

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND
Minutes of
Legislative Session 2025, Legislative Day No. 11
May 19, 2025 – 7:00 P.M.

The County Council meeting was called to order by Chair Hummer at 7:06 P.M. It was opened with the Invocation, given by Ms. Hummer, and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held in the County Council Chambers in Annapolis, Maryland. There were approximately 55 persons in the audience.

The following members of the County Council were present:

Pete Smith	First District
Allison Pickard	Second District
Nathan Volke	Third District
Julie K. Hummer	Fourth District
Amanda Fiedler	Fifth District
Lisa D.B. Rodvien	Sixth District
Shannon Leadbetter	Seventh District

Meredith Beach, Legislative Counsel, was present. The County Auditor's Office was represented by Diana Winter, Senior Legislative Analyst.

ETHICS STATEMENT

Kaley Schultze, Administrative Officer, read aloud the Ethics Statement.

INVITATION TO AUDIENCE

The Chair opened Invitation to Audience.

The Administrative Officer stated there were no submissions of public testimony received ahead of time for Invitation to Audience.

The following person spoke at Invitation to Audience:

Matt Minahan, Edgewater

There was no one else present who wished to speak, and the Invitation to Audience was closed.

PRELIMINARY MOTION

On motion of Ms. Pickard, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Council voted that the partial reading of any bill, resolution, minutes, or amendment constitutes the reading of the whole.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Rodvien, the minutes for May 1, 2025, Legislative Day No. 9, May 5, 2025, Legislative Day No. 10, May 12, 2025, Budget, May 13, 2025, Budget, May 14, 2025, Budget, and May 15, 2025, Budget were approved.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

BILL NO. 51-25 – AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE concerning: Current Expense Budget – Higher Education Fund – Anne Arundel Community College – Transfers of Funds – FOR the purpose of transferring appropriations of funds between certain offices, departments, institutions, boards, commissions or other agencies in the general fund; making this ordinance an emergency measure; and generally relating to transferring and appropriations of funds in the current expense budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Introduced by Ms. Hummer, Chair
(by request of the County Executive)

BILL NO. 52-25 – AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE concerning: Current Expense Budget – Board of Education – Supplementary Appropriation and Transfers of Funds – FOR the purpose of transferring appropriations of funds between certain offices, departments, institutions, boards, commissions or other agencies in the general fund; making supplementary appropriations from unanticipated revenues to the School Current Expense Fund for the current fiscal year; making this ordinance an emergency measure; and generally relating to transferring and reducing appropriations of funds and supplementary appropriations of funds in the current expense budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Introduced by Ms. Hummer, Chair
(by request of the County Executive)

BILL NO. 53-25 – AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE concerning: Current Expense Budget – Fourth Quarter Fund Transfer and Supplementary Appropriations – FOR the purpose of transferring appropriations of funds between certain offices, departments, institutions, boards, commissions or other agencies in the general fund; making supplementary appropriations from unanticipated revenues to certain offices, departments, institutions, boards, commissions or other agencies in the general fund and to certain special funds of the County government for the current fiscal year; making this Ordinance an emergency measure; and generally relating to transferring appropriations of funds and making supplementary appropriations of funds to the current expense budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Introduced by Ms. Hummer, Chair
(by request of the County Executive)

BILL NO. 54-25 – AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE concerning: Subdivision and Development – Nonpublic Schools – FOR the purpose of adding an applicability exemption to the development plan process for nonpublic schools as designated by Maryland State

Department of Education; making this Ordinance an emergency measure; and generally relating to subdivision and development.
Introduced by Ms. Fiedler

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 14-25 – RESOLUTION approving appointment of members to the Police Accountability Board
Introduced by Ms. Hummer, Chair
(by request of the County Executive)

RESOLUTION NO. 15-25 – RESOLUTION amending portions of Titles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the County Council
Introduced by Ms. Hummer

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CALL OF BILLS FOR FINAL READING AND/OR VOTE

BILL NO. 24-25 (As Amended)

The Chair called for Bill No. 24-25, as amended, An Ordinance concerning: Zoning – Regional Commercial Complexes – For the purpose of clarifying the status of existing regional commercial complex uses; providing for the number of dwelling units per acre in regional commercial complex uses; providing for the parking requirements in regional commercial complex uses; and generally relating to zoning; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Mr. Smith explained the background and purpose of the bill.

