

**BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2026, LEGISLATIVE DAY NO. 15
AUGUST 3, 2026 6:00 P.M.**

A. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ertel at 6:05 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 and the following Councilmembers were present:

PAT YOUNG
IZZY PATOKA
NINO MANGIONE
DAVID MARKS
MICHAEL ERTEL
TODD CRANDELL

FIRST DISTRICT
SECOND DISTRICT
THIRD DISTRICT
FIFTH DISTRICT
SIXTH DISTRICT
SEVENTH DISTRICT

Councilman Jones arrived late to the meeting.

B. APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

Upon motion by Councilman Patoka, seconded by Councilman Young, the reading of the Journal Entries for the meeting of July 6, 2026 was waived and accepted unanimously by the six Councilmembers present.

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 62-26, 64-26, 65-26 and 66-26.

D. INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill 72-26 entitled An Act for the purpose of amending the 2026-2027 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 Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Bill 73-26 entitled An Act for the purpose of adopting the Fire Prevention Code of Baltimore County; repealing the 2021 Fire Prevention Code; making amendments to the Fire Prevention Code of Baltimore County; making the provisions of this act severable; and generally relating to the Fire Prevention Code of Baltimore County.

Bill 74-26 entitled An Act for the purpose of establishing certain procedures under which a warrant of restitution must be executed; requiring a landlord to provide a certain minimum notice to a tenant when a court has issued a warrant of restitution; subject to certain requirements providing for the disposition of certain tenant personal property following the execution of a warrant of restitution; and generally relating to notice when a court has issued a warrant of restitution.

Bill 75-26 entitled An Act for the purpose of requiring a property owner to possess a rental housing license prior to advertising a property for rent; and generally relating to rental housing licenses.

Bill 76-26 entitled An Act for the purpose of amending the County Code to align with State law as it pertains to licensing electricians and registering low-voltage electricians, amending the Building Code of Baltimore County with technical updates, and generally relating to licensing and registration of electricians in Baltimore County.

Bill 77-26 entitled An Act for the purpose of designating a nonprofit corporation as a Business Development and Retention Corporation for Baltimore County; requiring coordination between the Department of Economic Workforce and Development and a designated corporation; establishing the legislative purpose of designating a corporation for economic development and business retention; defining certain terms; establishing a legislative process for designating or renewing, suspending, or revoking a designation of a corporation; requiring certain provisions be included in articles of incorporation and bylaws of a designated corporation; establishing a board of directors for a designated corporation, including method of selection and appointment, terms, qualifications, and voting power; establishing the general powers and duties of a designated corporation; establishing certain conflict of interest and ethics rules for the board, officers, and employees of a designated corporation; requiring a designated corporation to make certain recommendations to the County regarding economic development and business retention; requiring certain County agencies to provide support or data to a designated corporation; requiring a designated corporation to publish certain data and share certain data with the County upon request; requiring a designated corporation to annually report on its finances and meet with certain County officials; establishing a business development and retention strategic plan for Baltimore County; providing a process for drafting, reviewing, and approving the plan; requiring certain contents in the plan; providing for updates and reporting on the plan; requiring certain County agencies to report to the Council by a certain date on the implementation of this Act; requiring certain County agencies to report to the County Council on certain employee rules before certain actions regarding the corporation may be taken; and generally relating to business development and retention.

Bill 78-26 entitled An Act for the purpose of establishing that the definition of “Inspector General” includes the Office of the Inspector General; clarifying the ability of the Office of the Inspector General to issue reports; and generally relating to the Office of the Inspector General.

Bill 79-26 entitled An Act for the purpose of extending the temporary controls enacted under Bill 3-26 that suspended the permitting of data centers until the earlier of January 1, 2027 or 90 days after a report is submitted to the County Council by the Planning Board to December 31, 2027; and generally relating to data centers.

Bill 80-26 entitled An Act for the purpose of permitting certain commercial, retail, institutional, or service uses in certain areas of the Manufacturing, Light Restricted (M.L.R.) Zone, and generally relating to uses permitted in the M.L.R. Zone.

Bill 81-26 entitled An Act for the purpose of permitting beauty and wellness services as a by-right use in certain areas of the R-O Zone under certain conditions; and generally relating to uses in the R-O Zone.

