

## **Minutes of the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland**

April 21, 2020

Joseph M. Mitrecic, President  
Theodore J. Elder, Vice President  
Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.  
Madison J. Bunting, Jr.  
James C. Church  
Joshua C. Nordstrom  
Diana Purnell

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting took place virtually via Zoom for which the live stream and can be viewed at <https://media.swagit.com/zoom/worcestercountymd>.

At 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Mitrecic called the meeting to order and announced the topics discussed during the April 14, 2020 closed session, which took place immediately following the April 14 open session.

The Commissioners informed the public that they will review and approve the open and closed session minutes of their April 14 and April 21 meetings at their next meeting on May 5, 2020.

The Commissioners presented a proclamation to Housing Program Administrator Jo Ellen Bynum recognizing April as Fair Housing Month in Worcester County to educate renters, homebuyers, and the public at large that everyone has a right to buy a home, purchase homeowners' insurance, or rent an apartment free from discrimination, and renters with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations, such as a service dog or assigned parking closer to a unit, to use and enjoy their dwellings. Ms. Bynum thanked the Commissioners for supporting the housing rehabilitation program in Worcester County, which plays a key role in the ongoing provision of fair housing.

The Commissioners met in legislative session.

The Commissioners met with Environmental Programs Director Bob Mitchell to review a proposed text amendment submitted by Attorney Mark Cropper seeking to amend Sections NR 3-102(a) and NR 3-108(d) of the Natural Resources Article of the Code of Public Local Laws of Worcester County, Maryland regarding land use in the Resource Conservation Area (RCA) of the Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area to add a definition of "special events" and to allow special events, subject to certain conditions, in the RCA in the Estate, Agricultural, and Resource Protection zoning districts. Mr. Mitchell advised that this text amendment is accompanying a zoning text amendment (Bill 20-2) to permit non-agricultural functions and events as an accessory use on a farm in the Resource Protection zoning district by special exception. He then reviewed the proposed restrictions that would apply to special events in the RCA and stated that staff has given the text amendment a favorable recommendation.

Following some discussion, Commissioners Bertino, Bunting, Church, Elder, Nordstrom,

Mitrecic, and Purnell introduced the aforementioned text amendment as Bill 20-3 (Natural Resources - Special Events in Resource Conservation Areas) and scheduled a public hearing on the bill for May 19, 2020 concurrent with the hearing on Bill 20-2.

Commissioner Mitrecic closed the legislative session.

Commissioner Nordstrom stated that he has received a request from citizens in the Unionville Road area outside of the corporate limits of Pocomoke City to have the street lights turned back on in this community, and requested that this matter be added to the Commissioners' May 5, 2020 meeting for discussion. The Commissioners concurred.

The Commissioners answered questions from the press, after which they adjourned to closed session.

Following a motion by Commissioner Elder, seconded by Commissioner Church, the Commissioners unanimously voted to meet virtually in closed session at 9:16 a.m. to discuss legal and personnel matters permitted under the provisions of Section 3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the General Provisions (GP) Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland and to perform administrative functions, permitted under the provisions of Section GP 3-104. Also present at the virtual closed session were Chief Administrative Officer Harold L. Higgins, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Kelly Shannahan, County Attorney Roscoe Leslie, Public Information Officer Kim Moses, and Human Resources Director Stacey Norton. Topics discussed and actions taken included: hiring Tucker Bailey as a part-time temporary Parks Worker II for Recreation, Parks, Tourism and Economic Development, and performing administrative functions, including receiving an FY20 monthly financial update.

Following a motion by Commissioner Bertino, seconded by Commissioner Bunting, the Commissioners unanimously voted to adjourn their closed session at 9:43 a.m. to meet again on May 5, 2020.