

**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL**  
Minutes (approved, Feb. 19, 2008)  
Public Minutes, Closed Meeting and Monthly Meeting  
February 11, 2008

**Closed Meeting**

Council Chair Courtney Watson moved and Calvin Ball seconded that the meeting be closed in accordance with State Government Article, Section 10-508 (a)(1)(i) to discuss the appointment and terms of employment of the Hearing Examiner, an employee over whom the Council has jurisdiction. All members presented voted affirmatively.

Members present: Calvin Ball, Mary Kay Sigaty, Courtney Watson.

The Council discussed four options for contract or employment terms for the FY 09 year and compared these to the current contract terms and to the terms of the contract of the Zoning Counsel.

At 8:14 a.m., Calvin Ball moved and Mary Kay Sigaty seconded to reopen the meeting. All present voted affirmatively.

**Monthly Meeting**

The chair called the monthly meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on February 11, 2008.

Members present on call to order: Calvin Ball, Mary Kay Sigaty, and Courtney Watson.

Chairperson Courtney Watson reported that the memo from the Council to the County Executive concerning Government TV was transmitted last week. The Council discussed its support for the League of Women Voters' concerns about having continued access to television services. They directed Sheila Tolliver, the Administrator, to ask the Chair of the League whether or not the organization needs or wants the endorsement of the Council for its request for access to public television. The Council expressed willingness to endorse access for non-profits, if the League wants it. The Chair also noted that the proposed memo of understanding concerning the electronic banner disclosing the policy for electronic communications would be sent to the Executive shortly.

The Chairperson summarized the auditor's recommendations for follow-up to the outside audit of the Housing Commission. Council member Sigaty clarified that the response to the management letter was the ordinary and expected follow-up to audit findings, a fact that the County Auditor, Haskell Arnold, confirmed. Chairperson Watson noted that she and one other member will ask to meet with the outside audit firm and that the County auditors will be doing a series of follow-up audits, as recommended by the County Auditor.

Council Administrator Sheila Tolliver updated the Council on staff activities. She reported that the electronic sign-in system will be used for the February public hearing. She reported on progress of task forces currently being staffed by Council staff.

County Auditor Haskell Arnold summarized audits and activities under way by his office and by the outside auditors. He expanded on the follow-up to the Housing Commission audit.

In light of the absence of two members and schedule conflicts for other members, the briefing on tax incremental financing (TIF), which was scheduled for this meeting, was postponed until the March monthly meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.