

# HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes (approved 1/22/08)

Monthly Meeting

January 14, 2008

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. on January 14, 2007.

Members present on call to order: Calvin Ball, Greg Fox, Mary Kay Sigaty, Jen Terrasa, Courtney Watson.

Chairperson Courtney Watson reported that she will be accompanying the Executive on a trip to the bonding agencies in New York on Tuesday through Thursday, January 22 to 24.

Council member Jen Terrasa reported that the General Assembly began this week. MACo's Legislative Committee will hold its first meeting next week.

Council member Mary Kay Sigaty reported that the Patuxent River Commission will be issuing a hard copy of its recent report later this month. The January meeting was canceled.

Council member Greg Fox had no report from the NACo Steering Committee.

Council Administrator Sheila Tolliver updated the Council on staff activities and progress in making changes in the technologies used for signing-in to speak.

County Auditor Haskell Arnold summarized audits and activities under way by his office and by the outside auditors.

Jon Traunfeld, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service, provided an overview of the research facility in Clarksville. He presented an introduction to the University's plans to construct a green building for staff activities, public access to information, and faculty research.

Kent Menser, Chairman of the BRAC Task Force, provided an update on the work of the group. He noted that the impact of BRAC on Howard County is expected to be 3000 new jobs and 3000 new resident families over a five to ten year period. He said that these numbers can be accommodated within current planning projections. He noted, however, that there could be some impact on housing values which could exacerbate the affordable housing shortage, and there could be a need for expansion of certain social and family services. The Housing Committee of the Task Force will be issuing a detailed report within the next thirty days. He introduced two members of his staff and a volunteer.

The Council discussed the proposed FY 09 council budget, which was presented to them at the December meeting. On a motion by Calvin Ball, seconded by Mary Kay Sigaty and adopted unanimously, the Council approved the proposed FY 09 Council budget with the following changes:

- The new funds for Blackberries for Special Assistants were increased to \$3500 to allow for three SA's to have them,
- The \$6000 allowed for GTV's coverage of hearings was eliminated, in light of the change in planned service through a memo of understanding with the community college, and
- The Council requested a footnote to the professional services line in the Board of Appeals' budget to show that ZRA 93 provides for new services by the Hearing Examiner, that there are fees associated with zoning violations that are expected to cover those services, and that the fees are budgeted to the General Fund, while the expense is budgeted to the Council. The footnote should explain the percentage of the increase in the Council's budget attributed to this new function.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.