Ethan Hunt, Director of Government Relations, was accompanied by Lynn Miller, Assistant Planning and Zoning Officer, and Kelly Kenney, Supervising County Attorney.

The Administration supports.

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 24-25, as amended.

The Administrative Officer stated there were no submissions of public testimony received ahead of time for Bill No. 24-25, as amended.

There was no one present who wished to speak and the public hearing was closed.

The Chair called for Bill No. 24-25, as amended, An Ordinance concerning: Zoning – Regional Commercial Complexes; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Amendment No. 2

The Administrative Officer read a brief summary of the amendment:

This amendment modifies the definition of “regional commercial complex”.

Mr. Smith explained the amendment.

Ms. Hummer asked if there were any other properties that would meet this definition.

Mr. Smith answered.

Ms. Hummer asked a clarifying question.

Ms. Miller responded.

There was further discussion on the amendment.

On motion of Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Rodvien, Amendment No. 2 was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Mr. Smith, Ms. Pickard, Mr. Volke, Ms. Fiedler, Ms. Rodvien, Ms. Leadbetter

Ms. Hummer

Nay – None

Amendment No. 3

The Administrative Officer read a brief summary of the amendment:

This amendment moves an applicability provision; and modifies the uses allowed, density and parking requirements, and bulk regulations within regional commercial complexes.

Mr. Smith explained the amendment.

Mr. Volke asked a clarifying question.

Mr. Hunt answered.

Ms. Hummer asked about the parking requirements.

Ms. Miller responded.

Mr. Smith spoke on the amendment.

On motion of Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Rodvien, Amendment No. 3 was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Mr. Smith, Ms. Pickard, Mr. Volke, Ms. Fiedler, Ms. Rodvien, Ms. Leadbetter

Ms. Hummer

Nay – None

The Chair stated that Bill No. 24-25, as amended, will be heard at the next Council Meeting on June 2, 2025.

BILL NO. 25-25 (As Amended)

The Chair called for Bill No. 25-25, as amended, An Ordinance concerning: Branches of County Government – Executive Branch – Public Safety – Department of Animal Services – Boards, Commissions, and Similar Bodies – Animal Welfare Council – Personnel – Exempt Service – Public Ethics – Financial Disclosure – Director of Animal Services – For the purpose of creating the Department of Animal Services in the Executive Branch; establishing the position, duties, qualifications, and method of appointment of the Director of the Department of Animal Services in the exempt service as the head of the Department of Animal Services; requiring the Director of Animal Services to file financial disclosure statements required under the Public Ethics Article; creating the Animal Welfare Council; establishing the purpose, composition, member terms, method for appointing the chair, frequency of meetings, quorum, and duties of the Animal Welfare Council; modifying the provisions of the Public Safety Article to abolish Animal Care and Control in the Police Department and to assign all of its duties to the newly created the Department of Animal Services; assigning duties to the Director of the Department of Animal Services; modifying certain definitions relating to the Department of Animal Services; providing for the modification of fees imposed by the Department of Animal Services; modifying the composition of the Animal Matters Commission; providing for a secretary and support for the Animal Matters Commission; establishing the burden of proof for citations heard by the Animal Matters Commission; removing a provision relating to the confidentiality of the records of the Department of Animal Services; requiring ferrets to be vaccinated for rabies as required by State law; modifying the requirements for a waiver of rabies vaccination for dogs, cats, and ferrets; modifying what animals and establishments must be licensed by the Department of Animal Services; removing provisions related to petting zoos; allowing public contact with animals through farm and other agricultural uses; increasing the time before which an individual must deliver a stray dog or cat to the Department of Animal Services; making general modifications to Title 4 of the Public Safety Article; and generally relating to branches of County government, boards, commissions, and similar bodies, personnel, public ethics, and public safety; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Ethan Hunt, Director of Government Relations, was accompanied by Hannah Dier, Deputy CAO, Claudia Roll, Animal Care and Control Administrator, and Kelly Kenney, Supervising County Attorney.

Mr. Hunt explained the background and purpose of the bill.

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 25-25, as amended.

The Administrative Officer stated there were no submissions of public testimony received ahead of time for Bill No. 25-25, as amended.

There was no one present who wished to speak and the public hearing was closed.

Ms. Hummer asked a clarifying question about the position title.

Ms. Dier answered.

The Chair called for Bill No. 25-25, as amended, An Ordinance concerning: Branches of County Government – Executive Branch – Public Safety – Department of Animal Services – Boards, Commissions, and Similar Bodies – Animal Welfare Council – Personnel – Exempt Service – Public Ethics – Financial Disclosure – Director of Animal Services; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Mr. Volke asked how this bill is better for the county.

Ms. Dier and Ms. Roll responded.

Bill No. 25-25 was passed by the following roll call:

Aye – Mr. Smith, Ms. Pickard, Mr. Volke, Ms. Fiedler, Ms. Rodvien, Ms. Leadbetter
Ms. Hummer
Nay – None

BILL NO. 29-25 (As Amended)

The Chair called for Bill No. 29-25, as amended, An Ordinance concerning: Construction Property and Maintenance Codes – Codes and Supplements – Zoning – Conditional Uses – Large Animal Veterinarian Clinic – For the purpose of exempting large animal veterinarian clinics from building permits if located in a pre-existing agricultural building; defining large animal veterinarian clinics; allowing large animal veterinarian clinics as a conditional use in a rural agricultural zoning district; and generally relating to construction property and maintenance codes and zoning; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Ms. Leadbetter explained the background and purpose of the bill.

Ethan Hunt, Director of Government Relations, was accompanied by Lynn Miller, Assistant Planning and Zoning Officer, Andrew McCarra, Assistant Director Inspections and Permits, and Kelly Kenney, Supervising County Attorney.

Mr. Hunt spoke on the bill.

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 29-25, as amended.

The Administrative Officer stated there were no submissions of public testimony received ahead of time for Bill No. 29-25, as amended.

There was no one present who wished to speak and the public hearing was closed.

The Chair called for Bill No. 29-25, as amended, An Ordinance concerning: Construction Property and Maintenance Codes – Codes and Supplements – Zoning – Conditional Uses – Large Animal Veterinarian Clinic; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Bill No. 29-25, as amended, was passed by the following roll call:

Aye – Mr. Smith, Ms. Pickard, Mr. Volke, Ms. Fiedler, Ms. Rodvien, Ms. Leadbetter
Ms. Hummer
Nay – None

BILL NO. 31-25

The Chair called for Bill No. 31-25, An Ordinance concerning: Public Works – Subdivision and Development – Zoning – Conforming Bill Nos. 72-24, 75-24, and 80-24 – For the purpose of conforming provisions enacted by Bill Nos. 72-24, 75-24, and 80-24; repealing certain provisions of Bill No. 72-24 that conflict with or have become obsolete by Bill. No. 75-24; renumbering certain numbered provisions added in Bill No. 72-24 to be consistent with provisions added by Bill Nos. 75-24 and 80-24; adding certain dwelling types in mixed use zones to be consistent with dwelling types created by Bill No. 72-24; providing for the retroactive application of this Ordinance; and generally relating to public works; subdivision and development, and zoning; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Ethan Hunt, Director of Government Relations, was accompanied by Lynn Miller, Assistant Planning and Zoning Officer, and Kelly Kenney, Supervising County Attorney.

