

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY**

**WORK SESSION MINUTES**

**February 7, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Council Members: President Joyce Bowsbey, Vice President Dan Schneckenburger, Bob Meffley, George Patchell and Jackie Gregory; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant; Al Wein, Director of Administration; Winston Robinson, Director of Finance; Rebecca Anderson, Budget Director; Eric Sennstrom, Director of Planning and Zoning; Sandra Turner, Tourism Director; members of the press; and members of the public.

Guest: Carla Geiersbach, Michael Gilley and Brandon Boas

**OPEN SESSION – Elk Room**

**9:00 a.m.** –Council President Bowsbey 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).

**Approval of Minutes**

On a motion made by Vice President Schneckenburger, seconded by Councilwoman Gregory, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of January 24 , 2017, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

**Economic Impact of Campgrounds and RV Parks**

Sandra Turner, Tourism Director, provided comments on the impact of campgrounds on the county's economy. She stated that revenue is generated by campers who dine in local restaurants, shop, attend local churches and organizations. She stated that other parks in the County have shown high demand in the summer. Ms. Turner was asked to provide a list of campgrounds in Cecil County. Council questions and comments ensued.

**Update on Fair Hill International Bid Application**

Ms. Turner, Tourism Director, introduced Carla Geiersbach, Executive Director of Fair Hill International. They explained that Fair Hill International has applied to become a 4\* event, which will generate thousands of visitors and a major economic boost to Cecil County annually. They described competition with a privately funded park in Virginia, which does not have as much experience.

Ms. Geiersbach estimated that a 4\* event will provide an economic impact of between \$15M and \$30M and an attendance between 80,000 and 160,000. She also discussed Maryland's commitment to Fair Hill for needed upgrades.

Ms. Turner invited Council Members to attend a public informational meeting on February 15 at 7pm at the Ed Walls Building at Fair Hill.

### **Council Budget Hearing Schedule**

The Council reviewed the proposed FY 2018 budget hearing schedule. Vice President Schneckenburger suggested that some hearings should be scheduled in the evening where possible to allow more members of the public to attend. The Council agreed to scheduling budget hearings on April 11, April 25 and May 9 at 6pm. Council President Bowsbey asked that departments adhere to the hearing schedule.

### **Videotaping Council Meetings**

Michael Gilley and Brandon Boas, adjunct Cecil College teachers, discussed their proposal to videotape Council public meetings and prepare a final version for airing on the website or online. Mr. Gilley explained the value of videotaping Council meetings and how they proposed to provide this service.

Mr. Robinson discussed the county's bid package to provide audiovisual equipment in the Elk Room. He also commented on a possible county cable station that could broadcast these meetings.

The Council agreed by consensus to ask Mr. Gilley and Mr. Boas to prepare a proposal to include a scope of work, type of meetings to be videotaped, number of cameras and their location.

Mr. Gilley and Mr. Boas will provide a final proposal for presentation at next week's Council work session.

### **FY 2018 Council Departmental Budget**

The proposed FY 2018 Council departmental budget was reviewed.

Vice President Schneckenburger led discussion of an intern. Mr. Massey provided information about the intern program at Cecil College. After discussion, Mr. Massey was asked to develop a proposal to hire an intern and present to the Council. Vice President Schneckenburger agreed to be the mentor.

Mr. Allison, County Attorney, has requested the Council hire their own attorney because his expanded workload. Mr. Massey provided three alternatives of hiring a contractual attorney to provide legal services. After discussion, the Council reached a consensus to hire a contractual attorney according to option 2, which would require the County Attorney to attend about one-fourth of the total meetings for an approximate cost of \$7,050.

An updated Council departmental budget will be provided for approval at the next Council work session.

### **State Legislative Update**

The Council reviewed State legislation to consider if they wish to take a position.

After discussion, the Council agreed to send a letter of support for SB 118 Cecil County - Video Lottery Terminals - Distribution of Proceeds.

After discussion, the Council agreed to send a letter of opposition for SB 266 and HB 281 Environment - On Site Sewage Disposal Systems - Best Available Technology for Nitrogen Removal - Prohibition.

