

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORKSESSION MINUTES – As Amended
October 8, 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, Planning and Zoning Director Eric Sennstrom, Principal Planner Tony DiGiacomo, County Attorney Jason Allison, Executive Office Administrator Vicky Rinkerman, 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 minutes, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

State Sludge Permit Application

County Attorney Allison provided a legal opinion and presented a review of the state regulations pertaining to public hearings and information meetings for sludge permit applications. He advised the Council that they may request another meeting with officials from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) on the sludge permit applications.

Discussion, questions and comments ensued regarding state regulations relative to requesting a public information meeting in each subdivision, definition and application of the term “subdivision” in the regulations; notification to the public of the public meetings on the sludge permit applications; and notification from MDE to the county and elected officials on the applications.

President Hodge advised the public that the Council sent a letter to MDE requesting additional public meetings. The topic of notification of MDE meetings is scheduled to be discussed at the Workshop meeting with the County Executive at 2:30 p.m. this afternoon.

Briefing – Child Advocacy Center

Anne Bean and members of the child abuse team presented information relative to the role of the Child Advocacy Center in the community and procedures used to address the issues of child sexual and physical abuse.

Discussion, questions and comments ensued regarding options for correcting offending behavior; accreditation of the Child Advocacy Center; procedures to investigate child abuse when the victim is now an adult; process for referring reports for investigation; human trafficking definition and data in the county; funding sources for the Child Advocacy Center; process for investigating sexual abuse and sexual assault cases for children; support for victims and families of sexual abuse and assault; and proposed expansion plans for the facility and services.

Redistricting Plan – Next Steps

President Hodge and Council Manager Massey reviewed the next steps for approving the Redistricting Plan submitted by the committee at the October 1, 2013 Council Legislative meeting.

Discussion, questions and comments ensued regarding the adoption of the Redistricting Plan by the majority of the committee; information and items that were discussed and not provided in the plan; discussion relative to a proposal for the county to move to in-district voting; and review of other maps that were discussed by the committee.

President Hodge advised the Council that any Council member who disagrees with the map that was submitted by the Redistricting Committee should be prepared to present an alternative map at the public hearing on October 15, 2013.

Consolidated Transportation Plan

Director of Administration Wein reviewed the FY2014 Transportation Priorities.

Discussion, questions and comments ensued regarding the transportation proposals for the Route 222 and I95 interchange and sidewalk extension project in the Perryville area; meetings scheduled with local staff and state officials; meeting scheduled with the elected and state officials; and information being provided to the public on proposed changes to Route 222.

Principal Planner DiGiacomo advised the Council that proposed improvements to the Route 222 and I95 intersection and Route 222 and Route 40 intersection is a work in progress. Officials from the State Highway Administration and Maryland Transportation Authority are hesitant to discuss improvement ideas, proposals and concepts before a decision has been made on how the state intends to proceed. The towns have been notified of the meetings and the state agencies are required to schedule and hold public hearings prior to proceeding with any improvement plan. State officials have scheduled the meeting to be held in the Elkton Library.

Discussion, questions and comments ensued regarding moving the location of the meeting to the Elk Room and the county providing a press release regarding the transportation priorities meeting.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey advised the Council that the afternoon worksession will begin at 2:30 p.m. and not 2:00 p.m.; the Aberdeen Proving Ground Oktoberfest has been canceled for this weekend; a presentation regarding the Nottingham Lots and an update from the Bainbridge Development Corporation will be scheduled for the next worksession meeting; and on October 17, 2013, there is a Clean Chesapeake Coalition meeting with Fred Grant at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. or 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Discussion and comments ensued regarding the county attorney making plans to attend this meeting since it involves possible litigation.

Council Manager Massey continued advising the Council the meeting with our State Delegation is scheduled for Friday, November 1 at 11:00 a.m. and the Consolidated Transportation Plan meeting is at 2:30 p.m.

Council Member Items

Councilwoman Broomell advised the Council that Talbot County has joined the Clean Chesapeake Coalition.

Councilman Dunn had no comments.

Vice President McCarthy commented on the presentation made at the Board of Health meeting.

Councilwoman Bowsbey commented on awards presented by Comptroller Franchot to three students for their artwork and the Christmas in April organization.

President Hodge commented on the meeting with officials from the Maryland Association of Counties and legislative initiatives.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to adjourn the meeting. President Hodge adjourned the meeting at 11:43 am.