

public hearing shall be held on the Expense Budget and the date for the adoption of the Expense Budget by the County Council of Wicomico County, Maryland, for the next fiscal year.

*Section 1.* BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND, that Article VII entitled "Budgetary and Fiscal Procedures"; Section 703 entitled "Expense budget and budget message"; Subsection (d) entitled "Inspection of documents; hearings" and Subsection (e) entitled "Adoption of budget" be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments to read as follows:

(d) Inspection of documents; hearings. The Expense Budget and Budget Message as submitted to the County Council by the Administrative Director shall be open to public inspection after ~~April~~ *May* 15th of each year and copies shall be made available to the public. The County Council in Executive Session shall give at least five days' notice in one or more newspapers published in Wicomico County, of a public hearing on the Expense Budget, to be held between ~~April~~ *May* 20th and 25th. Any taxpayer of the County or his representative, the Administrative Director, and the head of any department or other agency shall be entitled to be heard at the public hearing.

(e) Adoption of Budget. Following such hearing and not later than ~~April 30th~~ *May 31*, or such other date as may be prescribed by Ordinance of the County Council in Executive Session, the County Council in Executive Session shall adopt an Expense Budget for the next fiscal year, and by resolution appropriate the amount of the expense items, including all sums necessary during such year for authorized Capital Projects and debt service; and after having finally adopted said budget, shall, by resolution, levy and cause to be raised the amount of taxes required by the budget in the manner provided by law. If the County Council fails to adopt the Expense Budget by resolution within the time aforesaid, the proposed budget submitted by the Administrative Director shall stand adopted, and funds for the expenditures proposed in the current Expense Budget shall stand appropriated as fully and to the same extent as if favorable action thereon had been taken by the County Council. Copies of the budget as adopted shall be made available to the public.

*Section 2.* AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act, having been approved by not less than four members of the County Council of Wicomico County, such proposed amendments shall be published by the Administrative Director in one or more newspapers of general circulation in Wicomico County once each week for five successive weeks prior to the next General election or Congressional election occurring after the passage hereof and at said election the question shall be submitted to the voters of the County and if at said election the majority of the votes cast on the question shall be in favor of the herein proposed amendments, such amendments shall stand adopted and become a part of the Charter of Wicomico County, Maryland, from and after the thirtieth day following said election in accordance with Article XI, Section 1102 of the Charter of Wicomico County, Maryland.

CERTIFIED CORRECT AS PASSED

Richard S. Wootten, President

David H. Clark, Secretary

I HEREBY CERTIFY that Twenty-five (25) copies of the above Bill are available for distribution to the public and press at the time of its introduction.

David H. Clark, Secretary