

COUNTY COUNCIL OF FREDERICK COUNTY
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Council Members M.C. Keegan-Ayer, President; Michael Blue, Vice-President, Jerry Donald, Kai Hagen, Jessica Fitzwater, Phil Dacey and Steve McKay were present for the meeting.

Also present were Ragen Cherney, Chief of Staff, County Council; Catherine Keller, Assistant County Attorney; Sarah Ambrosio, Recording Secretary; and Nancy Luna, Executive Assistant, County Council.

Council President M.C. Keegan-Ayer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. virtually via video conference.

Opening Statement from Council President M.C. Keegan-Ayer

Council President M.C. Keegan-Ayer provided an opening statement at the start of the meeting. Included in that statement was a welcoming to the Legislative meeting for Tuesday, May 25, 2021 and information on how to watch and participate in the meeting. President Keegan-Ayer called roll and a quorum was established for the meeting.

The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Action on the Agenda

Council Member Michael Blue moved to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member Jerry Donald seconded the motion that passed 7-0.

Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald	X		
District 2 – McKay	X		
District 4 – Fitzwater	X		
District 5 – Blue	X		
At-large – Dacey	X		
At-large – Hagen	X		
Presiding Officer – Keegan-Ayer	X		

Public Comment was heard from:

- None

Third Reading Calendar

Bill 21-06 – Small Business Advisory Council

Council Member Phil Dacey moved to approve Bill 21-06 – Small Business Advisory Council as presented. Council Member Steve McKay seconded the motion.

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*Council Member Jerry Donald moved to approve Amendment #1 on Bill No. 21-06.
Council Member Michael Blue seconded the motion that passed 7-0.*

AMENDMENT 1 on Bill No. 21-06

Introduced By: Council Member Jerry Donald (District 1)
Introduction Date: May 25, 2021 **Adopted/Rejected/Withdrawn:**

An ACT to create a Small Business Advisory Commission.
On Exhibit 1, it is hereby amended as follows:

CHAPTER 1-2: ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE XVI. SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMISSION

§1-2-600. Creation, Duties.

- (A) There shall be a Frederick County Small Business Advisory Commission hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”.
- (B) The Commission shall act as an advisory body that serves as a means for small businesses to be heard and understood, facilitate civic engagement, and legitimize issues of importance to small businesses operating in Frederick County,
- (C) Among its responsibilities and duties the Commission shall:
- (1) Advise the [~~County Executive and the~~] County Council on ways to enhance and improve the business climate for small businesses in Frederick County;
 - (2) Represent the views and the needs on behalf of the small business community;
 - (3) Monitor, analyze, and make recommendations for existing or proposed [~~policies and actions at all levels of government~~]
LEGISLATION OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT for their impact on small businesses;

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- (4) Review existing Frederick County Ordinances for recommended changes **THROUGH LEGISLATION** to improve the business climate in Frederick County;
- (5) Review regulations and make recommendations on issues under the authority of the County Government that could be altered to enhance the business climate for small businesses in Frederick County;
- (6) **WITHIN 1 YEAR OF THE COMMISSIONS FIRST MEETING, AND ANUALLY THEREAFTER** [~~On or before July 1 of each year~~], the Commission shall submit [~~an annual~~] A report to the [~~County Executive and~~] County Council. The report shall include recommendations as identified above.

(D) Two years following the first meeting, the Commission will submit a status report to the [~~County Executive and~~] County Council. The report should include assessment findings and recommendation as identified above. Upon submission of this report, the [~~County Executive and~~] County Council may submit questions or requests to the Commission for additional information. The Commission will have eight weeks to respond to any requests. Upon completion of this review, the Council must vote whether to reauthorize the Commission.

§1-2.601. Composition.

- (A) ~~[[Subject to the confirmation of t]] The County Council [[, the County Executive]] must appoint the following individuals to serve on the Commission for a three-year term unless otherwise noted:~~
- a. One member nominated by the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce;
 - b. One member nominated by the Downtown Frederick Partnership;
 - c. One member nominated by a non-profit entity that advocates on behalf of small businesses;
 - d. One member nominated by the Frederick Farm Bureau;

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- e. One member nominated by the Business Law Section of the Frederick County Bar Association;
 - f. One member of Visit Frederick;
 - g. Two members belonging to municipal business organizations;
- (B) The following individuals shall serve as ex-officio, non-voting members with no terms assigned;
- a. **THE COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER SPONSORING THIS BILL. IF THE COMMISSION IS REAUTHORIZED, THE COUNCIL MEMBER WHO MOVED TO EXTEND THE TERM OF THE COMMISSION SHALL SERVE AS A MEMBER** ~~[A member of the County Council];~~
 - b. A member of the Frederick County Office of Economic Development.

(B) Members of the Commission shall continue to serve until their replacement is **APPOINTED** ~~[[confirmed]]~~ by the County Council.

~~[[(D) A County staff member may be designated by the County Executive to assist and support the Commission.]]~~

§1-2-602. Chair, Vice-Chair.

The Coordinating Council must elect a chair and vice-chair from among its members to serve 2-year terms.

§1-2-603. Rules.

The Coordinating Council shall adopt rules to govern its procedures and activities.

§1-2-604. Compensation.

Members of the Coordinating Council shall receive no compensation for their services.

§1-2-605. Meetings and Quorum.

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- (A) The Commission **SHALL MEET NO LESS THAN FOUR TIMES ANNUALLY, BUT MAY NOT MEET MORE THAN ONCE A MONTH** [~~shall meet with the frequency it determines necessary to perform its functions but there shall be no less than four meetings annually~~].
- (B) A majority of the Commission members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of regular business.

Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald	X		
District 2 – McKay	X		
District 4 – Fitzwater	X		
District 5 – Blue	X		
At-large – Dacey	X		
At-large – Hagen	X		
Presiding Officer – Keegan -Ayer	X		

Bill 21-07 – Disabled Veterans Property Tax Credit

Council Member Steve McKay moved to approve Bill 21-07 – Disabled Veterans Property Tax Credit as presented. Council Member Jessica Fitzwater seconded the motion that passed 7-0.

Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald	X		
District 2 – McKay	X		
District 4 – Fitzwater	X		
District 5 – Blue	X		
At-large – Dacey	X		
At-large – Hagen	X		
Presiding Officer – Keegan -Ayer	X		

Public Comment was heard from:

- None

Council Member Comments:

Council Member comments were provided.

FINAL

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Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

M.C. Keegan-Ayer, President
County Council