Bill 82-26 entitled An Act for the purpose of establishing alternative disposition methods for the County Purchasing Agent, including the donation, lease, loan, or below-market-rate sale of surplus commodities to certain public entities or private nonprofit entities under certain circumstances; authorizing the Purchasing Agent to grant a right of first refusal to certain nonprofit entities for surplus public safety commodities, with the approval of the County Administrative Officer; requiring the County to amend the County Purchasing Manual with the provisions of this Act; and generally relating to the disposition of surplus commodities.

Bill 83-26 entitled An Act for the purpose of granting a property tax credit in a certain amount for a certain property owned by the Fraternal Order of Police as authorized under State law with the enactment of Senate Bill 30 in the 2026 legislative session of the General Assembly; and generally relating to property tax credits.

G. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

4. Appointment – Advisory Committee for Public School Capacity – Meghan Weber

At the direction of the Chairman, the Secretary read this correspondence from Councilman Crandell appointing Meghan Weber to the Baltimore County Advisory Committee on Public School Capacity for a four-year term that expires on June 30, 2028. Councilmembers Crandell and Patoka commented. There being no further discussion, upon motion by Councilman Crandell, seconded by Councilman Patoka, this appointment was unanimously confirmed by the six Councilmembers present.

E. CALL OF BILLS FOR FINAL READING AND VOTE

Bill 67-26, Zoning Regulations – Uses Permitted in the D.R. 5.5 Zone – Event Venue was called. Councilman Ertel moved to amend this Bill with the following amendment:

1. On page 2, in line 12, after “CLUB.” insert “A PROPERTY SUBJECT TO THIS USE MAY NOT BE USED TO HOST OUTDOOR EVENTS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CONCERTS FEATURING RECORDED OR LIVE MUSIC, FIREWORKS, CAR RALLIES, OR PARTIES; AND MAY NOT HOLD OUTDOOR PUBLIC FESTIVALS OF ANY KIND UNLESS SUCH AN EVENT IS SPONSORED BY A LOCAL RECREATION COUNCIL, RELIGIOUS GROUP, OR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION. A PERMITTED INDOOR EVENT MAY PROVIDE INCIDENTAL OUTDOOR RECORDED OR LIVE MUSIC AS PART OF THE INDOOR EVENT, BUT ONLY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 11:00 AM AND 9:00 PM. A PROPERTY SUBJECT TO THIS USE MAY ONLY HOLD EVENTS BETWEEN 10:00 AM AND MIDNIGHT.”

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

Aye – Young, Patoka, Mangione, Marks, Ertel, Crandell
Nay – None
Absent – Jones

Thereafter, upon motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Councilman Ertel, Bill 67-26, as amended, passed by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Young, Patoka, Mangione, Marks, Ertel, Crandell
Nay – None
Absent – Jones

F. APPROVAL OF FISCAL MATTERS

The Chairman stated that the Council would now consider Fiscal Matters. Extensive testimony was taken at the Council’s work session on July 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 letter for Fiscal Matters 1 through 5 and 7 through 12. Fiscal Matter 6 was discussed as a separate matter.

1. Contracts – (2) – Recovery Housing Services

Two contracts with Serenity Sistas, Inc., and Uplift Recovery Homes, LLC, to provide recovery housing services for Baltimore County residents, age 18 and older, who are in recovery from substance abuse use disorder or a co-occurring disorder.

2. Purchase Order – Johnson Controls Building Solutions, LLC – Building automation system – Pikesville Fire Station

A purchase order with Johnson Controls Building Solutions, LLC, to provide materials, labor and incidentals necessary to install a net new building automation system at Pikesville Fire Station.

3. Contracts – (3) – Radio tower inspections

Three contracts to provide radio tower inspections, preventative maintenance, emergency and non-emergency repair, as needed.

4. Contract – Stericycle, Inc. – Secure document destruction services

A contract with Stericycle, Inc., to provide secure documents destruction services.

5. Contract – TischlerBise – Consultant services – Development Impact Fee and Excise Tax

A contract with TischlerBise, to provide consultant services to study and review methodology, calculations and relevant factors for the Development Impact Fee and Exercise Tax.

7. Amendments to Contracts – (6) – On-call engineering transportation structural design services

Six amendments to the contracts, to provide on-call engineering transportation structural design services.

8. Amendment to Contract – WSP USA, Inc. – Consent decree management services

An amendment to the contract with WSP USA, Inc., to provide consent decree management services.

9. Contract – T.E.A.M. Service Corporation of New York – Electric motor repair services – Pumping stations

A contract with T.E.A.M. Service Corporation of New York, to provide electric motor repair services for a variety of motors utilized in County pumping stations to drive wastewater pumps.

