

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
August 9, 2016

PRESENT: Council Members: President Robert Hodge, Vice President Alan McCarthy, Joyce Bowsbey, Dan Schneckenburger, George Patchell; Al Wein, Director of Administration; Jason Allison, Eric Sennstrom, Director of Planning and Zoning; James Massey, Council Manager; Angela Vaca, Administrative Assistant; members of the press; and members of the public. Guests: Mike Levengood, Chief Animal Welfare Officer and Farmer Relationship Advocate; Steve Levitsky, Vice President, Sustainability; Andrea Staub, Senior vice President, Corporate Communications; Herb Frerichs, General Counsel and Governmental Relations; and Steve Cameron, Broiler Growout Manager.

OPEN SESSION – Elk Room

9:00 a.m. – Council President Hodge called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and determined a quorum.

NOTE: Audio recording of this meeting is available on the County website www.ccgov.org.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilman Schneckenburger, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of August 2, 2016, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

Perdue Foods

Mike Levengood, Vice President, Chief Animal Care Officer and Farmer Relationship Advocate, Perdue Foods, introduced his associates including Steve Levitsky, Vice President, Sustainability; Andrea Staub, Senior Vice President, Corporate Communications; Herb Frerichs, General Counsel and Governmental Relations; and Steve Cameron, Broiler Growout Manager.

Mr. Levengood provided an overview of the Perdue program that contracts with local farmers to raise chickens organically. He explained the need for productive scale farming and the technologies that have improved poultry farming. He compared the proposed operation at the Horst farm with the existing Meck farm near Earleville and commented on the lack of complaints. He explained the volume of chickens in each house, the seven week cycle and the number of flocks raised per year. He cited the permits, plans and audits that are mandated by State agencies. He provided explanation of how chicken manure is handled and the monitoring to meet air and water quality standards.

Mr. Levitsky responded to concerns regarding manure runoff, excess nitrates and the impact on groundwater. He described how chicken manure can be sold or recycled for fertilizer.

Council questions and comments ensued. Mr. Levengood offered to provide tours of Perdue farms to the Council Members and public.

Shared Funding for Voting Equipment

Council President Hodge led a discussion of support for MACo's efforts to urge Governor Hogan to honor the State's commitment to split the cost for the cost of additional voting equipment between the State and counties. The Council approved of sending a letter of support to the Governor, which was cosigned by County Executive Moore.

Amendments to Bill No. 2016-18 Zoning Code for Drive-in Theaters

Council President Hodge led discussion of amendments to Bill No. 2016-18 Amendment - Zoning Code - Theater - Drive-in. The Council approved the draft of the proposed amendments by consensus and asked that these amendments be available to the public.

Mr. Sennstrom suggested to define "special events" as a non-movie screening event. The Council agreed with his suggestion and asked that the amendment be revised to reflect this change.

MACo Summer Conference Schedule

Council President Hodge reviewed the schedule for the MACo summer conference. There was additional discussion about the meeting with Secretary of Transportation, Pete Rahn.

Councilman Patchell proposed to request that the Hatem Bridge EZ pass be accepted at the Tydings Bridge on I-95 during rush hours of 6 am to 9 am and 3pm to 6pm for two-axle vehicles to alleviate traffic congestion on Route 222 and Route 40. He suggested that we should approach Harford County to ask for their support. The Council agreed to bring this issue to the attention of Secretary Rahn during the MACo conference.

Council Manager Report

Mr. Massey reviewed the calendar of upcoming events. He reported that the Council had received an update on the Racine School Road project, six month update of the Cecil County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council Strategic Plan, an update of the Nottingham Road project from SHA, and clarification of the implementation of the State Transportation Project process.

Council Member Comments

Councilwoman Bowlsbey attended the Upper Shore Regional Council Executive Board meeting and commented on Mayor Zang's concerns on the heavy use of tractor trailers on Route 213, which are bypassing a weighing station on US 301. She also attended the Local Management Board and reported on a study being conducted on homelessness in Cecil County.

Councilman Patchell inquired about the paving of Route 40. Mr. Wein responded that the State's paving of Route 40 should be soon between Perryville and Route 272.

Councilman Schneckenburger, Vice President McCarthy and Council President Hodge had no comments.

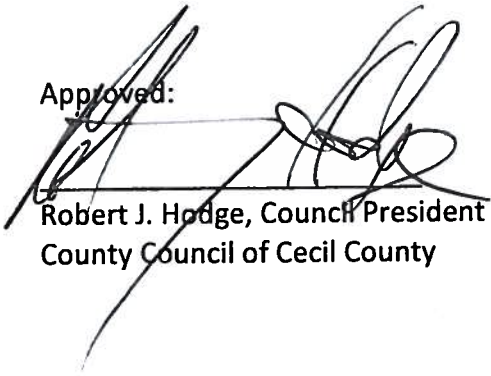
Adjournment

Council President Hodge adjourned the work session at 10:41 a.m.

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Robert J. Hodge, Council President
County Council of Cecil County

