

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORKSESSION MINUTES
September 10, 2013

PRESENT: Council members: President Robert Hodge, Vice President Alan McCarthy, Joyce Bowlsbey, Diana Broomell, Council Manager James Massey, Director of Administration Al Wein, County Executive Tari Moore, Health Officer Stephanie Garrity, Honorable Judge Keith Baynes and Staff, 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 September 3, 2013 Worksession Meeting Minutes, with amendments. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation - Honorable Judge Keith Baynes

Vice President McCarthy welcomed Judge Keith Baynes to the Council work session.

Judge Baynes, along with his staff, Court Administrator Matthew Barrett, and Drug Court Coordinator Sheri Lazarus, presented an overview of drug use in Cecil County and their work with Drug Court.

Members of the Council provided their comments regarding Drug Court.

Drug Court Coordinator, Sheri Lazarus, provided additional details about clients in the Drug Court system. She also stated that more funding would be beneficial in supporting costs for transportation, detox facility, etc.

Councilwoman Broomell asked if the Methadone Program has been effective.

Judge Baynes stated that some of the Methadone Clinics are more maintenance than treatment programs. He is actively addressing this issue with the current Methadone Clinics within Cecil County.

Councilwoman Broomell stated that DHMH is meeting monthly with Cecil County officials and suggested that Drug Court staff should participate. The next meeting will be a conference call to be held on Thursday, September 26, 2013.

Discussion - "Governor's Roundtable - Next Steps"

County Executive Tari Moore and Health Officer Stephanie Garrity provided an update regarding the "Governors Roundtable Next Steps." They announced that Ken Collins has been appointed as a Special Assistant to the County Executive for Drug Policy.

Members of the Council provided their comments regarding the "Governors Roundtable Next Steps."

President Hodge stated his opinions regarding the new position and the need to make drug abuse problems in Cecil County a top priority.

Councilwoman Broomell suggested the need for a public access channel to reach County constituents about this serious issue.

President Hodge stated that the Council would appreciate a progress report in the future in order to support their efforts of developing drug prevention programs.

Discussion - State Sludge Permit Process

President Hodge presented an update regarding the State sludge permit process.

President Hodge confirmed that the Council and administration will meet with MDE about the State sludge permit process on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 2:00 pm in the Elk Room.

Members of the Council provided their comments regarding the meeting regarding the State sludge permit process. Council Members agreed that Councilwoman Broomell will ask questions from the compiled list. President Hodge stated that he will work with Council Manager Massey to set an agenda and timeline.

Council Members agreed to add the following concerns to the list for MDE to respond: content quality of sludge, grab sampling, and testing for other elements.

Councilwoman Broomell asked that the public have an opportunity to speak and ask questions at the meeting with a time limit of three minutes. Council members agreed.

Discussion - Gun Safety

Councilwoman Bowlsbey presented a brief update regarding gun safety efforts. She spoke with Calvin Karschner of the Department of Natural Resources about gun safety classes that are available in Cecil County. She asked the Council Members for their consensus to attend the fire chiefs' meeting to request that they allow their fire halls to be used for gun safety training classes, which are sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources at no charge. Council Members agreed.

Members of the Council provided their comments regarding gun safety training.

Discussion - Clean Chesapeake Coalition

Vice President McCarthy presented an update regarding the Council's efforts to encourage other Maryland Counties to join the Clean Chesapeake Coalition. Council Members reviewed the letter that had been revised by Chip MacLeod of CCC. Councilwoman Broomell and Vice President McCarthy will work together to finalize the letter.

Discussion - Council Decorum

President Hodge led discussion regarding past behavior of Council Members during Citizens Corner, work sessions and legislative meetings.

Members of the Council provided their comments regarding Council decorum.

Councilman McCarthy reviewed his suggestions about Council decorum and recommended that a new policies and procedure should be developed and adopted for the Council Policies and Procedures Manual.

President Hodge stated that the policy and procedure regarding Council decorum should include appropriate consequences.

President Hodge asked Council Members if anyone objected to Council Manager Massey reviewing the proposed consequences with Attorney Jason Allison.

