

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
November 17, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Council Members: President Robert Hodge, Vice President Alan McCarthy, Joyce Bowsbey, Dan Schneckenburger and George Patchell; Al Wein, Director of Administration; Jason Allison, County Attorney; Donna Nichols, Director of Human Resources; Winston Robinson, Finance Director; Eric Sennstrom, Director of Planning and Zoning; Lisa Webb, Director of Economic Development; Clyde Van Dyke, Director of Parks and Recreation; Pete Bieniek, Chief of Solid Waste Division; Sandy Turner, Tourism Director; 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](http://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 November 10, 2015. Motion was carried unanimously.

**Bassmaster Event - Economic Impact**

Sandy Turner, Tourism Director, reported on the economic impact of the Bassmaster event, which was held on August 13-16, 2015. She reviewed her expenses of \$184,745, which had been funded by sponsors, partners, grants and vendor income. Ms. Turner estimated the direct spending impact in Cecil County of \$2,141,250 and national ad value of \$1,555,695. Ms. Turner was thanked for her outstanding efforts for the success of this event. Questions and comments ensued.

**Update - Calvert Regional Park**

Clyde Van Dyke, Director of Parks and Recreation, reported on the first major sporting event held on November 7 at Calvert Regional Park. Fifty girls lacrosse teams played at the new park facility, which resulted in rental income of \$16,300. Mr. Van Dyke also summarized his schedule of sporting events for the spring. Questions and comments ensued.

**Letter of Support - Hollywood Casino - State Tax Rate**

Council President Hodge asked the Council to approve a letter of support to be sent to the state delegation to reduce the state tax rate for Hollywood Casino. Currently, the Hollywood Casino has the highest state tax rate of any of the state's casinos. The County Executive agreed to cosign the letter of support to create parity in the tax rate for Hollywood Casino. Councilman Schneckenburger suggested that a copy of the letter should be sent to Secretary Gill.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bowsbey, seconded by Councilman Schneckenburger, to approve of the letter of support. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Review of Legislative Agenda**

Council President Hodge led a review of tonight's legislative agenda.

A public hearing will be held on Bill No. 2015-26 Budget Amendment - Capital Budget - Calvert Regional Park - Jimmy Hans Wild Foundation. There were no comments or questions.

A public hearing will be held on Resolution No. 58-2015 Approval - Solid Waste Management Plan 2016-2025. There were no questions or comments.

Resolution No. 61-2015 Appointment - Commission on Aging will be introduced. There were no comments or questions.

Resolution No. 62-2015 Amendment - County Personnel Policies and Procedures. Donna Nichols, Director of Human Resources, provided details and answered questions.

Resolution No. 54-2015 Approval - Critical Area Growth Allocation - Recovery Centers of America with Amendment No. 1 will be considered for approval. There were no comments or questions.

Resolution No. 60-2015 Appointment - Bainbridge Development Corporation Board will also be considered for approval. There were no questions or comments.

Bill No. 2015-20 Approval - Agricultural Preservation District - Quiet Acres Farm will be considered for final reading. There were no questions or comments.

Bill No. 2015-21 Budget Amendment - Capital Budget - 107 Chesapeake Blvd. will be considered for final reading. There were no questions or comments.

Bill No. 2015-22 Budget Amendment - Waste Water Capital Budget - Principio Sanitary Sewer North and Mobile Package Waste Water Treatment Plant with Amendment No. 3 will be considered for final reading. There were no questions or comments.

Bill No. 2015-23 Budget Amendment - Roads and Bridges Capital Improvement Program - Red Toad Road/Route 40 and Reservoir Road Culverts with Amendment No. 1 will be considered for final reading. There were no questions or comments.

Bill No. 2015-24 Transfer of Interest in Land - First Time Home Buyers will be considered for final reading. There were no questions or comments.

Bill No. 2015-25 Bond Authorization - General Obligation Bonds - Public Facilities with Amendment No. 1 will be considered for final reading. There were no questions or comments.

Under Old Business, the Council will make a final decision on Rezoning Case 2015-06: 213 Farms LLC. There were no questions or comments.

Under New Business, the Council will consider approval of the Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #23. Council President Hodge asked Winston Robinson, Director of Finance, if his department reviewed the school's budget amendment. Mr. Robinson stated that his office reviews budget amendments but has limited oversight beyond the revenue and expenses. He offered to relay any questions from Council to the schools.

#### **Council Manager Report**

Mr. Massey reminded the Council of the Cecil County Public School service recognition dinner and Elkton Chamber/Alliance Small Business Person of the Year banquet. He also commented on the United Way campaign, Human Rope to Stop the Dope event, and update on the Rock Springs Expansion Project.

#### **Council Member Items**

Council President Hodge encouraged Council Members to serve as judges for the North East Christmas Parade on December 5. He reminded the public that Saturday, November 28 is Small Business Day and encouraged the public to shop local Cecil County businesses.

Councilwoman Bowsbey reviewed the Planning Commission actions. She brought up an issue in the Zoning Ordinance that requires sawmills located in NAR or SAR zones to reapply for a special exception every three years. The Council discussed the procedure to amend this regulation in the zoning ordinance.

Councilman Schneckeburger attended the second Saturday Art Event in Rising Sun recently. He will be attending the Elkton Alliance Small Business Person of the Year Award Banquet.

Councilman Patchell had no comments.

Vice President McCarthy commented that he visited the Elkton Library on Saturday and found the parking lot full because of a popular genealogy program. He stated that the Elkton Library needs more space to serve the public.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

**10:05 A.M.**

On motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to convene in closed session pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government, 10-508(a)(14) before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process. The motion was carried unanimously.

Roll Call Vote: McCarthy - Y, Bowsbey - Y, Schneckeburger - Y, Patchell - Y, Hodge - Y.

**OPEN SESSION**

**11:03 A.M.**

Council President Hodge reconvened the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

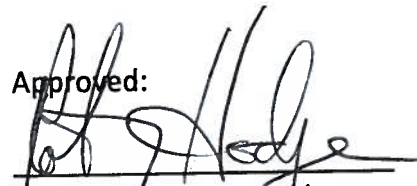
**Adjournment**

President Hodge adjourned the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Attest:

  
James Massey  
Council Manager

Approved:

  
Robert J. Hodge, President  
County Council of Cecil County