Mr. Hunt explained the background and purpose of the bill.

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 31-25.

The Administrative Officer stated there were no submissions of public testimony received ahead of time for Bill No. 31-25.

There was no one present who wished to speak and the public hearing was closed.

The Chair called for Bill No. 31-25, An Ordinance concerning: Public Works – Subdivision and Development – Zoning – Conforming Bill Nos. 72-24, 75-24, and 80-24; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Bill No. 31-25 was passed by the following roll call:

Aye – Mr. Smith, Ms. Pickard, Ms. Fiedler, Ms. Rodvien, Ms. Leadbetter, Ms. Hummer
Nay – Mr. Volke

BILL NO. 32-25

The Chair called for Bill No. 32-25, An Ordinance concerning: Finance, Taxation, and Budget – Special Community Benefits Districts, Shore Erosion Control Districts, and Waterways Improvements Districts – Administrative Charge – Penalties for Non-Compliance – Maryland Homeowners Association Act and Open Meetings Act Compliance – For the purpose of modifying the administrative charge for special community benefits districts, shore erosion control districts, and waterways improvements districts; providing penalties for non-compliance with certain requirements for special community benefits districts, shore erosion control districts, and waterways improvements districts; requiring the civic or community association that administers a special community benefits district to comply with certain provisions of the Maryland Open Meetings Act and certain provisions of the Maryland Homeowners Association Act; requiring each civic or community association that administers a special community benefits district to designate at least one officer to complete a training class on the Open Meetings Act; and generally relating to finance, taxation, and budget; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Ms. Rodvien explained the background and purpose of the bill.

Ethan Hunt, Director of Government Relations, was accompanied by Chris Trumbauer, Budget Officer, and Kelly Kenney, Supervising County Attorney.

Mr. Hunt spoke on the bill.

Ms. Fiedler asked about the work load of different SCBDs.

Mr. Trumbauer answered.

Ms. Leadbetter asked about the time required to run SCBDs.

Mr. Trumbauer responded.

There was further discussion on the bill.

The Chair called for the public hearing on Bill No. 32-25.

The Administrative Officer stated there were forty-seven submissions for Bill 32-25 of written testimony received through the online testimony tool, which were shared with the Council and posted on the County Council website.

The following persons spoke on Bill No. 32-25:

Peter Vail, Annapolis
Alex Wyshyvanuk, Shady Side
Jane Beard, Churchton
Pam Foster, Shady Side
Lily Openshaw, Annapolis

Stuart Jones, Annapolis
Bill Davidson, Annapolis
John Van de Kamp, Annapolis
Janet Luby, Annapolis
Jim Fitzgerald, Sherwood Forest
Josh Seefried, Annapolis
Stacy Korbela, Annapolis
Darcy Scott, Churchton
Michael Beer, Churchton
David Openshaw, Annapolis
Renee Montgomery, Annapolis
Aaron Yager, Severna Park
Claire Corcoran, Annapolis
Romeo Santos, Annapolis
Don Bartnick, Edgewater
Teresa Sutherland, Annapolis
William Boyd, Edgewater
Sara Arthur, Annapolis
Jim Foster, Shady Side
Sharon Blugis, Annapolis
Elizabeth Del Castillo, Edgewater
Matt Minahan, Edgewater
Maria Hartman, Severna Park
Martin Simon, Crofton

There was no one else present who wished to speak and the public hearing was closed.

The Chair called for Bill No. 32-25, An Ordinance concerning: Finance, Taxation, and Budget – Special Community Benefits Districts, Shore Erosion Control Districts, and Waterways Improvements Districts – Administrative Charge – Penalties for Non-Compliance – Maryland Homeowners Association Act and Open Meetings Act Compliance; and the Administrative Officer read a portion of the title.

