

BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES
IN-PERSON ONLY WORK SESSION FOR LEGISLATIVE DAY NO. 9
April 14, 2026 4:00 P.M.

A. The meeting in the County Council Conference Room was called to order by Chairman Ertel at 4:07 P.M. There were approximately 40 persons in attendance. The following Councilmembers were present:

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

The Chairman then called the items listed on the Work Session Agenda for discussion as follows:

B. APPROVAL OF FISCAL MATTERS/CONTRACTS

1. Contract – People Encouraging People, Incorporated – Community-based, intensive outpatient services. Lawrence Richardson, Deputy Director of the Department of Health & Human Services summarized the contract and commented. Councilman Crandell asked about the qualifications of clients for eligibility for the programs. Mr. Richardson clarified the eligibility criteria, including income limitations, and screening process.

2. Contracts – (2) – Intensive Residential Rehabilitation Program services. Lawrence Richardson, Deputy Director of the Department of Health & Human Services summarized the contracts and commented. Councilman Marks asked for clarification about where clients may select their housing. Mr. Richardson said he would have to get back to him after verifying with the vendor. Councilman Young asked for clarification on why the contract was necessary. Mr. Richardson responded that broadly speaking, the County doesn't have the in-house staff necessary to carry out the responsibilities for the State funds represented in the contract. Councilman Ertel asked about how long services could go for. Mr. Richardson stated that the stay depends on the diagnosis.

3. Contract – Law Offices of Lisa M. Harris, LLC d/b/a Harris, Jones & Malone, LLC – Labor relations services. Craig Mitchell, Deputy Director of the Office of Human Resources summarized the contract and commented. Council Patoka asked about the previous labor commissioner and commented. D’Andrea Walker, Chief Administrative Officer, answered that it has been very difficult to find candidates for labor commissioner and stated that this contract is actually cheaper than some estimates of in-house labor negotiations. Councilman Patoka responded.

4. Contract – Institute for Community Alliance – Homeless Management Information System – Administration, reporting & compliance. Heather Sheridan, Deputy of Operations for the Department of Housing & Community Development summarized the contract and commented.

5. Purchase Order – NV5 Consultants, Inc. – Third party verification services for Building Energy Performance Standards Compliance. Seth Blumen, Energy & Sustainability Coordinator for the Department of Environmental Protection & Sustainability summarized the purchase order and commented. Councilman Ertel asked about which buildings the contract covers. Mr. Blumen responded that it is generally all occupied County buildings over 35,000 square feet that are not historically exempt.

6. Contract – Bode Cellmark Forensics, Inc. – DNA and Serology forensic testing services. Major Deanna Chemelli, from the Police Department summarized the contract and commented. Councilmembers Ertel and Young asked whether there are federal dollars within the contract and how the mix of federal, State, and local money work. Major Chemelli responded affirmatively and explained the accounting process. Councilman Crandell commented favorably about the GBMC slide testing team that gathers DNA evidence from cold cases.

7. Contract – Baltimore County Revenue Authority – Parking spaces – Parking facilities – Towson. Kevin Reed, Director of the Office of Budget & Finance summarized the contract and commented. Councilman Jones commented in favor of the contract. Councilman Crandell commented regarding a previous meeting with Ken Mills and Tom Peddicord of the Revenue Authority.

C. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

8. Res. 13-26 – Mr. Ertel(By Req.) – Approval of Maryland Rural Legacy Plan Applications (3). Steve Lafferty, Director of the Department of Planning summarized the resolution and commented.

D. CALL OF BILLS FOR FINAL READING AND VOTE

9. Bill 28-26 – Mr. Kach – Zoning Regs. – Uses Permitted in the B.L. Zone – Lawn Treatment Company. In lieu of Councilman Kach’s discussion of the bill, Mr. Bostwick gave favorable testimony on the bill.

10. Bill 27-26 – Mr. Ertel(By Req.) – CEB – Special Supplemental Nutrition Program – WIC. Lawrence Richardson, Deputy Director of the Department of Health & Human Services summarized the bill and commented.

E. BILLS FOR FIRST CONSIDERATION

11. Bill 33-26 – Mr. Ertel(By Req.) – CEB – STATE Technical Assistance Dundalk Main Street. Steve Lafferty, Director of the Department of Planning summarized the bill and commented. Councilman Crandell commented favorably about the Main Street program and the bill. Mr. Lafferty and Councilman Patoka also commented favorably.

