

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORKSESSION MINUTES
July 30, 2013

PRESENT: Council Members: President Robert Hodge, Vice President Alan McCarthy, Joyce Bowlsbey, Michael Dunn, and Diana Broomell; Council Manager James Massey, Director of Administration Al Wein, Department of Public Works Director Scott Flanigan, Finance Director Winston Robinson, Planning and Zoning Director Eric Sennstrom, Administrative Assistant Robin McCann, 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

On motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowlsbey, the Council moved to approve the July 23, 2013 Worksession Meeting Minutes, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Major Facilities Fee Wastewater Rate Study

President Hodge presented an overview of the budget process relative to the increase in the major facilities fee and the reasons for reviewing the Major Facilities Fee Wastewater Rate Study and upgrades to the North East Advance Wastewater Treatment Plant (Seneca Point).

Director Scott Flanigan provided a review of the Major Facilities Fee Wastewater Rate Study, upgrades to Seneca Point, and the need for the increase in the major facilities fee.

Councilwoman Broomell provided her comments regarding the Major Facilities Fee, the Port Deposit interceptor project, and financing for the North East River Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant at Seneca Point.

Members of the Council provided their comments regarding the Major Facilities Fee Wastewater Rate Study and the increase in the major facilities fee.

Finance Director Robinson provided an overview of the budget process relative to providing funding for capital projects.

President Hodge invited the public to comment on the Major Facilities Fee Wastewater Rate Study.

Gaylor Moody commented on the rate model and the need for the County to have financial controls in place.

Bill Feehley commented on the rate model relative to whether it was based on denitrification or membrane technology.

Dan Whitehurst, Clark Turner Homes, commented on the pace of construction as indicated in the rate study and suggested that the rate study be based on three years, rather than five years.

Rising Sun Mayor Robert Fisher commented on the rate model and study.

Michael Harrison, Homebuilders of Maryland, requested the existing projects already in the pipeline be grandfathered in at the current fee rate.

Mario Gangemi, Bainbridge Development Corporation, stated that no County funds were allocated for the Bainbridge project.

Members of the Council provided their comments regarding the Major Facilities Fee Wastewater Rate Study and increase in the major facilities fee.

President Hodge provided his comments relative to the decision made for the upgrades to Seneca Point and the impact of the increase in the major facilities fee. He advised the public that Council Manager Massey is working to schedule additional meetings with Public Works staff to review the wastewater capital projects. He requested additional information from the Bainbridge Development Corporation relative to their proposed development timeline.

Council concurred to proceed with review of the wastewater capital projects.

Discussion - Noise Ordinance

Council Manager Massey provided Council members with a copy of other local county noise ordinance and the State noise ordinance. He advised the Council that the Sheriff's Office and State's Attorney's Office have been contacted for information on enforcement of the State's noise ordinance.

President Hodge asked Council Manager Massey to provide Council members with a copy of Harford County noise ordinance brochure.

Members of the Council provided their comments regarding the enforcement of the State noise ordinance at the local level; the effectiveness of the State ordinance to solve a local noise problem; the need to adopt a noise ordinance for Cecil County; additional resources that may be needed to enforce a local noise ordinance; and the civil process available to property owners to solve a noise problem.

On motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to not consider the adoption of a local noise ordinance for Cecil County at this time. Motion carried by a vote of 4 in favor and 1 in opposition. VOTE: Hodge - Y, McCarthy - Y, Bowsbey - Y, Dunn - Y, Broomell - Y (N).

Discussion ensued regarding the intent of the motion. President Hodge advised the Council that the motion and vote confirms that the Council does not intend to adopt a local noise ordinance at this time.

Relative to the discussion on the motion, Councilwoman Broomell stated that she would like to change her vote and vote in favor of the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey advised the Council of the Blood Bank Drive is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6th from 1:00 - 6:00 p.m., Healthy Lifestyle Expo is scheduled for August 8th at 8:30 a.m., and Governor O'Malley's Roundtable on "Overdose Prevention Plan" with law enforcement and health officials is scheduled for August 9th at 9:00 am. He announced that a meeting has been scheduled regarding sludge permit applications and Councilwoman Broomell advised him that the meeting will be rescheduled for a date after August 17th due to the MACo Summer Conference.

Council Member Items

Councilwoman Bowsbey provided Council Members with a list of MACo Summer Conference seminars in order to coordinate their attendance at all programs. She also announced that Harford County Executive David Craig will be holding a Republican Elected Officials Breakfast on Thursday, August 15, 2013. She advised the Council that she is planning to attend a training seminar, Building a Respectful Workplace, on August 1, 2013.

Councilwoman Broomell commented that a member of the Singery Volunteer Fire Department, EMS Rob Muller, will be representing Cecil County at the MACo seminar on "Vouching for Volunteer Fire Departments".

Councilman Dunn had no comments.

Vice President McCarthy commented on a constituent complaint regarding A Buddy for Life. He advised the Council that he has asked Circuit Court Judge Keith Baynes to attend a Worksession to provide his views on drug abuse in Cecil County.

Councilwoman Bowsbey advised Vice President McCarthy that the County has an Animal Care and Control Oversight Commission, and the County Executive receives quarterly reports from A Buddy for Life. She advised the Council that she responded to a constituent that she has forwarded his complaint to the Director of Administration and the County Executive.

President Hodge thanked Councilwoman Bowsbey for organizing the attendance of the MACo Summer Conference seminars and he reviewed various seminars available. President Hodge requested a consensus from the Council on canceling the Worksession meetings for December 24, 2013 and December 31, 2013.

On motion made by Councilwoman Bowsbey, seconded by Vice President McCarthy, the Council moved to cancel the Worksession meetings for December 24, 2013 and December 31, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Being no further business, President Robert Hodge adjourned the meeting at 12:15 a.m.