

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
March 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; members of the press; and members of the public.

Guests: Doris Mason, Carl Roberts, Tom Kappra

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 Councilwoman Gregory, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of February 28 , 2017, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

Council President Bowsbey asked to suspend the rules in order to allow Tom Kappra, Chief Finance Officer, Cecil County Public Schools, to make comments on bills for introduction.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gregory, seconded by Councilman Meffley, to suspend the rules. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Review of Legislative Agenda

Tom Kappra, Chief Financial Officer, Cecil County Public Schools, provided introductory comments in support of Bill No. 2017-04 Supplemental Appropriations - Capital Budget - Board of Education - BTOP and E-rate, which will be introduced at tonight's session. Council questions and comments ensued.

Tom Kappra, Chief Financial Officer, Cecil County Public Schools, provided introductory comments in support of Bill No. 2017-05 Transfer of Appropriations - Capital Budget - Board of Education, which will be introduced at tonight's session. Council questions and comments ensued.

Upper Shore Regional Council

Doris Mason, Executive Director, Upper Shore Regional Council, made a presentation about the USRC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies, also known as CEDS. She explained that CEDS are needed in order to apply for federal funding through the US Economic Development Administration (EDA). Ms. Mason reviewed the process to develop an action plan, goals and prioritized projects. She explained that upper shore counties did not qualify for most EDA funding, but stated that the organization could be funded under special needs. She specified several possible local projects including Cecil County's incubator,

regional infrastructure improvements, career training center, and Bainbridge. Council questions and comments ensued.

Delmarva Power

Linda Burris was unable to attend today's work session and has been rescheduled to April 18, 2016.

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

The Council discussed the issue of CAFOs in Cecil County. Councilman Patchell distributed a list of regulations from other Maryland counties and expressed his concern that Cecil County zoning code does not specifically address CAFOs. He stated that Cecil County should adopt standards as suggested by the Delmarva Poultry Industry Good Neighbor practices.

Council President Bowsbey stated that there is nothing that the Council can do about the proposed CAFOs at the Horst farm. Councilman Patchell stated his concern about another site near Mechanics Valley Road that is seeking to be converted into a CAFO, which has been rejected by Perdue. He also stated that he met with Somerset County Commissioners to discuss their recent changes to their regulations.

Al Wein, Director of Administration, summarized Executive Order 01-2017 that requires the Cecil Soil Conservation District to consult with the Director of Planning and Zoning to obtain comments regarding the implementation of best management practices during review of CAFO applications. The administration stated that state regulations regarding CAFOs is sufficient.

The Council agreed to ask Councilman Patchell to develop recommendations for CAFOs regulations for the Council to review. It was also suggested that his proposal should be reviewed with the administration, Farm Bureau and Soil Conservation District.

State Legislative Update

Doris Behnke spoke in opposition to HB 742 Alcoholic Beverages - Class 4 Limited Winery Licenses. She stated that this Bill will eliminate twenty-five wineries in Maryland that operate as alternative proprietorships. Vice President Schneckenburger requested that the Council delay action on this Bill until next week in order to obtain more information on proposed amendments. Council questions and comments ensued.

Ms. Behnke also stated that HB 1531 Alcoholic Beverages - Limited Winery Licenses - Auxiliary Winery Permits was the wine industry's bill in response to HB 742. However, HB 1531 was submitted late and will not come out of the Rules Committee. Council questions and comments ensued.

The Council agreed by consensus to delay considering their position until next week so that more information could be obtained.

Carl Roberts, Chair, Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee, spoke in support of SB 1060 Heroin and Opioid Education and Community Action Act of 2017. He stated that this Bill focuses on programs to educate and prevent drug addiction in public schools.

He summarized the Bill and asked for the Council to support it. Council questions and comments ensued. The Council agreed by consensus to send a letter of support for SB 1060. However, during Council Members Items, Councilwoman Gregory requested to postpone approval on the support of this Bill until more information is obtained. The Council will contact Dr. Devine about the school's position on this legislation.

Council President Bowsbey stated that the County Executive was establishing a task force to develop an Anti-Drug Strategic Plan that will include law enforcement, recovery, rehabilitation and education. The Executive has asked for a Council representative.

Review of Legislative Agenda

Introduction of Bill No. 2017-04 and 2017-05 were reviewed earlier in the agenda.

Al Wein, Director of Administration, and Susan O'Neill, Economic Development Manager, provided introductory comments about Resolution No. 12-2017 Expedited Legislation - Enterprise Zone - Perryville. This legislation was requested for expediting because of the grant deadline. Council agreed by consensus to schedule the public hearing and consideration on April 4, 2017, which will allow for required legal notice of the public hearing.

Resolution No. 06-2017 Land Conveyance - Estate of Richard D. Mackie, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 11-2017 Appointment - Board of License Commissioners - W. Edwin Cole, Jr., will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council Manager Report

Mr. Massey updated Council Members about upcoming meetings and events.

Council Member Comments

Vice President Schneckenburger had no comments.

Councilwoman Gregory attended the graduation ceremony for Emergency Services Academy and commented on the challenges of these jobs. She requested that the Council delay sending a letter of support for SB 1060 until more information is obtained.

Councilman Patchell attended the Perryville Elementary School Read Across America with the County Executive and commented on the children's enthusiasm.

Councilman Meffley attended the graduation ceremony for Emergency Service Academy and commented that he was impressed with their training. He attended 4H Achievement Night and commented on the commitment of these young adults. He also attended the Transportation Coordination Council meeting and commented on their plans to offer transportation between Perryville and Newark, DE. He attended the Town of Elkton


Commissioner meeting and committed on their St. Patrick's Day activities. He stated that Chesapeake City will hold their St. Patrick's parade this Saturday.

Council President Bowsbey attended the 4H Achievement Night and commented on the commitment of the children and support of their families. She will provide copies of the letter from the County Executive asking for a Council appointment to the Task Force on Anti-Drug Strategy Planning Committee. She also suggested that Councilman Patchell contact the Farm Bureau and Soil Conservation District as he develops CAFO regulations.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Council President Bowsbey at 10:27 a.m.

Approved:


Joyce Bowsbey, President
County Council of Cecil County

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager