

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 22, 2013

The Howard County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 22, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. in Hearing Room #338 of the Administration Center. Those in attendance included President Richard Miller, Vice President Stan Ortman, and members Jeff Stout, Leslie Ellison, John Roberts, Dwight Singer and James T. Papacek. Also in attendance were County Attorney Larry Murrell and Auditor Martha Lake.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Steve Rogers and conducted by President Richard Miller.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the December 11, 2012 Regular Meeting, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved on a motion made by Mr. Ortman and seconded by Mr. Ellison.

IN THE MATTER OF REORGANIZATION ACTIVITY:

A motion was made by Mr. Singer to nominate Mr. Richard Miller as President of the County Council for the year 2013. The motion was seconded by Mr. Papacek. Mr. Papacek made a motion to close the nominations and Mr. Singer seconded the motion. The motion carried and the nominations for President were closed. The motion on the table, nominating Mr. Richard Miller as President of the County Council for the year 2013, was carried. Mr. Richard Miller is the President of the County Council for the year 2013.

A motion was made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Les Ellison to nominate Mr. Stan Ortman to the position of Vice President of the Howard County Council. The nominations were closed on a motion made by Mr. Papacek and seconded by Mr. Singer. Mr. Ortman was elected by acclamation as Vice President of the Howard County Council for the year 2013.

At this time President Miller led the Council in a word of prayer.

IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE NO. 2013-HCCO-1

Public Defender Steve Raquet submitted Ordinance No. 2013-HCCO-1, establishing the Supplemental Public Defender Services Fund for the year 2013. This fund is an accumulation of User fees collected for indigent cases, and is to be used only to supplement the provisions for court-appointed legal services and are not to be used to replace other funding or court-appointed legal services. A motion was made by Mr. Papacek, seconded by Mr. Ortman and carried to approve Ordinance No. 2013-HCCO-1, establishing the Supplemental Public Defender's Fund.

IN THE MATTER OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Attorney Larry Murrell submitted the Employment Agreement between the Howard County Board of Commissioners and Mr. Lawrence Murrell, and approved by the Howard County Council, and the Howard County Drainage Board. The term of agreement begins January 1, 2013, and ends December 31, 2014. A motion was made by Mr. Singer to approve the Employment Agreement between the Howard County Board of Commissioners and Mr. Lawrence Murrell. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF A POSITION REHIRE REQUEST FOR THE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT:

Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Scott Reed submitted a position rehire request to the Council, for a position vacated by an employee who retired. The position was vacated this month and Mr. Reed has a part-time employee he would like to move into the position. This does not require any new money as the position was previously budgeted for 2013. This position rehire would put the night cleaning staff back to five employees. At one time Mr. Reed had eight employees on his night cleaning staff, and was able to adjust procedure and responsibilities down to five employees. He does not believe he can operate the cleaning staff effectively with fewer than five employees. After fielding questions from the council members, a motion was made by Mr. Papacek to approve the position rehire request for the Maintenance Department. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellison and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF A POSITION REHIRE REQUEST FOR CIRCUIT COURT:

Howard County Circuit Court, Judge Lynn Murray, submitted a position rehire request for Court Reporter. This position was vacated with the retirement of Ms. Deborah Booth. Judge Murray continued to review job responsibilities of this position, and the rest of her staff. It is her intention to promote one of her existing administrative staff to court reporter and hire “someone new” to assume the bailiff / juvenile clerk position. Judge Murray will also work within the salary amounts previously approved by the Council in the 2013 Budget for Circuit Court. Judge Murray fielded questions from the Council members and, at its conclusion a motion was made by Mr. Stout to approve the rehire request for Circuit Court as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Papacek and carried.

IN THE MATTER OF VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER:

Newly appointed Veterans Service Officer, Col. Ross Waltemath, introduced himself to the Council members. Col. Waltemath has had several conversations with President Miller, regarding the issues to be reported on the monthly VSO report. Col. Waltemath took this opportunity to review the first monthly report, with the new format, to make the Council more aware of what the tax dollars are doing in the Veterans Service Office, and their benefit. The report will include: claims submitted; Federal dollars to the county veteran; award letter amounts; numbers of veteran visiting the office on a daily basis; fully developed claims; help to veterans of other counties. To date, in the month of January, our Veterans Service office has received eleven (11) veteran award letters, \$159,000 of “annual federal income to our veterans”. At that rate our local office could generate \$2 million+ in federal dollars coming to our veterans. Col. Waltemath continued to field questions from the councilmen.

IN THE MATTER OF REHIRING PRACTICE DISCUSSION:

Vice President Ortman suggested to the Council that the next meeting’s agenda include discussion pertaining to the County’s hiring practices.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS FOR 2013:

Personnel Director Wanda McKillip distributed copies of the Council Appointments for 2013 for the Councils information and action. Under James Papacek, Recycle District Board should be changed to **Plan Commission Board**. Also included under Mr. Papacek should be **Economic Development Commission**. With those changes made, it was the consensus of the Council to approve the Council Appointment listing for 2013.

With the election of Mr. Brad Bray to the Howard County Board of Commissioners, the County Council needs to make an appointment to the Greentown Library Board. The Council will address this appointment at their February meeting.

The appointment of Ms. Beth Harshman to the Howard County Alcoholic Beverage Commission was confirmed by the Council. The appointment of Mary Baker to the Howard County Public Library Board was also confirmed by the County Council.

Ms. McKillip welcomed Mr. James Papacek back to the County Council.

*There being no further business to come before the Council at this time,
the meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.
on a motion made by Mr. Stout and seconded by Mr. Papacek.*

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL:

RICHARD H. MILLER, PRESIDENT

STAN ORTMAN, VICE PRESIDENT

JEFF STOUT, MEMBER

LESLIE ELLISON, MEMBER

JOHN J. ROBERTS, MEMBER

DWIGHT SINGER, MEMBER

JAMES PAPACEK, MEMBER

ATTEST:

MARTHA J. LAKE, AUDITOR