Ms. Pickard spoke on the code.

Ms. Kenney responded.

There was further discussion on the bill.

Amendment No. 1

The Administrative Officer read a brief summary of the amendment:

This amendment changes a reference to the annual CPI for the Baltimore Region to the January Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (“CPI-U”) for the United States.

Mr. Hunt explained the amendment.

Mr. Trumbauer spoke on the amendment.

Mr. Volke asked a clarifying question.

Mr. Trumbauer answered.

Ms. Fiedler confirmed the CPI amount.

Ms. Rodvien responded.

On motion of Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Pickard, Amendment No. 1 was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Mr. Smith, Ms. Pickard, Mr. Volke, Ms. Fiedler, Ms. Rodvien, Ms. Leadbetter
Ms. Hummer

Nay – None

Amendment No. 2

The Administrative Officer read a brief summary of the amendment:

This amendment modifies and delays the changes to the percentage of tax withheld as the administrative charge and the maximum administrative charge paid by a district.

Ms. Rodvien explained the amendment.

Ms. Pickard expressed her concern of the amendment.

Mr. Smith voiced his position on the amendment.

Mr. Volke spoke on the amendment.

Ms. Rodvien responded.

On motion of Ms. Rodvien, seconded by Ms. Hummer, Amendment No. 2 was defeated by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Ms. Rodvien, Ms. Hummer

Nay – Mr. Smith, Ms. Pickard, Mr. Volke, Ms. Fiedler, Ms. Leadbetter

Amendment No. 3

The Administrative Officer read a brief summary of the amendment:

This amendment increases the number of days that an officer of a community association has to respond to an email from members of the community associations.

Ms. Rodvien explained the amendment.

Ms. Rodvien motioned for the amendment. There was no second motion. The amendment dropped.

Amendment No. 4

The Administrative Officer read a brief summary of the amendment:

This amendment provides that subcommittee meetings do not need to comply with certain provisions of the Maryland Open Meetings Act.

Ms. Rodvien explained the amendment.

Ms. Pickard asked for clarification.

Ms. Rodvien answered.

Mr. Volke expressed his concerns on the amendment.

Ms. Rodvien responded.

Ms. Hummer spoke on her experiences with HOAs.

The Administration is comfortable with the amendment.

On motion of Ms. Rodvien, seconded by Mr. Smith, Amendment No. 4 was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Mr. Smith, Ms. Pickard, Ms. Fiedler, Ms. Rodvien, Ms. Leadbetter, Ms. Hummer
Nay – Mr. Volke

Amendment No. 5

The Administrative Officer read a brief summary of the amendment:

This amendment modifies the applicability of the Maryland Open Meetings Act to community association meetings, including providing that community association meetings do not have to be open to the general public but must be open to invitees of owners of property within the district.

Ms. Rodvien explained the amendment.

Ms. Hummer spoke on the amendment.

The Administration is comfortable with the amendment.

On motion of Ms. Rodvien, seconded by Ms. Pickard, Amendment No. 5 was defeated by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Ms. Pickard, Ms. Rodvien

Nay – Mr. Smith, Mr. Volke, Ms. Fiedler, Ms. Leadbetter, Ms. Hummer

The Chair stated that Bill No. 32-25, as amended, will be heard at the next Council Meeting on June 2, 2025.

MOTION TO HOLD CLOSED SESSION

On motion by Ms. Pickard, seconded by Mr. Smith, the motion to hold a closed session to discuss a personnel matter was passed by the following roll call vote:

Aye – Mr. Smith, Ms. Pickard, Mr. Volke, Ms. Fiedler, Ms. Rodvien, Ms. Leadbetter
Ms. Hummer

Nay – None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of Ms. Pickard, seconded by Mr. Volke, the meeting adjourned at 10:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Anna Macaulay

By Anna Macaulay

/s/ Kaley Schultze

For Kaley Schultze
Administrative Officer