On motion made by Councilwoman Bowsbey, seconded by Vice President McCarthy, the Council moved to request Council Manager Massey to develop a proposal on disciplinary consequences with Attorney Jason Allison, which could be incorporated into the Council Policies and Procedures manual.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey reminded Council Members that the Redistricting Commission will meet on Thursday, September 12, 2013 at 7:00 pm to review their final report, which will be presented to the Council in a future Council legislative session. On September 17, 2013 at 9:00 am, Chip MacLeod will present an update regarding the Clean Chesapeake Coalition. On September 17 at 2:00 pm., MDE will meet with the Council and administration to discuss the Council's concerns about the sludge permit land application. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month when the Council will be sponsoring events to raise awareness and support. On October 8, 2013 at 9:00 am, the Board of Health, which includes the Council, County Executive Tari Moore and Health Officer Stephanie Garrity will meet during the Council work session.

Council Manager Massey presented a draft of the County Council newsletter designed by Executive Office Administrator Vicky Rinkerman. Council Members were asked to be prepared to discuss at the next Council work session.

Council Member Items

Councilwoman Bowsbey attended the Chamber of Commerce legislative update meeting and the Local Management Board. She also congratulated County Executive Tari Moore and Health Officer Stephanie Garrity for the positive impression they made on Governor Martin O'Malley during the Roundtable Discussion. Councilwoman Bowsbey attended the Strategic Planning

Advisory Network (SPAN) meeting on Monday, September 9, 2013. She reminded the public of the Town Hall meeting with Congressman Andy Harris to be held on Thursday, September 12, 2013 at 7:00 pm.

Councilwoman Broomell also attended the SPAN meeting on September 9. She made comments about the recommendations of the Dredged Material Management Program, which indicates their intention to reopen Pearce Creek and Courthouse Point.

She also stated that she will bring this issue to Congressman Harris as well as other concerns related to drug abuse, physician licensing, and sharing information with adjoining states.

She gave her sincere condolences regarding the passing of Austin Amos. She intends to introduce an amendment to require the disclosure of the identity of LLC ownership, which is the seller of the Basell property to the County. She stated that she received testimony in opposition on the current Bills 2013-09 and 2013-10; and she commended the Cecil County's Sheriff's Office for their assistance regarding a missing Cecil County girl.

Council President Hodge asked that the topic of the LLC identity be included on the next Council work session agenda.

Vice President McCarthy expressed his support for the Basell property and opposition to the need to identify the owners of the LLC. He questioned the value of the Cecil Whig poll and agreed that surveys are not scientific or reflective of the opinion of the general public. He also presented some words of wisdom.

Councilman Dunn commented on the public hearing regarding Resolution No. 79-2013; Lease Purchase Agreement, 912 Appleton Road, and Bill No. 2013-10; General Obligation Bond Authorization. He also stated that the public hearing telephone calls and emails are just as valid as live testimony and would like to have them included in the record.

Mr. Dunn received messages against Bill No. 2013-10 from the following: Eric R Elko, Elkton; Marcia Eldreth; Ernest Little; Pete Raymond, Conowingo; Neal McCleary, Fair Hill; Tom Kermode, Chesapeake City; Valerie Falcioni, North East; Sara Krapf; Cliff Evans; Jim Zack, Elkton; Teresa Zack, Elkton; Joseph Tropp, Earleville; Richard Boyle, Elkton; Diane Carabetta, Perryville; Kenneth Whalen, Port Deposit; and Jacque Broomell, Colora.

President Hodge stated that there will be open discussion on all legislation being considered September 17 during the Council work session and legislative session.

Councilwoman Broomell stated that the Ethics Commission is concerned about the lack of registered lobbyists. She indicated that the Ethics Commission may wish to discuss this issue at a Council work session.

President Hodge stated his opinion on the Ethics Commission regarding lobbyists. He also stated that the Ethics Commission should contact the County Executive or send a letter of concern to the County Council. President Hodge also expressed his concern that Councilwoman Broomell should not be speaking for the Ethics Commission. Councilwoman Broomell expressed her concern for government transparency and her right to bring her concerns to the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Hodge adjourned the meeting at 11:14 am.