

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Minutes (Tuesday, April 18, 2023)

Generated by Julie Burch on Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Members present

Commissioner President James R. Guy
Commissioner Eric S. Colvin
Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt
Commissioner Michael R. Alderson Jr.
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
Jenna Guzman, Communications Director, Public Information Office

Commissioner President Guy called the business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to order at 9:01 a.m. in the Chesapeake Building Meeting Room, Governmental Center.

Approval of Consent Agenda

I move to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the Minutes of April 4, 2023, as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Michael R. Alderson Jr., second by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

2. PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation were presented for:

- A. National Child Abuse Prevention Month
- B. National Healthcare Decisions Day
- C. National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

3. COMMENDATION

An Excellence in Public Health Commendation was presented to Tammy Loewe, Director of Behavioral Health Division, St. Mary's County Health Department.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

A. DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT - Public Hearing - Proposed Amendment to the St. Mary's County Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan

Commissioner President Guy opened the public hearing at 9:24 a.m.

Present: Courtney Jenkins, Acting Director

Notice of the public hearing was published on March 24 and March 31, 2023, in the *Southern Maryland Newspaper*. The public hearing is to receive public input for the proposed Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan amendment for property located at 23836 Mervell Dean Road, Hollywood, MD.

Commissioner President Guy requested David Weiskopf provide the format for the public hearing and open the hearing for public comment.

No public comments given.

Mr. Weiskopf closed the public hearing for public comment and noted that the record would remain open for public comment for an additional seven days. Commissioner President Guy closed the public hearing at approximately 9:31 a.m.

5. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A. DRAFT AGENDAS FOR APRIL 25 AND MAY 2, 2023.

B. UNITED BRIDGE PARTNERS - Brief

Present: Doug Witt, United Bridge Partners President and CEO
John Irvine, United Bridge Partners Vice President for Business Development
Addison Smith, Alta Crest LLC, Principal

United Bridge Partners provided a presentation on their company and the bridges they have completed. Also, information on their vision of a new Thomas Johnson Toll Bridge was shown.

C. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Facade and Streetscape Grant Award Acceptance

I move to accept the grant award from the State of Maryland for \$50,000 and \$34,500 in kind for Facade and Streetscape Improvements in Lexington Park and have the Commissioner President sign the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Community Legacy Program Grant Agreement and any other related documents.

Motion by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin, second by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

D. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - Increase CSMC Reserve for 4.5% Cola - April 1, 2023

I move to approve the budget amendment to increase interest income revenue and CSMC reserve to provide funding for the 4.5% COLA approved during the 01/10/23 budget work session.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Eric S. Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

**E. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES - State's Attorney Vacant Position
Reclassification Request**

I move to approve reclassifying the vacant grade 7 Office Manager position as a grade 9 Paralegal; to utilize FY2023 budgeted salary to fund the FY2023 expense; and to include the new classification in the State's Attorney FY24 recommended budget.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second NONE.

Motion Failed

6. LEGISLATION

A. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Legislative Updates

Present: John Sterling Houser, Assistant County Attorney

Mr. Houser highlighted and summarized the 2023 Legislative Session. The Commissioners of St. Mary's County Bills included SB 457 - St. Mary's County - Public Facilities Bond - Passed with amendments, (\$56,000,000 in general bond authority granted), awaiting Governor's signature; HB 247 - St. Mary's County - Transfer Tax - Sunset Extension - Passed, awaiting Governor's signature; HB 263 - St. Mary's County - Gaming Devices and Events - Passed with amendments, awaiting Governor's signature; HB 887 - St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission - New Facilities - Passed, awaiting Governor's signature; HB 219 - St. Mary's County - Motor Vehicle Registration Exception for Golf Carts - Passed, awaiting Governor's signature; HB 526 - Transfer of Child Support Unit and Personnel to the Child Support Administration - Passed with amendments, awaiting Governor's signature.

HB 447 - Local Elections - County Commissioner - District Voting and HB 597 - St. Mary's County - County Commissioners Election Method - Straw Ballot did not advance out of the Ways and Means Committee.

7. COMMISSIONERS' TIME

The Commissioners highlighted events attended over the past week and provided general comments.

Commissioner President Guy suggested the Closed Session be moved to 6:00 p.m. prior to the Public Hearing this evening.

8. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Minutes approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on April 25, 2023.

JB
Julie Burch, Senior Admin Coordinator

Commissioner Vice President Colvin called the business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Chesapeake Building Meeting Room, Governmental Center.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION.

I move to enter into closed session to discuss Personnel and Real Property.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow.

Yea: Commissioners Colvin, Hewitt, Alderson, Ostrow

Not Present: Commissioner Guy

9. CLOSED SESSION

A. PERSONNEL

Present: James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
Catherine Pratson, Director, Dept. of Human Resources
Arthur Shepherd, Director, Dept. of Recreation and Parks
Sharon Ferris, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(1) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

Time Held: 6:02 p.m. - 6:05 p.m.

Location: Savich Conference Room

Purpose: To consider or discuss the assignment of appointment of a member of a public agency or employee

B. REAL PROPERTY

Present: James R. Guy, President
Michael R. Alderson Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
Arthur Shepherd, Director, Dept, of Recreation and Parks.
Sharon Ferris, Recorder

Authority: §9-512(a)(6) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

Time Held: 6:05 p.m. - 6:28 p.m.

Location: Savich Conference Room

Purpose: To hold preliminary discussions concerning the purchase or disposition of real property.

10. PUBLIC HEARING

Members Present

Commissioner President James R. Guy
Commissioner Eric S. Colvin
Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt
Commissioner Michael R. Alderson Jr.
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow
David Weiskopf, County Administrator
Jenna Guzman, Communications Director, Public Information Office
Julie Burch, Recorder

A. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - Public Hearing - Building Excise Tax Ordinance

Commissioner President Guy opened the public hearing at 6:33 p.m.

Present: Jeannett Cudmore, Chief Financial Officer

Notice of the public hearing was published on March 31 and April 7, 2023, in the *Southern Maryland Newspaper*. The public hearing is to receive public input on the proposed St. Mary's County Building Excise Tax Ordinance. The Commissioners recommended to change from Impact Fee to Excise Tax during the FY2021 Budget. Legislation was requested for the Excise Tax to start in FY 2024 and approved in the 2021 session. The request was primarily to provide more flexibility in the collection and the use of the collected revenue. The Excise Tax was approved.

Commissioner President Guy requested David Weiskopf provide the format for the public hearing and open the hearing for public comment.

Public Comments given by:

Chris Hill, 19858 Summerwood Ct., Great Mills, MD
Paul Fenton, 40580 Susie Ct., Leonardtown, MD
Troy Cowan, 21411 S. Essex Drive, Lexington Park, MD
Donnie Tennyson, Ridge, MD
Jimmy Hayden, P.O. Box 254, Leonardtown, MD
Laura Clarke, 22245 Timberline Ct., Leonardtown, MD

Mr. Weiskopf closed the public hearing for public comment and noted that the record would remain open for public comment for an additional seven days. Commissioner President Guy closed the public hearing at approximately 6:57 p.m.

11. ADJOURN