

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
September 15, 2015

PRESENT: Council Members: President Hodge, Vice President McCarthy, Joyce Bowsbey, George Patchell and Dan Schneckenburger; Al Wein, Director of Administration; Jason Allison, County Attorney; Winston Robinson, Director of Finance; Craig Whiteford, Budget Manager; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant; members of the press; and members of the public.

OPEN SESSION – Elk Room

9:00 a.m. – President Hodge called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and determined a quorum.

NOTE: Audio recording of this meeting is available on the County website www.ccgov.org.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilman Schneckenburger, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of September 8, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Conflict in Council Work Session Schedule - October 27

Mr. Massey explained that the Council work session on October 27 will conflict with Secretary Gill's economic development site visit and roundtable discussion, which the Council has been invited. After discussion, the Council agreed that the work session may be cancelled or rescheduled pending any urgent business.

2016 Council Schedule

Mr. Massey provided a revised 2016 schedule for review. The budget hearing schedule was revised so that evening hearings can be held on Tuesdays when the Council is not meeting in legislative session in April and May. On legislative session days, budget hearings will be held during the afternoon. The length of the budget hearing is approximately two hours. The Council approved of the 2016 schedule by consensus.

Review of Legislative Agenda

Council President Hodge led a review of the legislative agenda.

Mr. Wein provided information about Resolution No. 52-2015 Supplemental Appropriation - Casino Local Impact Fund - Various Grants, which will be introduced at tonight's session. Questions and comments ensued.

The Council discussed Bill No. 2015-18 Animal Care and Control Ordinance, which will be considered for final reading. Three amendments have been introduced.

Councilwoman Bowsbey suggested that the number of citizens appointed should be increased from one to two by the Executive and Council, which will result in a board composition of seven members.

Mr. Allison explained how a conflict of interest issue will be handled. The Council discussed the importance of appointing qualified citizens.

The Council agreed by consensus to support Councilwoman Bowsbey's amendment to increase the number of appointed citizens from one to two, who will be appointed by the Council and Executive. This amendment will be drafted as Amendment No. 4 to Bill No. 2015-18.

COUNCIL MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Massey reminded the Council of today's dedication of the School of Technology and Congressman Harris' roundtable on HIDTA funding. In addition, Judge Baynes and Matthew Barrett, Court Administrator, asked the Council to tour the Courthouse and discuss their challenges. The Council agreed that Mr. Massey can finalize a date for the visit. The Council prefers that the tour is scheduled on Tuesday after a work session.

COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS

Councilman Schneckenburger attended the Regional Apparatus Showcase on Main Street in Elkton where the Singerly Fire Company displayed their new fire equipment. He also commented about a possible bus route linking Newark to Perryville train stations, which MTA has initiated.

Councilwoman Bowsbey attended the College scholarship breakfast, the College's Little Black Dress fundraiser, Local Management Board meeting, Lobsterfest fundraiser for the Union Hospital Foundation's hospice, Commission on Aging meeting and Early Childhood Advisory Board. She also participated in Thank a Hero 9-11 project on September 11.

Councilman Patchell also participated in Thank a Hero 9-11 project. He is serving as a chaperone for the children attending North Bay this week.

Vice President McCarthy attended the College scholarship breakfast and Lions Club fundraiser.

Council President Hodge commented on attending the Regional Apparatus Showcase and the new rescue truck, purchased by Singerly Fire Company, which cost over one million dollars. He stated that fire companies receive tax support for this equipment and other services, which are invaluable to our community.

CLOSED SESSION

9:33 A.M.

On motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to convene in Closed Session pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, State

Government, 10-508(a)(3) to consider acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

OPEN SESSION

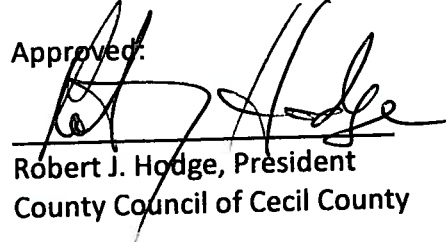
10:17 A.M.

Council President Hodge reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:17 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

President Hodge adjourned the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

Approved:


Robert J. Hodge, President
County Council of Cecil County

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager

