

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF FREDERICK COUNTY  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, May 20th, 2025**

Council Members Mason Carter, Jerry Donald, Kavonte Duckett, M.C. Keegan-Ayer, Renee Knapp, Steve McKay, and Brad Young were present for the meeting.

Also present were Catherine Keller, Assistant County Attorney; Ragen Cherney, Chief of Staff, County Council; Sarah Grabowski, Executive Assistant, County Council; and Abby Boroughs, Administrative Assistant, County Council.

Council President Brad Young called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Opening Statement from Council President Brad Young**

Council President Brad Young provided an opening statement at the start of the meeting. Included in that statement was a welcome to the Legislative Day for Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and information on how to watch and participate in the meeting.

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

Council President Brad Young asked staff to call roll and a quorum was established.

**Action on the Agenda**

*Council Member M.C. Keegan-Ayer moved to approve the agenda for 05/20/2025 as presented. Council Member Renee Knapp seconded the motion that passed 7-0.*

Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald	X		
District 2 – McKay	X		
District 3 – Keegan-Ayer	X		
District 4– Duckett	X		
District 5 – Carter	X		
At Large – Knapp	X		
Presiding Officer – Young	X		

**Public Comment**

Public Comment was heard from:

- Maria Foat
- Megan Sweigart
- Tony Checchia
- Tom Natelli
- Danny Severn

With no further comments, Council President Brad Young closed Public Comment.

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**Approval of Minutes**

*Council Member M.C Keegan-Ayer moved to approve the minutes from 04/29 with one addition: on page 15, the word “rejected” is missing from the top of amendment 19, and 05/06, & 05/13, 2025 as presented. Council Member Renee Knapp seconded the motion that passed 7-0.*

Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald	X		
District 2 – McKay	X		
District 3 – Keegan-Ayer	X		
District 4– Duckett	X		
District 5 – Carter	X		
At Large – Knapp	X		
Presiding Officer – Young	X		

**Budget Adjustments** – Kelly Weaver, Director, Budget Office

*Council Member Jerry Donald moved to approve the following budget adjustments:*

- J-25-330 – Division of Planning and Permitting

*Council Vice President Kavonté Duckett seconded the motion that passed 7-0.*

Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald	X		
District 2 – McKay	X		
District 3 – Keegan-Ayer	X		
District 4– Duckett	X		
District 5 – Carter	X		
At Large – Knapp	X		
Presiding Officer – Young	X		

**Final FY 2026 Budget Adoption** – Council President Brad Young

*Council Member M.C. Keegan-Ayer moved to adopt the FY 2026 budget, the FY 2026 operating budget, the FY 2026 capital budget, the FY 2026-2031 capital improvement program, the budget message, and the ordinance that accompanies it. Council Member Renee Knapp seconded this motion that passed 6-1, with Council Member Mason Carter opposed.*

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Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald	X		
District 2 – McKay	X		
District 3 – Keegan-Ayer	X		
District 4– Duckett	X		
District 5 – Carter		X	
At Large – Knapp	X		
Presiding Officer – Young	X		

**Final FY 2026 Tax Rates Adoption** – Council President Brad Young

*Council Member M.C. Keegan-Ayer moved that the general real property tax levy for fiscal year 2026 should be established at \$1.1100 on each one hundred dollars worth of assessed taxable real property in Frederick County, except that the general real property tax levy for assessed taxable property within the City of Frederick shall be the sum of \$1.0079 and the general real property tax levy for assessed taxable real property within the incorporated municipality of Myersville shall be the sum of \$0.9967; and further that \$0.0500 on each one hundred dollars (\$100) worth of net assessed taxable real property in Frederick County will be dedicated to the exclusive use for the Dedicated Reserve for Future Years for School Construction project in Frederick County's Capital Improvement Program budget; and further that the 2026 tax rate on the operating personal and real property shall be \$2.775 on each one hundred dollars (\$100) of assessed valuation of such property. Council Member Renee Knapp seconded the motion that passed 6-1, with Council Member Mason Carter opposed.*

Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald	X		
District 2 – McKay	X		
District 3 – Keegan-Ayer	X		
District 4– Duckett	X		
District 5 – Carter		X	
At Large – Knapp	X		
Presiding Officer – Young	X		

**Installment Purchase Program – Request for Approval of Resolutions – Enter into Installment Purchase Agreements (Patricia H. Culler, Trustee of the Patricia H. Culler Revocable Trust and Clyde Dale Culler, Trustee of the Clyde Dale Culler Revocable Trust)** - Shannon O'Neil, Department of Agricultural Preservation, Office of Agriculture

Shannon O'Neil briefed the Council on the Installment Purchase Program – Request for

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Approval of Resolutions – Enter into Installment Purchase Agreements (Patricia H. Culler, Trustee of the Patricia H. Culler Revocable Trust and Clyde Dale Culler, Trustee of the Clyde Dale Culler Revocable Trust). Anna Horevay (McGuire Woods, County's Bond Council) was also present virtually.

*Council Member Steve McKay moved to approve the Installment Purchase Program – Request for Approval of Resolutions – Enter into Installment Purchase Agreements (Patricia H. Culler, Trustee of the Patricia H. Culler Revocable Trust and Clyde Dale Culler, Trustee of the Clyde Dale Culler Revocable Trust). Council Member Mason Carter seconded the motion that passed 7-0.*

Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald	X		
District 2 – McKay	X		
District 3 – Keegan-Ayer	X		
District 4– Duckett	X		
District 5 – Carter	X		
At Large – Knapp	X		
Presiding Officer – Young	X		

**Third Reading Calendar:**

- a) Amended Bill 25-05 - Design and Specific Use Regulations for Critical Digital Infrastructure Facilities and Electric Substations – Council Member Renee Knapp

*Council Member Renee Knapp moved to approve Amended Bill 25-05 - Design and Specific Use Regulations for Critical Digital Infrastructure Facilities and Electric Substations. Council Vice President Kavonté Duckett seconded the motion that passed 5-2, with Council Members Jerry Donald and Steve McKay opposed.*

Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald		X	
District 2 – McKay		X	
District 3 – Keegan-Ayer	X		
District 4– Duckett	X		
District 5 – Carter	X		
At Large – Knapp	X		
Presiding Officer – Young	X		

- b) Bill 25-07 - To Establish Scott Key Center Volunteer Advisory Board – Council President Brad Young



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*Council Vice President Kavonté Duckett moved to approve Bill 25-07 - To Establish Scott Key Center Volunteer Advisory Board. Council Member Renee Knapp seconded the motion that passed 7-0.*

Council Members	Aye	Nay	Absent/ Abstain/ Present
District 1 – Donald	X		
District 2 – McKay	X		
District 3 – Keegan-Ayer	X		
District 4– Duckett	X		
District 5 – Carter	X		
At Large – Knapp	X		
Presiding Officer – Young	X		

**Public Comment**

Public Comment was heard from:

- Mark Florimbio
- Michael Kurtnell
- Kelly Schultz
- Nick Carrera
- Harry George
- Don Pleasants

With no further comments, Council President Brad Young closed Public Comment.

**Council Member Comments**

Council Member comments were provided.

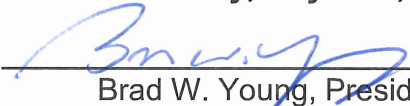
**Upcoming Meetings**

- Tuesday, May 27, 2025 – Workshop
- Tuesday, June 3, 2025 – Legislative Day

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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Brad W. Young, President  
County Council