After discussion, the Council agreed to send a letter of opposition for HB 01 and SB 230 Maryland Healthy Working Families Act.

After discussion, the Council agreed to send a letter of support for SB 307 and HB 402 Open Transportation Investment Decision Act.

Council President Bowsbey asked for Council support for a letter of opposition to HB 871 Education - Community College - Collective Bargaining. The Council agreed to submit a letter of opposition.

#### **Dedication of Transportation Facility - Letter of Support**

The Council was requested to send a letter of support for the dedication of the I-95 bridge at MD 222/275 in memory of Marine Corporal Dale Burger, Jr., a resident of Port Deposit, who was killed in the Iraqi War. The Council approved unanimously to support this request.

#### **Review of Legislative Agenda**

Mr. Wein provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 07-2017 Appointment - Weed Control Advisory Committee. Council questions and comments ensued.

There were no introductory comments on Resolution No. 08-2017 Appointment - Board of Parks and Recreation - Brian Morgan. Council comments ensued.

Mr. Wein provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 09-2017 Appointment - Historic District Commission - Mike Dixon and Patricia Folk. There were no Council questions or comments.

Mr. Wein provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 10-2017 Supplemental Appropriation - Health Insurance Fund - Fund Balance. Mr. Robinson provided additional documents and comments. Council questions and comments ensued.

Resolution No. 04-2017 Appointment- Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council- April Foster, will be considered at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 05-2017 Approval- Tax Credit- Brick House, will be considered at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Bill No. 2016-24 Amendment- Zoning Ordinance- Campgrounds and Recreational Vehicle Parks, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. In addition, Council President Bowsbey commented on Amendment No. 1 to Bill No. 2016-24. Council questions and comments ensued. Mr. Sennstrom provided additional comments in response to Council questions.

Bill No. 2016-25 Amendment- Zoning Ordinance- Communications Towers, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. Mr. Wein gave additional comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

#### **Council Manager Report**

Mr. Massey updated Council Members about upcoming meetings, presentations, and events. He reviewed the Quarterly Health Report and MACo update.

#### **Council Member Comments**

Councilwoman Gregory attended the Young Farmers legislative breakfast and commented on the importance of farming as an economic driver. She attended the MACo Legislative Committee meeting and commented on the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act and the Repeal of the Road kill Bill.

Vice President Schneckenburger attended the Chamber of Commerce State of the County breakfast and commented on his optimism for Cecil County's future. He participated in the Rural Counties Coalition conference call regarding legislation. He attended the Aberdeen Proving Ground Centennial Kickoff and commented that General Crawford will be addressing the Council in March. He attended the Economic Development Commission meeting and commented on a meeting with Secretary Gill to plan an economic summit in April. He attended the Taste of Maryland Agricultural dinner where Milburn Orchard was inducted into the Governor's Agriculture Hall of Fame. He attended the Clean Chesapeake Coalition meeting with Councilman Meffley and commented that Chip MacLeod has opened his own firm. He attended the Young Farmers legislative breakfast and commented on the importance of young farmers in our community.

Councilman Meffley attended the Elkton Town Council meeting, Chesapeake City zoning hearing regarding a proposed hotel, and Clean Chesapeake Coalition meeting. He also attended the Young Farmers legislative breakfast and commented on the need for more vocational training.

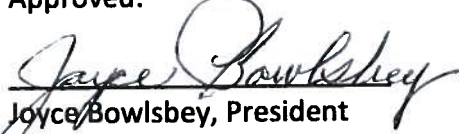
Councilman Patchell commented on his work with Mayor James Eberhardt regarding issues in the Town of Perryville. He also commented that he requested the State's assessment of a dangerous intersection at Perrylawn Drive and Craigtown Road.

Council President Bowsbey commented on contacting the State Highway Administration regarding community concerns for the crossover near Cecil Woods. She attended the Taste of Maryland Agriculture Celebration and commented on the selection of Milburn Orchard for the Governor's Agriculture Hall of Fame.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Council President Bowsbey at 10:55 a.m.

Approved:

  
Joyce Bowsbey, President  
County Council of Cecil County

Attest:

  
James Massey  
Council Manager