10. Purchase Order – Nassco, Inc. – Training services – Inspecting and evaluating sewer systems

A purchase order with Nassco, Inc., to provide training services for County employees to learn standardize methods for inspecting and evaluating sewer systems.

11. Amendment to Contract – Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. – Legal services – Sanitary Sewer Overflow Consent Decree

An amendment to the contract with Beveridge & Diamond, P.C., to provide legal services and assisting with negotiation of modifying the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Consent Decree.

12. Contract – Spigler Petroleum Equipment, LLC – Fuel system maintenance services

A contract with Spigler Petroleum Equipment, LLC, to provide fuel system maintenance services.

There being no discussion, upon motion by Councilman Patoka, seconded by Councilman Crandell, Fiscal Matters 1 through 5 and 7 through 12 were unanimously approved by the six Councilmembers present.

Chairman Ertel then called upon the Secretary to read the cover letter for Fiscal Matter 6.

6. Amendments to Contracts – (2) – On-call engineering services – Pumping stations

Two amendments to the contract with Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP and Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc., to provide on-call engineering services for tier 2 pumping stations. Councilman Patoka Commented. There being no further discussion, upon motion by Councilman Ertel, seconded by Councilman Crandell, Fiscal Matter 6, passed by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Young, Mangione, Marks, Ertel, Crandell
Nay – None
Absent – Jones
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 June, 2026.

2. Appointment – Advisory Committee for Public School Capacity – Carolann Sharpe

This appointment was withdrawn prior to the meeting.

3. Appointment – Baltimore Fair Election Fund Commission – Suzanne Eidbo

This appointment was withdrawn prior to the meeting.

5. Res. 20-26 – Support for Apple Store Employees

At the direction of the Chairman, the Secretary read this Resolution of the Baltimore County Council calling on Apple to: offer transfer options to International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM)-represented Towson Apple store workers on equal terms with employees at other closing Apple stores; engage in good-faith negotiations with the IAM over the Towson Apple store closure's impact on workers; and maintain a retail presence in Baltimore County. Councilman Patoka commented then moved to amend this Resolution with the following amendments:

1. On page 1, in the last line of the RESOLUTION paragraph, before “and” insert “offer severance to all Towson store employees;”.
2. On page 2, in the fourth line of the first RESOLVED paragraph, after “workers;” insert “offer severance to all Towson store employees”.

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

Aye – Young, Patoka, Marks, Ertel, Crandell
Nay – Mangione
Absent – Jones

Thereafter, upon motion by Councilman Patoka, seconded by Councilman Ertel, Resolution 20-26, as amended, passed by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Young, Patoka, Jones, Marks, Ertel, Crandell
Nay – Mangione
Absent – Jones

6. Grants - FY2027 Arts and Sciences Grants

At the direction of the Chairman, the Secretary read this correspondence from the County Administrative Office, for FY2027 Arts and Sciences General Fund Grants. The funds will be used to support the arts and sciences available to all Baltimore County residents. Councilmembers Patoka and Marks commented. There being no further discussion, upon motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Kach, these Grants were unanimously approved by the six Councilmembers present.

7. Res. 21-26 – Property Tax Exemption – BLIND – Gary L. Messman

At the direction of the Chairman, the Secretary read this Resolution to approve the refund of certain real property taxes collected from Gary L. Messman Jr. 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 Ertel, seconded by Councilman Patoka, this Resolution was unanimously approved by the six Councilmembers present.

8. Res. 22-26 – Property Tax Exemption – BLIND – Robert C. Wilson

At the direction of the Chairman, the Secretary read this Resolution to approve the refund of certain real property taxes collected from Robert C. Wilson 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 Mangione, seconded by Councilman Ertel, this Resolution was unanimously approved by the six Councilmembers present.

9. Res. 23-26 – Approval of the 2025 Edition of the Baltimore County Code

This Resolution was for introduction only.

10. Res. 24-26 – Approval of Applications & Ranking -MD Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) Easements

This Resolution was for introduction only.

11. Res. 25-26 – General Assembly - Inspector General Oversight of BCPS

This Resolution was for introduction only.

12. Res. 26-26 – Encouraging DNR to Work with Friends of Jerusalem Mill

This Resolution was for introduction only.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, upon motion by Councilman Patoka, seconded by Councilman Crandell, and approved by voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 P.M.


Thomas H. Bostwick
Legislative Counsel/Secretary