

**BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2026, LEGISLATIVE DAY NO. 1
January 5, 2026 3:00 P.M.**

A. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ertel at 6:08 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 30 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. ELECTION OF CHAIR

At this time the Secretary conducted the annual election of the Council Chair and asked the members for any nominations. Councilman Young moved to nominate Councilman Ertel. Councilman Marks seconded the motion. Councilmembers Young, Jones, Patoka, Marks, Crandell and Kach commented. There were no further nominations. Councilman Ertel was then elected Chairman by the following roll call vote:

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

C. APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

Upon motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Crandell, the reading of the Journal Entries for the meeting of December 15, 2025 was waived and accepted unanimously.

D. ENROLLMENT OF BILLS

Chairman Ertel 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 82-25, 83-25, 84-25, 85-25, 86-25, 88-25, 89-25 and 90-25.

E. INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill 1-26, 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 Maryland Department of Health.

Bill 2-26, 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 made available to the County through the Maryland Department of Health.

Bill 3-26, entitled An Act for the purpose of restating certain definitions; establishing temporary controls suspending the permitting of data centers until a certain date; requiring the Planning Board to conduct a general review of data center permitting in Maryland, assess the average public utility usage of data centers, compare such utility usage to other permitted uses of a similar size, and submit a report to the County Council, no later than a certain date, that contains certain recommendations; providing for the retroactive application of this Act to the date of this Act's introduction; and generally relating to data centers.

Bill 4-26, entitled An Act for the purpose of amending the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations in order to clarify the County Council's intent regarding certain existing or proposed developments in the D.R. Zone with respect to any lot which is in a recorded residential subdivision approved by the Baltimore County Planning Board or Planning Commission and which has been used, occupied or improved in accordance with the approved subdivision plan; and generally relating to existing or proposed developments in the D.R. Zone.

F. CALL OF BILLS FOR FINAL READING AND VOTE

At this time there were no Bills for Final Reading and Vote.

H. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

1. Appointment – Mr. Crandell – Community Reinvestment and Repair Commission – Shannon Ament

At the direction of the Chairman, the Secretary read this correspondence from Councilman Crandell appointing Ms. Shannon Ament to the Baltimore County Commission on Community Reinvestment and Repairs for a three-year term expiring on January 5, 2028. Councilmembers Ertel and Crandell commented. There being no further discussion, upon motion by Councilman Crandell seconded by Councilman Jones, this appointment was unanimously confirmed.

G. APPROVAL OF FISCAL MATTERS

The Chairman stated that the Council would now consider Fiscal Matters. Chairman Ertel then called upon the Secretary to read the cover letters for Fiscal Matters 1 through 3.

1. Amendments to Contracts – (4) – Recovery housing services

Four amendments to the contract to provide recovery housing services. Lawrence Richardson testified. Councilman Jones questioned Mr. Richardson. There being no further discussion, upon motion by Councilman Ertel, seconded by Councilman Crandell, this Fiscal Matter was unanimously approved.

2. Contract – Mechanical Services Industries, LLC – Maintenance and repairs of chillers

A contract with Mechanical Services Industries, LLC, to provide for the maintenance and repairs of chillers located at various Baltimore County locations. Debra Shindle testified. There being no discussion, upon motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Kach, this Fiscal Matter was unanimously approved.

3. Contracts – (3) – On-call engineering services – Bureau of Solid Waste Management

Three contracts to provide on-call engineering services for the Bureau of Solid Waste. Anthony Russell testified. Councilmembers Marks and Ertel questioned Mr. Russell. There being no further discussion, upon motion by Councilman Jones, seconded by Councilman Ertel, this Fiscal Matter was unanimously approved.

H. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

2. Res. 1-26 – Special Council Investigative Committee – Middle River Logistics Park

This Resolution was for introduction only.

3. Res. 2-26 – Removal of Parcel – Baltimore County Surplus Property List – Middle River area

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 Crandell, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.



Thomas H. Bostwick
Legislative Counsel/Secretary