

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Meeting Minutes (Tuesday, September 28, 2021)
Generated by Julie Burch on Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Members present

Commissioner President James R. Guy
Commissioner Eric Colvin
Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt
Commissioner Todd B. Morgan
Commissioner John E. O'Connor
Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator
ALisa Casas, Communications Director, Public Information Office

Commissioner President Guy called the business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to order at 9:06 a.m. in the Chesapeake Building Meeting Room, Governmental Center.

Approval of Consent Agenda

I move to approve the Consent Agenda, which contains the Minutes of September 21, 2021, as presented.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

2. PROCLAMATION

A proclamation was presented for World Architecture Day.

3. COMMENDATION

A commendation was presented to Paul Reed Jr. for his retirement.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

A. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Public Hearing - Repeal of Solar Moratorium Ordinance

Present: David Weiskopf, County Attorney

Commissioner President Guy opened the public hearing at 9:15 a.m.

Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Southern Maryland News* on September 10, 2021, and September 17, 2021. This public hearing is for the purpose of receiving public

comment on the repeal of Ordinance 2021-15 that provided a one-year moratorium on utility-scale solar projects.

Commissioner President Guy requested Dr. Bridgett provide the format for the public hearing and open the hearing for public comment.

No public comments were given.

Dr. Bridgett noted that the record would remain open for public comment for an additional seven days. Commissioner President Guy closed the Public Hearing at approximately 9:20 a.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AS COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY AND RECONVENE AS THE ST. MARY'S COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

I move to adjourn as the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and reconvene as the St. Mary's County Board of Health.

Motion by Commissioner Eric Colvin, second by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan

Not Present at Vote: Commissioner O'Connor

5. ST. MARY'S COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

A. BOARD OF HEALTH

Present: Dr. Meenakshi Brewster, Health Officer

Dr. Brewster reviewed the updated Covid-19 Data Dashboard from the St. Mary's County Health Department website. She discussed the continuing high rate of transmission in the county. She provided information on COVID-19 testing sites, Vaccine Booster eligibility, and the importance of wearing masks. She concluded by discussing strategies to keep in-person learning in schools.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AS THE ST. MARY'S COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AND RECONVENE AS THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

I move to adjourn as the St. Mary's County Board of Health and reconvene as the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

Motion by Commissioner Eric Colvin, second by Commissioner John E. O'Connor.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, O'Connor

Not Present at Vote: Commissioner Morgan

6. MAIN AGENDA ITEM

A. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Legislative Proposals

MOTION 1: I move: to request amendment of Section 49-1 B(2)(c) of Article 19 - Public Local Laws of St. Mary's County to amend the Emergency Services Support Tax amount(s) per \$100 of assessable real property to be determined by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign letters of support to the Delegation and to House and Senate Committees.

No Vote

MOTION 2: I move to request amendment of §13-402(c)(12) and §21-104.5 of the Transportation Article of the Annotated Code of MD to authorize the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to designate on which county highways a person may operate a golf cart in St. Mary's County and to exempt Golf Carts from Motor Vehicle Registration Requirements in St. Mary's County under certain circumstances and to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign letters of support to the Delegation and to House and Senate Committees.

Motion by Commissioner Eric Colvin, second by Commissioner John E. O'Connor.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

MOTION 3: I move to request amendment of §29-106(b)(1) and (2) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of MD to update the duties language of the Human Relations Commission and to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign letters of support to the Delegation and to House and Senate Committees.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

MOTION 4: I move to request amendment of §20-405 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to request authority to increase the cap of the St. Mary's County Public Accommodations Tax rate from five (5) percent to seven (7) percent and to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign letters of support to the Delegation and to House and Senate Committees.

No Vote

MOTION 5: I move to request amendment of §10-402(C)(11) of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to allow St. Mary's County Animal Control Officers to wear body-worn cameras to record their encounters and activities and to

approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign letters of support to the Delegation and to House and Senate Committees.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Eric Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

MOTION 6: I move to request amendment of §3-702(b) of the Labor and Employment Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to exclude St. Mary's County Government Paramedic and EMT applicants and St. Mary's County Government Emergency Communication Center applicants from prohibition of county pre-employment polygraph examinations or similar tests and to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign letters of support to the Delegation and to House and Senate Committees.

Motion by Commissioner Michael L. Hewitt, second by Commissioner John E. O'Connor.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

MOTION 7: I move to request amendment of §14-813(e)(2) of the Tax – Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to amend the allowable expenses for auctioneer fees to be the “actual cost” charged by the auctioneer for each property sold at tax sale in St. Mary's County and to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign letters of support to the Delegation and to House and Senate Committees.

Motion by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan, second by Commissioner John E. O'Connor.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

MOTION 8: I move to request amendment of §1-113 of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to amend the definition of “newspaper” and “newspaper in general circulation” in St. Mary's County and to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign letters of support to the Delegation and to House and Senate Committees.

Motion by Commissioner Eric Colvin, second by Commissioner John E. O'Connor.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

MOTION 9: I move to request to add Local Government Article 12 Subtitle 10 to the Annotated Code of Maryland to include Motor Vehicle Towing and Immobilization on Private Property in St. Mary's County and to approve and authorize the Commissioner President to sign letters of support to the Delegation and to House and Senate Committees.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Todd B. Morgan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

MOTION 10: I move to forward the citizen request of §3-1101(g) of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland limiting elected members of the St. Mary's Board of Education to three (3) consecutive full four-year terms to the Delegation.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Eric Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

7. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

A. DRAFT AGENDAS FOR OCTOBER 5 AND 19, 2021. There will be no meeting of the Commissioners on October 12, 2021.

B. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION - Acceptance of the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) Grant

I move to approve the DOD DCIP Grant Agreement and amend Project Number HW-2103, Retrofit Sidewalk Program, to include the DCIP grant of \$395,118 and authorize its expenditure to construct a crosswalk on Three Notch Road at NAS PAX Gate 2/Great Mills Road and a connecting sidewalk from Gate 1 to Gate 2 and on to the Frank Knox Center to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle travel between NAS PAX and various destinations in Lexington Park and St. Mary's County, and authorize the Commissioner President to approve budget amendment and other related documents.

Motion by Commissioner John E. O'Connor, second by Commissioner Eric Colvin.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

C. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - HB 670 - Police Accountability Board, Charging Board, Trial Board Brief

Present: David Weiskopf, County Attorney
Sheriff Tim Cameron

An overview of Maryland's Police Accountability Act (HB 670) was presented.

D. OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY - Real Property - Windsor/Amundson Request - Agreement for Lateral Line Setback

I move to approve two (2) Agreements for Structure to Cross 25 foot Lateral Line Setback between the County and the Windsors and Amundsons and authorize the Commissioner President to execute all related documents.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Commissioners Guy, Colvin, Hewitt, Morgan, O'Connor

8. COMMISSIONERS' TIME

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

9. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:04 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on October 5, 2021.

JB
Julie Burch, Senior Admin Coordinator