12. Bill 34-26 – Mr. Ertel(By Req.) – Appellate Court Name Updates. Brad Kroner, Deputy Legislative Officer in the Executive Office summarized the bill and commented.

13. Bill 35-26 – Councilmembers Patoka & Marks – Auxiliary Police Length of Service and Award Program – Minimum Benefit Payments. Councilman Patoka summarized the bill and commented. Richard Peterson, an auxiliary police officer from Lutherville-Timonium, testified favorably for the bill. Councilman Jones spoke favorably and stated he will co-sponsor the bill.

14. Bill 36-26 – Mr. Marks – Zoning Regs. – Signs – Freestanding Signs – Maximum Area. Councilman Marks summarized the bill and commented. Councilman Young asked for clarification. Councilman Marks responded. Councilman Crandell commented favorably and stated he will co-sponsor the bill.

15. Bill 37-26 – All Councilmembers – 2026 Basic Services Maps. Lisa Eicholtz, Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works & Transportation summarized the bill and offered comment. Councilman Marks asked about Michelin Manor plant. Ms. Eicholtz stated the pump station would likely take two years to complete. Councilman Patoka asked about the Brooklynville capacity. Ms. Eicholtz stated that they are on the final stages of acquisition and will build a new sewer line parallel to the existing line. Councilman Patoka indicated that he is likely to rate that sewer line as deficient again this year. Councilman Young asked about whether the Academy Heights area is listed as an area of concern. Ms. Eicholtz responded affirmatively. Councilman Crandell asked how the transportation grades are evaluated. Ms. Eicholtz stated its strictly volume based. Councilman Ertel asked about failing intersections in the urban areas of District 6. Ms. Eicholtz stated that the County always advocates for State dollars to fix all deficiencies. Gregg DeHoff from Lutherville testified about the intersection of York and West Roads. Councilman Patoka asked Ms. Eicholtz about the timing of evaluation.

Ms. Eicholtz responded that the evaluations run year-round and she can find out about when the intersection of York and West was evaluated.

16. Bill 29-26 – Mr. Ertel(By Req.) & Councilmembers Jones, Marks, Patoka & Young – Animals – Animal Protection and Humane Care. Brad Kroner, Deputy Legislative Officer in the Executive Office and Renè Varela, Bureau Director of Animal Services in the Department of Health & Human Services summarized the bill. Mr. Kroner also addressed issues brought up by the agriculture community, specifically that the package of bills does not impact livestock.


17. Bill 30-26 – Mr. Ertel(By Req.) & Councilmembers Jones, Marks, Patoka & Young – Animals – Board Authority and Expedited Hearings. Brad Kroner, Deputy Legislative Officer in the Executive Office and Renè Varela, Bureau Director of Animal Services in the Department of Health & Human Services summarized the bill.

18. Bill 31-26 – Mr. Ertel(By Req.) & Councilmembers Jones, Marks, Patoka & Young – Animals – Public Safety – Designations. Brad Kroner, Deputy Legislative Officer in the Executive Office and Renè Varela, Bureau Director of Animal Services in the Department of Health & Human Services summarized the bill.

19. Bill 32-26 – Mr. Ertel(By Req.) & Councilmembers Jones, Marks, Patoka & Young – Animals – Owner Responsibilities – Repeal and Technical Changes. Brad Kroner, Deputy Legislative Officer in the Executive Office and Renè Varela, Bureau Director of Animal Services in the Department of Health & Human Services summarized the bill.

While speakers from the Administration did address each of the four animal service bills (Bills 29-26 through 32-26) all Councilmembers asked questions and commented on all four bills as a package. In addition, members of the public signed up to speak on Bills 29-26 through 32-26 as a package. Accordingly, the Council heard testimony from the public after discussion on all four bills. Sunny Cannington, the Administrator of the Board of Appeals testified favorably with amendments on Bill 30-26 as it pertains to the Board of Appeals internal procedures and timeframes. Anne George from Lutherville-Timonium testified favorably for the legislative package. Andrew Levine, President of the Baltimore Humane Society from Lutherville-Timonium testified favorably for the legislative package. Katie Floy from the Maryland SPCA testified favorably for the legislative package. Lisa Radov from Towson testified favorably for the legislative package.

There being no further business to come before the Council for discussion at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P.M.


Thomas H. Bostwick
Legislative Counsel/Secretary