

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
October 11, 2016

PRESENT: Council Members: Vice President Alan McCarthy, Joyce Bowsbey, Dan Schneckenburger, and George 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; members of the press; and members of the public.
Absent: Council President Robert Hodge

OPEN SESSION – Elk Room

9:00 a.m. – Vice President McCarthy 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 Councilwoman Bowsbey, seconded by Councilman Schneckenburger, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of October 4, 2016, as presented. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0. President Hodge was absent.

Sassafras River Association

Due to a family emergency, this presentation was postponed and will be rescheduled.

State Legislative Request

The Council reviewed the 2017 legislative requests to the delegation, which included adding provisions for beer, wine and liquor tastings from the Liquor Control Board, commuter discount tolls on the Tydings Bridge and possible relocation of toll facility to Delaware State Line, and changes in the travel allowance and pension eligibility for Judges of the Orphans' Court.

Councilman Patchell expressed his concern that the Council has not received a copy of the study that Secretary Rahn mentioned during the Consolidated Transportation Plan meeting. He also stated that Cecil County should continue to work with MDOT to address the excessive traffic that switches from I-95 to US 40 to avoid the higher toll rate. He suggested that if the MDOT's study is not received by the next session, another request for the study should be made directly to Secretary Rahn.

Council Members agreed to add the delegation's requests for \$200,000 for the Bainbridge Development Corporation's litigation, \$840,000 for a gravity pipe sewer line to connect Bainbridge with existing County sewer lines, \$750,000 to support new construction of an education building at North Bay, and \$8,485,000 for construction of 8 mile water line to connect the Town of Rising Sun to the Chester Water Authority. The Council agreed unanimously to add these requests to the County's legislative request list.

Amendment to Resolution No. 49-2016

Council Manager Massey reported that the Town of Perryville had requested changes in Resolution No. 49-2016 Amendment - Master Water and Sewer Plan - Port Deposit. They requested a revision to exclude the properties within the town limits of Perryville and the Perryville Growth Area from the proposed expansion of water service. The Council reviewed the revised maps to illustrate what was requested by the Town of Perryville.

Mr. Sennstrom stated that the Planning Commission had approved that only the Bainbridge property would be included as W-2, instead of W-3, and that the proposed map would accompany the text amendment to the State, after Council approval.

The Council agreed by consensus that the revised maps were acceptable.

Transfer of School Properties

Mr. Allison provided an explanation of the issue. The Cecil County Public Schools, Town of Elkton and County Government have discussed the Town's desire to construct a community center on property that is currently held by the schools. The parcel was considered ideal for the location of the Town's community center. The parcel includes 2.38 acres and 0.7191 acres located at 201 Booth Street, Elkton, MD and 203 Booth Street, Elkton, MD.

The public schools determined that this property is no longer needed for educational purposes and passed a resolution, which went to the State Superintendent and Board of Public Works for approval, which permits these school properties to be offered to the County. After receiving approval from the state, the local school board offered the property to the County on October 6, 2016, as required. The County has thirty days to respond to the schools by accepting the property with an economic development plan in place; or to decline to accept it. The administration supports the use of this property for use as a recreation center that could serve children in the community, provide a safe facility for after school activities and scholastic assistance.

The Council discussed the timing of this Resolution because the Council cannot pass legislation during November 2016 as required by Charter. The Council discussed considering this Resolution as expedited legislation. Mr. Allison stated that this Resolution is not considered as legislation but as an administrative action.

Mr. Allison further explained that the 0.7191 parcel is of interest to Wrights AME Church. The County cannot give property to a non-governmental entity. The administration suggested that the County can as for tangible consideration that this property be conveyed by the Town of Elkton to Wrights Church.

Councilwoman Bowsbey moved to sponsor this resolution as expedited legislation so it can be introduced and approved on October 18, 2016. The motion was seconded by Councilman Patchell and approved by a vote of 4 to 0. Council President Hodge was absent.

Council Manager Report

Mr. Massey reviewed the calendar of upcoming events. He also announced that the Cecil County Sheriff's Office has invited Council Members to participate in Fire Arms Training Simulator on Saturday, October 15, 2016.

Council Member Comments

Councilman Schneckenburger attended Calvert Elementary School Fall Festival and the Elk Creek Preservation Society Apple Butter Festival. He will be attending the grand opening of the Cecil County Animal Services facility and attending an Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony.

Councilwoman Bowlsbey attended the Black Tie Blue Jean Bingo event for Upper Bay Counseling. She plans to attend the opening of the Animal Services facility.

Councilman Patchell commented on Fair Hill International events this coming weekend.

Vice President McCarthy attended the open house for the new location of YES, Youth Empowerment Source. He also plans on attending the opening of Animal Services.


Adjournment

Vice President McCarthy adjourned the work session at 10:27 a.m.

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


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