

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY**  
**WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**September 27, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Council Members: President Robert Hodge, Vice President Alan McCarthy, Joyce Bowsbey, Dan Schneckenburger, Councilman Patchell; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant; Al Wein, Director of Administration; Jason Allison, County Attorney; Eric Sennstrom, Director of Planning and Zoning;  
**Guests:** Doris Mason, Executive Director, Upper Shore Regional Council; Dr. Jillian Fry, Johns Hopkins University Center for Livable Future; members of the press; and members of the public.

**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](http://www.ccgov.org).

**CLOSED SESSION**

**September 20, 2016**

**9:45 A.M.**

On motion made by Councilwoman Bowsbey, seconded by Vice President McCarthy, the Council moved to convene a closed session pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, State Government, Section 10-508(a)(8) to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.

The motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Roll Call Vote: McCarthy - Y, Bowsbey-Y, Schneckenburger - Y, Patchell- Y, and Hodge - Y.

Present: Council Members: President Hodge, Vice President McCarthy, Councilwoman Bowsbey, Councilman Schneckenburger, and Councilman Patchell; Al Wein, Director of Administration; Jason Allison, County Attorney; Winston Robinson, Director of Finance; Scott Flanigan, Director of Public Works; Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager; Philip Muzak, Chief of Engineering and Construction, Department of Public Works; Howard Stevens; James Massey, Council Manager; and Terry Hale, Council Assistant.

Mr. Allison and Mr. Stevens updated the Council regarding potential litigation.

On motion made by Councilwoman Bowsbey, seconded by Councilman Schneckenburger, the Council moved to conclude the closed session at 10:54 a.m. The motion was carried by a vote of 5 to 0.

Roll Call Vote: McCarthy - Y, Bowsbey-Y, Schneckenburger - Y, Patchell - Y and Hodge - Y.

### **Approval of Minutes**

On a motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilman Schneckenburger, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of September 20, 2016, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

On a motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council closed session of September 20, 2016, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

### **Upper Shore Regional Council - Update**

Doris Mason, Executive Director of Upper Shore Regional Council, reviewed the past year of actions by the Council and discussed future plans. She provided a packet of information that included a brochure about the USRC, Harvest Director and Wine Trail. She reviewed USRC's strategic plan that has evolved into the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, CEDS. She reviewed the agency's budget and described the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund grant that provided \$2M in 2017 to the Maryland's regional councils. She described the METS Guild that trained youth in GIS, website development and 3D virtualization. USRC is proposing a conference to be held in Chestertown and Easton on marketing and small business development. The agency is also supporting the development of business incubators.

### **MDOT Consolidated Transportation Plan**

Council President Hodge reviewed the issues and questions that were compiled from last week's work session for the MDOT Consolidated Transportation Plan meeting on September 30, 2016. Greg Holsey, Chief Engineer, will be providing a response to several questions regarding timeline for the North East AMTRAK bridge replacement and proposed roundabouts.

The Council agreed by consensus to assign Council Members certain projects to be discussed after MDOT's presentation. The assignments included: Councilman Schneckenburger regarding MARC projects, Council President Hodge regarding the North East AMTRAK bridge, Councilwoman Bowsbey regarding proposed roundabouts, and Councilman Patchell regarding a proposed EZ pass discount for commuters on Tydings Bridge. The administration was requested to comment in support of the proposed transit hub project.

### **State Delegation - Legislative Requests**

The Council reviewed a draft agenda of legislative requests, which will be discussed with the Delegation on Friday, September 30. The Liquor Board is requesting a new tasting license for beer, wine and liquor. The request from the Orphans' Court Judges includes a change in travel allowance, quarterly compensation payments, pension eligibility, and minor text changes. The County is requesting that the Delegation sponsor legislation to establish a commuter discount on Tydings Bridge.

### **Pearce Creek Update**

Vice President McCarthy reported on a meeting held at Pearce Creek to update officials on the progress of the project. Dr. McCarthy stated that the residents were very satisfied with the bottled water provided by the Army Corps of Engineers. The project to bring a municipal water line to Pearce Creek residents is ahead of schedule and should begin hooking up residents by October 2017. He stated that completion of the dredge containment vessel is underway and should be completed by 2017, which is the period they can deposit dredge materials. The old containment vessel has been repositioned for the new liner. The new liner is in place and they are covering with one foot of soil to protect it.

### **Health and Environmental Concerns for Chicken House Operations**

Dr. Jillian Fry from the Johns Hopkins University's Center for Livable Future gave a presentation regarding the health and community concerns with Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, CAFOs, associated with the proposed chicken house operation.

Dr. Fry described the release of contaminants, how they are transported, possible exposure to humans and possible health outcomes. She also summarized the air, water and other pathways that these contaminants are released into the environment. She explained that the nutrient management plans do not require monitoring for air or water quality. She stated that the public has limited recourses for those citizens who are impacted because of these gaps in regulations.

Dr. Fry also clarified the mission of the Center for Livable Future as a public health professional organization that shares scientific information with government that strives to be evidence based. She stated that the Wicomico County Health Impact Assessment did not follow the accepted guidelines in conducting their study. She urged Cecil County to consider protective requirements for public health and welfare. She suggested that the County should consider air and water monitoring, requiring bio filters on the fans, limiting overall density and more stringent setbacks, and providing tools to citizens who are negatively impacted by these operations. She asked that the Council consider risks factors of CAFO and other animal operations. She also stated that Perdue's comparison of large scale versus family farms leaves out farms that are in between in size and are sought out by institutions that are concerned about the impact of CAFOs.

Dr. Fry agreed that her center can be a resource for Cecil County in developing a health ordinance. She also discussed the political power of poultry farming in Delmarva. Council questions and comments ensued.

### **Council Manager Report**

Mr. Massey reviewed the calendar of upcoming events. He reviewed the State health agency's second quarter report of drug and alcohol related fatalities. He also summarized MACO's 2017 legislative initiatives and reported on the Clean Chesapeake Coalition regarding Pennsylvania's lack of action on water pollution that affects the Chesapeake Bay.

**Council Member Comments**

Councilman Schneckenburger addressed a Webelo Scout Den regarding Cecil County Government. He will be attending Cecil County Economic Development's Broker Event and School of Technology's National Technical Honor Society induction.

Councilwoman Bowsbey attended the 2016 Symposium for State and Local Commission on Aging at the North Laurel Senior Center and commented on the impressive activities and programs for seniors.

Councilman Patchell attended with Councilman Schneckenburger a meeting regarding the future of Donaldson Brown Center. A developer is interested in renovating the facility for a resort and conference center. He also presented a proclamation to the Cecil Whig for their 175th anniversary.

Vice President McCarthy commented on the MACo Legislative Committee's commitment to plugging the holes in drug addiction services. He also commented on a meeting with Senator Ben Cardin and the health professionals regarding heroin and substance abuse. He attended a recovery walk in Elkton.

Council President Hodge had no comments

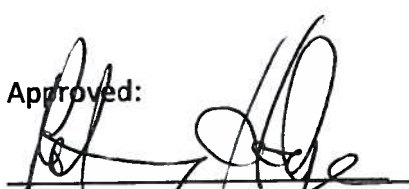
**Adjournment**

Council President Hodge adjourned the work session at 11:29 a.m.

Attest:

  
James Massey  
Council Manager

Approved:

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