

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
February 28, 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; Jason Allison, County Attorney; Clyde Van Dyke, Director of Parks and Recreation; members of the press; and members of the public.

Guests: Charles MacLeod

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.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Vice President Schneckenburger, seconded by Councilman Meffley, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of February 21 , 2017, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

On a motion made by Vice President Schneckenburger, seconded by Councilman Meffley, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council closed session of February 21 , 2017, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

Presentation of Proclamation

The Council presented a proclamation to Joe Johnson, Resource Plans Reviewer, upon his retirement after 28 years.

Clean Chesapeake Coalition Update

Charles MacLeod updated the Council on the Clean Chesapeake Coalition. He discussed several pending bills in the General Assembly that the Coalition is watching. He stated his opposition to SB 266/HB281 that require BAT sewage disposal systems. He summarized the history of the oyster restoration program and spoke about HB 924 and the need to use scientific data to better grow the oyster industry. He also spoke about the Conowingo Dam and the State's progress in addressing sedimentation and pollution from the Susquehanna River. He provided a document that presented three concepts of who should be responsible for reducing their Total Maximum Daily Loads in order to improve the water quality in Chesapeake Bay. He also explained that Exelon has applied to FERC for a 40-year license to operate Conowingo Dam. However, the State of Maryland has delayed their approval of the Water Quality Certificate, which will expire on April 1, 2018. Mr. MacLeod also stated that Governor Hogan intends to have a second Conowingo Summit. He commented on the State's Request for Interest responses about dredging and use of the sediments. Council questions and comments ensued.

Mr. MacLeod also stated that the dues for county members of the Coalition were reduced to \$15,000 but this year there will be an assessment of \$2,000 to be used to update their website and social media.

Bill No. 2017-02 Criminal Nuisance Abatement Ordinance

Council President Bowsbey led discussion regarding Bill No. 2017-02 Criminal Nuisance Abatement Ordinance. Mr. Allison responded to Council questions and comments. Mr. Allison stated that this Bill will affect Cecil County properties outside the municipalities. Mr. Allison also reviewed the definition of "criminal nuisance" as provided in Amendment No. 1, which is sponsored by the administration. The Council asked about the Bill's impact on the County Attorney's workload and budget. Mr. Allison stated that he has two contractual attorneys to assist him with these cases. He also indicated that there may be some reimbursable expenses and liens to recover expenses. He stated that domestic violence was exempted from this Bill.

The Council urged the County Attorney to schedule a public information meeting for landlords to explain this legislation. The Council also asked that Sheriff Adams be invited to speak at the public hearing on this legislation.

State Legislative Update

Mr. Van Dyke spoke in favor of SB 116 Program Open Space - Attainment of Acquisition Goals - Local Government Apportionment and Use of Funds. The Council agreed by consensus to send a letter of support for this legislation.

Council President Bowsbey led discussion on SB 835/ HB 1362 Maryland Law Enforcement and Governmental Trust Act, which she opposes. After discussion, the Council agreed by consensus to send a letter of opposition for both bills.

Mr. Massey provided information and Election Director Debbie Towery's opinions on HB 73 Election Judges - Minimum Age and Minimum Compensation. After discussion, the Council agreed by consensus to send a letter of opposition for this legislation.

Vice President Schneckenburger led discussion on HB 519 Overdose & Infectious Disease Prevention Safer Drug Consumption Facility Program, which he opposes. After discussion, the Council agreed by consensus to send a letter of opposition for this legislation.

Vice President Schneckenburger led discussion on HB 1496 Tax Sales - Property Maintenance and Nuisance Condition Violations Judgments, which he opposes. After discussion, the Council agreed by consensus to send a letter of opposition for this legislation.

Vice President Schneckenburger led discussion on HB 1496 Tax Sales - Property Maintenance and Nuisance Condition Violations Judgments. Mr. Allison was asked to review this legislation in comparison to Bill No. 2017-02. The Council took no action on this legislation.

Vice President Schneckenburger led discussion on SB 1040 Environment - Water & Sewer Plan Approvals, which he supports. After discussion, the Council agreed by consensus to send a letter of support for this legislation.

Vice President Schneckenburger led discussion on HB 979 Property Tax Credit - Public Safety Officers. He asked that the administration provide a fiscal note on the impact of this bill. The Council took no position on this legislation.

Vice President Schneckenburger led discussion on HB 963/SB 139 Maryland Transportation Authority - Video Tolls - Collection, which he supports. After discussion, the Council agreed by consensus to send a letter of support for both bills.

Mr. Massey reported on actions taken by the General Assembly for Bills that the Council has supported or opposed.

Council Manager Report

Mr. Massey updated Council Members about upcoming meetings.

Council Member Comments

Councilman Patchell had no comments.

Councilman Meffley met with Sue Bailey and visited the Department of Social Services. He commented on the Food Bank. He also attended the reception for Christopher Moyer, Director of Economic Development. He attended the Weed Control Advisory Board and commented on their program. Councilman Meffley also attended the Rising Sun Town Commissioners meeting and commented on their water tower. He attended a meeting of the Cecilton Town Board and commented on Pearce Creek.

Councilwoman Gregory had no comments.

Vice President Schneckenburger commented on next Tuesday's presentation by General Bruce Crawford and encouraged our Veterans and retired military citizens to attend.

Council President Bowsbey commented on the Food Bank and her intention to pursue authorization to allow Cecil County to purchase food from Delaware, which is of better quality.

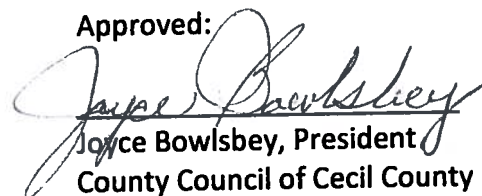
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Council President Bowsbey at 10:15 a.m.

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Joyce Bowsbey, President
County Council of Cecil County

