establishments under certain conditions in the Business, Major (B.M.) Zone; and generally relating to conditions in the B.M. Zone.

E. CALL OF BILLS FOR FINAL READING AND VOTE

Bill 29-26, Animals – Animal Protection and Humane Care, was called. Councilmembers Jones, Patoka and Marks commented. Councilman Marks moved to amend this Bill with the following amendments:

1. On page 1, in the first line of the purpose paragraph, after “purpose of” insert “providing for and amending the scope and exemptions for Article 12;”; after the purpose insert a new function paragraph as follows:

“BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments
Section 12-1-102
Article 12 – Animals
Baltimore County Code, 2015”.

2. On page 2, after line 4, insert the following:

“Title 1 – In General
Subtitle 1 – In General

§ 12-1-102. Scope and Exemption.

(a) Except as provided in [subsection (b) of] this section, this article applies to a person who owns, leases, harbors, shelters, or controls an animal in the county, whether the person is a resident of the county or not.

(b) *AGRICULTURE EXEMPTION.*

(1) (I) In this subsection, “farm animal” means [an animal being maintained for the production of food, food products, and fiber] ANY DOMESTICATED ANIMAL KEPT ON A FARM SETTING FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES, INCLUDING FOOD, FIBER, LABOR, BREEDING, PERFORMANCE, RESEARCH, OR AGRICULTURAL TOURISM.

(II) “FARM ANIMAL” INCLUDES HORSES, MULES, DONKEYS, CATTLE, BISON, SWINE, SHEEP, GOATS, POULTRY, RABBITS, ALPACAS, LLAMAS, AND OTHER ANIMALS UNDER A PERSON’S CARE IN AN AGRICULTURAL SETTING.

(III) “FARM ANIMAL” DOES NOT INCLUDE ANIMALS KEPT SOLELY FOR PLEASURE.

(2) This article does not apply to farm animals, except as provided in §§ [12-3-103] 12-3-301 and 12-3-208 of this Article regarding cruelty to animals.

(C) *PUBLIC SAFETY EXEMPTION.* THIS ARTICLE DOES NOT APPLY TO:

(1) AN ANIMAL OWNED BY OR WORKING FOR A GOVERNMENTAL OR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY; OR

(2) AN ANIMAL THAT FORMERLY WORKED FOR A GOVERNMENTAL OR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.”.

3. On page 9, in line 21, after “POSSESS,” insert “RESIDE WITH”.

Councilman Jones seconded the motion and these amendments passed by the following roll call vote:

Aye - Young, Patoka, Kach, Jones, Marks, Ertel, Crandell

Nay - None

Thereafter, upon motion by Councilman Patoka, seconded by Councilman Marks, Bill 29-26, as amended, passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Bill 30-26, Animals – Board Authority and Expedited Hearings, was called. Councilman Patoka commented then moved to amend this Bill with the following amendments:

1. On page 1, in the second line of the first function paragraph, strike “12-1-102,”.
2. On page 9, strike line 22.
3. On page 10, strike lines 1 through 9.
4. On page 12, in line 5, after “(a)” insert “(1)”; in the same line, strike “[In” and substitute “EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2), IN”; in lines 6 and 7, strike “] SUBJECT TO TITLE 1, SUBTITLE 2 OF THIS ARTICLE,” and substitute “(2)”; in line 8, after “BOARD” insert “REQUIRING IMPOUNDMENT UNDER § 12-1-109(A)(2) or (3)”;.
5. On page 13, in line 14, strike “WITHIN” and substitute “NO EARLIER THAN”; in the same line, after “14” insert “AND NO LATER THAN 30”; strike lines 16 through 20 and substitute “(2) A CONTINUATION OF A HEARING UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE CONCLUDED NO EARLIER THAN 14 AND NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS AFTER THE FIRST HEARING DATE.”

Councilman Jones seconded the motion and these amendments passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Thereafter, upon motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Ertel, Bill 30-26, as amended, passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Bill 31-26, Animals – Public Safety – Designations, was called. Councilmembers Marks, Kach and Jones commented. There being further 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 32-26, Animals – Owner Responsibilities –Repeal and Technical Changes, was called. There being no discussion, upon motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Ertel, this Bill passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Bill 33-26, CEB – STATE Technical Assistance Dundalk Main Street, was called. Councilman Crandell commented. There being no further discussion, upon motion by Councilman Crandell, seconded by Councilman Ertel, this Bill passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Bill 34-26, Appellate Court Name Updates, was called. There being no discussion, upon motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Marks, this Bill passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Bill 35-26, Auxiliary Police Length of Service and Award Program – Minimum Benefit Payments, was called. Councilman Patoka commented. There being no further discussion, upon motion by Councilman Patoka, seconded by Councilman Jones, this Bill passed by the following roll call vote:

Aye - Patoka, Kach, Jones, Marks, Ertel, Crandell
Nay – Young

Bill 36-26, Zoning Regs. – Signs – Freestanding Signs – Maximum Area, was called. Councilman Marks commented and moved to amend this Bill with the following amendments:

1. On page 1, in the title, strike “Freestanding Enterprise Signs – Maximum Area” and substitute “Definitions”; beginning in the first line of the purpose paragraph, strike “increasing the maximum area of a freestanding enterprise sign in the Commercial, Community Core District of the Business, Local (B.L.-C.C.C.) Zone under certain circumstances” and substitute “amending the definition of “Area” within the Zoning Regulations pertaining to Signs”; in the second line of the function paragraph, strike “450.4 – Attachment 1.5(b)” and substitute “450.3, the definition of “Area”, listed alphabetically”.
2. On page 2, strike lines 4 through 25.
3. On page 3, in line 1, insert the following.
“§ 450.3. General sign definitions.

