

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORKSESSION MINUTES
August 6, 2013

PRESENT: Council Members: President Robert Hodge, Vice President Alan McCarthy, Joyce Bowsbey, and Diana Broomell; Council Manager James Massey, County Executive Tari Moore, Director of Administration Al Wein, Finance Director Winston Robinson, Attorney Jason Allison, Administrative Assistant Robin McCann, members of the press, and members of the public.

Councilman Dunn was absent.

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 Bowsbey, the Council moved to approve the July 30, 2013 Worksession Meeting Minutes, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Maryland Rural Counties Coalition

Representatives from the Maryland Rural Counties Coalition including Allegany County Commissioner President Michael McKay, Frederick County Commissioner President Blaine Young and Frederick County Administrative Analyst Ragen Cherney presented their annual report to the Council.

Three Maryland Counties formed the rural coalition in 2011, which has grown to 10 counties and four additional counties are interested in joining. The coalition represents rural perspectives and mutual concerns. During 2013 session of the General Assembly, the coalition took an active role on nine bills and was successful with four of them, a success rate of 44%

For the future, the coalition will promote individual membership so rural portions of more populated counties can be represented. Corporate membership will also be offered.

Members of the Council provided their comments regarding the Maryland Rural Counties Coalition.

Independent Auditor

Director of Administration Al Wein reviewed the Charter Section 606 regarding the independent auditor, which the Council is responsible for hiring. He stated that the County Commissioners had hired SB & Company, LLC in March 2009 on a five-year contract, which will expire after FY 2013 audit. The process of auditing the County's FY 2013 budget has already begun. He requested that the Council support the current contract that is in place.

Winston Robinson, Director of Finance, explained the role of the independent auditor and suggested a process for hiring. He discussed the advantages of a multi-year contract.

Councilwoman Bowsbey asked if the past Commissioners had been satisfied with the audit by SB and Company. Members of the Council provided their comments regarding the current auditor, SB & Company, LLC.

Council President Hodge asked Council Members if there were any objections to continue the current contract through FY 2013. Councilwoman Broomell requested a week to review this matter.

President Hodge asked Council Manager Massey to add Auditing Services to the August 13, 2013 Worksession Agenda.

President Hodge asked Finance Director Winston Robinson to submit a copy of the 2009 Auditing Services Request For Proposal.

Discussion - Animal Control

Council President Hodge led discussion regarding rumors that the Council was preparing changes in the current Animal Care and Control laws, which is untrue. He stated he hoped that the Animal Care and Control Oversight Commission will evaluate the current laws and bring any suggestions for changes to the Council.

Council Members discussed how complaints about animals or about services of A Buddy for Life should be handled.

Councilwoman Bowsbey attended the last meeting of the Animal Care and Control Commission where kennel owners stated that the kennel fees are too high. She commended the members of the Commission for their efforts.

Review of Legislation

President Hodge reviewed the following Legislation on the Legislative meeting agenda:

Bill No. 2013-07 Motor Vehicle Internal Service Fund

Bill No. 2013-08 Grant Revenue

Council President Hodge requested that the Council Manager work with the Director of Finance to revise the synopsis to better reflect the bill's intent.

Bill No. 2013-09 Capital Budget

Bill No. 2013-10 General Obligation Bond Authorization

Resolution No. 75-2013 Bay Area Inspection Agency

Resolution No. 76-2013 American Inspection Agency

Resolution No. 77-2013 Appointments - Board of Appeals

Resolution No. 78-2013 Appointments - Planning Commission

Resolution No. 79-2013 Lease and Purchase Agreement - 912 Appleton Road, Elkton

County Executive Tari Moore and Tom Kappra, Chief Financial Officer of Cecil County Public Schools made presentations in support of the efforts to lease and purchase the property at 912 Appleton Road as the new site of the School of Technology.

Members of the Council provided their comments regarding the Legislative Meeting Agenda.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey advised the Council of the Healthy Lifestyles Expo that is scheduled for Thursday, August 8th at 8:30 a.m., Governor O'Malley's Roundtable on "Overdose Prevention Plan" with law enforcement and health officials is scheduled for August 9th at 9:00 am, and the MACo Summer Conference on Wednesday, August 14th - 17th. Council Manager Massey advised Council Members of the Agenda items for the Sustainable Growth Commission meeting scheduled on Monday, September 23, 2013 at 1:00 pm. He also gave a follow-up from Sheriff Barry Janney regarding Carroll County Noise Ordinance statistics and legislation.

Council Member Items

Councilwoman Bowsbey confirmed the Charter Borrowing Limitations, and stated that she is excited about the opportunity to acquire the Basell property as the new school of technology for Cecil County.

Councilwoman Broomell commented on the State representative meeting addressing Cecil County Drug Abuse. She advised the public that the next Drug Awareness Program will be held at Grace Bible Chapel

on August 25, 2013 at 6:00 pm. She also stated that the public information meeting regarding sludge permits has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 21, 2013, at 6:30 pm, in the Elkton High School cafeteria.

Vice President McCarthy had no comments.

President Hodge commented on the FY2014 Budget Process.

Adjournment

Being no further business, President Robert Hodge adjourned the meeting at 11:11 am.