

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
November 19, 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, Chair, Economic Development Commission, Norman Gaither, members of the Economic Development Commission, Dr. Ken Lewis and Danny DeMarinis, Director of Economic Development, Lisa Webb, Economic Development Manager, Susan O'Neill, Director of Finance, Winston Robinson, Sheriff Barry Janney, 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 Councilman McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowlsbey, the Council moved to approve the November 12, 2013 Work Session Minutes. Motion was carried unanimously.

On motion made by Councilman McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowlsbey, the Council moved to approve the November 12, 2013 Closed Session Minutes. Motion was carried unanimously.

Presentation – Economic Development Commission Technology Subcommittee

Norman Gaither, Chair of Technology Subcommittee of the Economic Development Commission, presented the committee's plans to achieve a technology process for the County's strategic planning commission to consider. Dr. Ken Lewis and Danny DeMarinis also made comments about their progress. Discussion and comments ensued.

Presentation – W.L. Gore- Enterprise Zone

Director of Economic Development, Lisa Webb and Economic Development Manager, Susan O'Neill discussed their proposal to extend the enterprise zone property tax credit to W.L. Gore & Associates property, located at 101 Lovett Drive in Elkton. The Council was asked to take action on Resolution No. 96-2013 at the same legislative session as the public hearing so that the tax credit can be processed for 2014. Discussion and comments ensued.

Presentation – Cecil County Maryland FY2013 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Director of Finance, Winston Robinson, explained the process of preparing the FY 2013 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which had been distributed to Council Members previously.

Gray Smith of SB and Company, independent auditor for Cecil County, described their role in conducting the audit and their agreement with the CAFR, indicating that there were no deficiencies or areas of improvement cited. Mr. Smith and Mr. Robinson responded to questions from Council Members.

Due to time constraint, Mr. Robinson agreed to delay his monthly update and projections to another date.

Presentation – HIDTA Designation

Sheriff Barry Janney discussed the criteria that Cecil County met in order to be designated as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area by the U.S. He also described how the HIDTA designation will help law enforcement and the community in combating drug trafficking. He informed the Council that an award ceremony will be held on December 2, 2013, at 10 a.m. at the HIDTA Headquarters in Greenbelt, MD. Questions, discussion, and comments ensued.

Letter of Support – Legislative Initiatives

Council Members reviewed the County Executive's proposed joint letter of support for legislative initiatives. Councilwoman Broomell asked about a proposal for the Sheriff's salary. The administration indicated that they will bring a proposal to the Council at a later time.

Councilwoman Bowsbey made a motion to approve the joint letter of support, which was seconded by Councilman McCarthy. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Broomell stated that she will be bringing other initiatives to the Council to consider at a later time.

Discussion – State Highway Administration Proposed Roundabouts- Follow up

Council President Hodge led discussion of the State Highway Administration's public meeting about the proposed roundabouts.

The Council requested Council Manager Massey to request that SHA engineers Greg Holsey and Tom Revelle to meet with the Council to clarify issues raised in discussion.

Review of Legislative Session Agenda

Council Manager Massey provided a review of the items on the legislative agenda.

Director of Administration, Al Wein provided comments relative to Resolution No. 93-2013, the Length of Service Award Program.

Director of Administration, Al Wein provided comments relative to the Ethics Commission Term of Appointment and commission appointment.

Discussion and comments ensued regarding the term of appointment to the Ethic Commission.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey advised Council Members of the Tome School Tour on November 23 at 10:30. There will be no Council work session meeting November 26 due to the holiday. At the request of Councilwoman Broomell, the Maryland Transportation Authority will make a presentation to the Council on December 3, 2013, about the proposed electronic toll on the Hatem Bridge.

Council Members were reminded of the Minahasa delegation visit on December 4, the County Executive's Town Meeting on December 10, and the MACo Winter Conference on December 11-13. There will no Council work sessions on December 24 and December 31. Council Members sent congratulatory letter to Steven Arentz, newly appointed Delegate representing the 36th District.

Council Member Items

Councilwoman Broomell requested a legal opinion from the Council Attorney regarding MDE's letter that questions the County's authority to adopt Resolution No. 2014-14. The Council agreed to request an opinion from Mr. Allison.

Councilwoman Broomell attended the Maryland Rural Counties Coalition meeting in Annapolis, the Upper Shore Regional Council via telephone, and showing of the documentary film, *Anonymous People*. Councilwoman Broomell suggested inviting Congressman Harris to come discuss legislative initiatives with the Council.

Councilwoman Bowsbey attended the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting and the Local Management Board Meeting. She also visited the Fireman's Association meeting in Hacks Point where several fire companies agreed to host the gun safety classes.

Vice President McCarthy asked for clarification of how the County's Strategic Plan will affect department or agency strategic plans.

President Hodge referred to a letter from Senator Hershey expressing his disappointment to MDTA that the extension of the MARC Line would not be considered for a decade. He also expressed his concern that users of the Hatem Bridge who do not have an EZ pass will be charged a higher fee than those with the EZ pass.

After discussion, the Council asked the Council Manager to invite Congressman Harris, Senator Mikulski and Senator Cardin to meet with the Council regarding the County's needs as well as to be updated on Washington legislation.

CLOSED SESSION

11:40 A.M.

On motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Broomell, the Council moved to convene into Closed Session pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government, Title 10, Section 508(a)(1)(i) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilwoman Bowsbey, seconded by Councilman McCarthy, the Council moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Approved:

Robert J. Hodge, President
County Council of Cecil County

Attest:

James Massey
Council Manager