Unless otherwise provided, the following words, as used in Section 450, are defined as follows:

AREA – The number of square feet within the perimeter of one continuous rectangle enclosing the face of a sign. Except in the case of a wall-mounted sign, “area” includes the surface of all integral color, framing or other design feature by which the sign is differentiated from the structure supporting it or upon which it is erected. “Area” does not include:

A. Any structural, supporting or decorative features which are not part of the message of the sign;

B. Architectural features of the building upon which the sign may be erected, provided that such features are distinguishable from the sign by means of differences of color or similar attributes; or

C. Air spaces located between freestanding signs of different classes which are erected on a common or shared supporting structure, OR WITHIN THE PERIMETER OF ONE CONTINUOUS RECTANGLE ENCLOSING THE FACE OF THE SIGN.”

Councilman Ertel seconded the motion and these amendments passed by the following roll call vote:

Aye - Young, Patoka, Kach, Jones, Marks, Ertel, Crandell

Nay - None

Thereafter, upon motion by Councilman Marks, seconded by Councilman Jones, Bill 36-26, as amended, passed by the following roll call vote:

Aye - Young, Patoka, Kach, Jones, Marks, Ertel, Crandell

Nay – None

Bill 37-26, 2026 Basic Services Maps, was called. Brad Kroner and Lisa Eicholtz testified. Councilman Patoka, Jones and Kach commented. Councilman Young questioned Ms. Eicholtz. Councilman Patoka motioned to suspend the rules to allow consideration of amendments that were not published on the Council's webpage or circulated to Councilmembers prior to the meeting. Councilman Kach seconded the motion and the motion to suspend the rules passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Councilman Patoka then moved to amend this Bill with the following amendment:

1. On page 2, in line 12, after "1. 2026 Basic Services Sewerage Map" insert "WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT: THE AREA SHOWN ON THE MAP ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT "A" SHALL BE DESIGNATED AS A DEFICIENT AREA".

Councilman Kach seconded the motion and this amendment passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Councilman Ertel then moved to amend this Bill with the following amendment:

1. On page 2, in line 14, after "3. 2026 Basic Services Transportation Map" insert "WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT: THE AREA CROSS-HATCHED IN BLUE AND SHOWN ON THE MAP ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT "B" SHALL BE ADDED TO THE COMMUTER SHED AT THE INTERSECTION LABELED AS 'YORK RD & BURKE AVE'".

Councilman Patoka seconded the motion and this amendment passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Thereafter, upon motion by Councilman Patoka, seconded by Councilman Ertel, Bill 37-26, as amended, 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 28, 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 6. Fiscal Matters 7 and 8 were discussed separately.

1. Contract – Multicorp Fire Protection, LLC – Fire extinguisher maintenance services

A contract with Multicorp Fire Protection, LLC, to provide fire extinguisher maintenance services.

2. Contracts – (4) – Psychological and bereavement counseling services – Victims of crime

Four contracts to provide psychological and bereavement counseling services to victims of crime.

3. Contract of Sale – Perry Hall Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, Inc. – 9821 Harford Rd., 21234 Jennifer Branch Relief Sewer Project

A contract of sale with Perry Hall Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, Inc., to acquire a drainage and utility easement, and drainage and temporary construction easement area located at 9821 Harford Road, Parkville, Maryland 21234, for the Jennifer Branch Relief Sewer project.

4. Contract – Columbia Telecommunications Corporation d/b/a CTC Technology & Energy – Telecommunication engineering consulting services

A contract with Columbia Telecommunications Corporation d/b/a CTC Technology & Energy, to provide telecommunication engineering consultant services.

5. Contract – M.T. Laney Company, Inc. – On-call parking lot maintenance and repair services

A contract with M.T. Laney Company, Inc., to provide on-call parking lot maintenance and repair services.

6. Contracts – (3) – Public works and transportation construction inspection services

Three contracts to provide public works and transportation construction inspection services.

There being no discussion, upon motion by Councilman Marks, seconded by Councilman Young, Fiscal Matters 1 through 6 were unanimously approved.

Chairman Ertel then called upon the Secretary to read the cover letters for Fiscal Matters 7 and 8.

7. Amendments to Contracts – (6) – On-call potable water pipeline design services

Six contracts to provide on-call potable water pipeline design services.

8. Contracts – (4) – On-call stormwater design services

Four contracts to provide on-call stormwater design services.

There being no discussion, upon motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Ertel, Fiscal Matters 7 and 8 were approved by the following roll call vote:

Aye - Young, Kach, Jones, Marks, Ertel, Crandell

Nay – None

Abstain - Patoka

G. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

1. Correspondence - Non-Competitive Awards

At the direction of the Chairman, the Secretary read the correspondence from the Office of Budget and Finance listing the non-competitive awards made during April, 2026.


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

At the direction of the Chairman, the Secretary read this Resolution to authorize the County to accept a donation of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) from Mr. Lawrence M. Rivitz. There being no discussion, upon motion by Councilman Ertel, seconded by Councilman Jones, this Resolution was unanimously approved.

4. Res. 16-26 – Approval of review of PUD – Harmony Garden

This Resolution was for introduction only.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, upon motion by Councilman Marks, seconded by Councilman Ertel, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 P.M.


Thomas H. Bostwick
Legislative Counsel/Secretary