

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
February 25, 2014**

PRESENT: Council Members: President Hodge, Vice President Alan McCarthy, Joyce Bowsbey, Michael Dunn and Diana Broomell; Tari Moore, County Executive; Al Wein, Director of Administration; County Attorney, Jason Allison; James Massey, Council Manager; Teri Birney, 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.

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

Approval of Minutes

Council President Hodge reminded the Council that the contents of meeting minutes are to include, according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Councilman Dunn stated that he intended to abstain because of his absence.

On motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to approve the minutes for February 18, 2014, as presented.

The motion passes 4-1 with Councilman Dunn abstained.

Discussion – Council Policies and Procedures – Council Decorum

Council President Hodge led a discussion of Council decorum, and his intention to follow adhere more closely to the procedures outlined in Robert's Rules of Order and in the Policies and Procedures of the Cecil County Council. Discussion and comments ensued.

Discussion – Request from Judges of Orphan's Court

Council President Hodge led a discussion regarding a request from the Judges of Orphan's Court for an increase in salary. Council Manager Massey stated that Delegate Rudolph and Senator Hershey asked for a letter of support for an amendment to SB 936 - Cecil County - Salary of Sheriff, which would propose an incremental increase of \$6500 in FY 2016, \$7500 in FY 2017 and \$8750 in FY 2018 for the three Judges of the Orphan's Court.

On motion made by Councilwoman Bowsbey, seconded by Vice President McCarthy the Council moved to approve the salary increase and to send a letter of support. Discussion and comments ensued. The motion passes 3-2, with Councilwoman Broomell and Councilman Dunn opposed.

Councilman Dunn requested the vote tally be included in the letter of support. Discussion and comments ensued. Council President Hodge stated his opposition and asked that this item be placed on the agenda at the next Council work session.

Review of State Legislative Log

President Hodge reviewed pending legislation in Annapolis that the Council took a position. He suggested Council Members attend the hearing for SB 730 - Cash Toll Lanes - Hatem Bridge, which will be held on March 12. A letter of support for SB 730 will be sent to the delegation and bill sponsors. Mr. Massey was asked to contact the Chamber of Commerce to encourage their support of this legislation.

Councilwoman Broomell requested that the Council meet with Bruce Gartner, Executive Director of the Maryland Transportation Authority, regarding the tolls, coupon booklet and cash lanes.

State Legislation for Consideration of Support

County Attorney Allison provided information relevant to HB 453 - Multifamily Rental Housing Programs - and how it could potentially have a negative impact on the County. Discussion and comments ensued.

On motion made by Councilwoman Broomell, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to send a letter of opposition for HB 453. Motion carries unanimously.

Council President Hodge led a discussion on HB 1067- Highway User Tax- Larger Share to Counties, which proposes to increase the share of the highway user funds to the Counties.

On motion made by Councilwoman Broomell, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to send a letter of support for HB 1067. Motion carries unanimously.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey informed the Council the Broadband Task Force met on February 20 and they chose Dave Warnick as the Chair and Clifton Reddig as the Vice Chair. The committee will meet every two weeks, the meeting minutes will be posted on the website.

Mr. Massey informed the Council the Independent Auditor Selection Committee will have the Request for Proposal ready by the end of the week. He also reminded about the appointments of members to the Citizens Budget Advisory Board. The Council Budget hearing will begin March 11 at 1:30 p.m. Councilwoman Broomell requested moving up the hearing so she could attend the Drug and Alcohol Council meeting. Mr. Massey will check with the library and the college if they can change their schedule to accommodate this request.

Mr. Massey reminded the Council Aberdeen Proving Ground officials are scheduled on March 18 to update the Council about their new JLENS program. The Board of Health will be held on March 25 at the Council Work Session.

Council Member Items

Councilman Dunn attended the Parks and Recreation board meeting February 24 and reminded the Council that they will be requesting funds for a regional park at Calvert.

Council Vice President McCarthy had no comments.


Councilwoman Bowsbey attended the Early Childhood Advisory meeting and the regional competition of the Future Business Leaders of American at North East High School. She will be attending the retirement party for Nick Riscuitti on February 25, the Patriots Pens and Voice of Democracy Awards at the VFW in Port Deposit on February 28, the 4-H Achievement Night at Fair Hill.

Councilwoman Broomell requested that Harborrock make a presentation to the Council. She requested an updated copy of the sludge inspection contract, which is being drafted between MDE and the Health Department. She also spoke of her frustrations with the Drug and Alcohol Council and issues with overdose treatment. Councilwoman Broomell reviewed the list of initiatives from Ken Collins, Special Assistant to the County Executive for Drug Policy, with the Council. Ms. Broomell discussed the ways the Drug and Alcohol Council should be addressing these issues. She commented on the tour of the Harford County Detention Center. Ms. Broomell requested Sheriff Janney and Major Rudy come to speak to the Council about the counseling the detention center provides.

Council President Hodge reminded the public of the afternoon workshop at 1:30 pm in the Elk Room. Mr. Hodge commented on the drug effort in Cecil County.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Hodge adjourned the meeting by general consensus at 10:07 a.m.

Approved: 

Robert J. Hodge, President
County Council of Cecil County

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager

