

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF FREDERICK COUNTY
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 18, 2022**

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, County Council Chief of Staff; 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.

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, January 18, 2022 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 Steve McKay 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

Business Items:

Approval of Minutes from January 4, and January 11, 2022.

Council Member Jessica Fitzwater moved to approve the minutes from January 4, and January 11, 2022, as presented. Council Member Steve McKay seconded the motion that passed 7-0.

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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		

Confirmation of Frederick County Planning Commission Appointee

Rick Harcum, Chief Administrative Officer, County Executive’s Office, briefed the Council on the Confirmation of the Frederick County Planning Commission Appointee.

Council Member Steve McKay moved to confirm the appointment Robert White to the Frederick County Planning Commission to terms as presented by staff. Council Member Jerry Donald seconded the motion that passed 6-0-1. Council Member Kai Hagen Abstained.

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		

Confirmation of County Executive's Appointments to the Frederick County Boards and Commissions

Joyce Grossnickle, Administrative Officer, briefed the Council on the Confirmation of County Executive’s Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

Fire and Rescue Advisory Board

Council Member Jerry Donald moved to confirm the appointments of FF/PM Anthony Gramiccioni and Mark Kirchman to the Fire and Rescue Advisory Board to terms as presented by staff. Council Member Kai Hagen seconded the motion that passed 7-0.

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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		

Parks and Recreation Commission

Council Member Jerry Donald moved to confirm the appointment of The Honorable Davis Bass to the Parks and Recreation Commission to terms as presented by staff. Council Member Kai Hagen 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		

Veterans Advisory Council

Council Member Steve McKay moved to confirm the appointments of Lt. Col. Sharon Jacko, USMC, Retired and CW03 David Kaye, US Army, Retired to the Veterans Advisory Council to terms as presented by staff. 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		

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Establish a New Climate and Energy Function within the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources and Fund Priorities

Shannon Moore, Director, Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources., briefed the Council on Establishing a New Climate and Energy Function within the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources and Fund Priorities.

Council Member Jessica Fitzwater moved approve Budget Journal J-22-149. Council Member Kai Hagen seconded the motion that passed 5-2.

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		

Budget Journal and Budget Ordinance Amendment to Establish New Capital Projects for Climate and Energy within the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources

Shannon Moore, Director, Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources., briefed the Council on the Budget Journal and Budget Ordinance Amendment to Establish New Capital Projects for Climate and Energy within the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources.

Council Member Jessica Fitzwater moved approve Budget Journal J-22-150 and Amended Budget Ordinance. Council Member Kai Hagen seconded the motion that passed 6-1.

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		

First Reading Calendar

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At 5:50 p.m. Council President M.C. Keegan-Ayer passed the gavel to Council Vice President Michael Blue

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure for Charging Electric Vehicles in Certain New Residential Structures

Council President M.C. Keegan-Ayer provided information to the Council on the Proposed Bill - Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure for Charging Electric Vehicles in Certain New Residential Structures.

At 5:54 p.m. Council Vice President Michael Blue passed the gavel back to Council President M.C. Keegan-Ayer

Third Reading Calendar

Bill 21-13 – Amend Elderly Individuals & Uniformed Service Members Property Tax

Council Member Steve McKay moved to approve Bill 21-13 – Amend Elderly Individuals & Uniformed Service Members Property Tax as presented. Council Member Kai Hagen seconded the motion.

At 5:59 p.m. Council President M.C. Keegan-Ayer passed the gavel to Council Vice President Michael Blue

Council President M.C. Keegan-Ayer moved to approve Amendment 1 on Bill 21-13 – Amend Elderly Individuals & Uniformed Service Members Property Tax. Council Member seconded the motion that failed 3-4.

AMENDMENT 1 on Bill No. 21-13

Introduced By: Council President Keegan-Ayer (District 3)
Introduction Date: January 18, 2022
Adopted/Rejected/Withdrawn: _____

An ACT to: Expand the eligibility, remove the income-based needs test for uniformed service members, and raise the home value threshold to \$500,000 to qualify for the uniformed service members property tax credit.

On Exhibit 1, Page 2, it is hereby amended as follows:

§ 1-8-67. ELDERLY INDIVIDUALS AND UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBERS PROPERTY TAX CREDIT.

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(E) This property tax credit shall be calculated only on the lesser of:

- (1) **\$400,000** [~~500,000~~] or
- (2) The assessed value of the dwelling reduced by the amount of any assessment on which a property tax credit is granted under Md. Code. Ann., Tax Property Article, § 9-105.

Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald	X		
District 2 – McKay		X	
District 4 – Fitzwater	X		
District 3 – Keegan-Ayer	X		
At-large – Dacey		X	
At-large – Hagen		X	
Presiding Officer – Blue		X	

At 6:05 p.m. Council Vice President Michael Blue passed the gavel back to Council President M.C. Keegan-Ayer

The Council then returned to the original motion made by Council Member Steve McKay to approve Bill 21-13 – Amend Elderly Individuals & Uniformed Service Members Property Tax as presented and was seconded by Council Member Kai Hagen that passed 4-3.

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:

- Richard Kaplowitz

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Council Member Comments:

Council Member comments were provided.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

M.C. Keegan-Ayer, President
County Council