# COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY WORK SESSION MINUTES August 1, 2017

**PRESENT:** Council Members: President Joyce Bowlsbey, Vice President Dan Schneckenburger, Bob Meffley, George Patchell and Jackie Gregory; James Massey, Council Manager; Angela Vaca, Administrative Assistant; Al Wein, Director of Administration; Winston Robinson, Finance Director; Patrick Conway, Chief of Permits and Inspections; members of the press; and members of the public.

#### **OPEN SESSION – Elk Room**

**9:00 A.M.** –Council President Bowlsbey 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 Gregory, seconded by Councilman Meffley, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of July 18, 2017, as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

## **Permit Activity FY 2017**

Patrick Conway, Chief of Permits and Inspections, reviewed the Permit Activity FY 2017 Report with the Council. He stated that the report reflects the lowest number of new housing and the highest number of house renovations, especially related to solar energy systems.

Council questions and comments ensued. Mr. Conway stated that processing of permits has been reduced from four to six weeks to seven to ten days. He stated that delays in the permitting process are usually due to the applicant not being prepared. He stated that the upgrades to the Hanson system will allow permit applications to be submitted online.

# **Review of Legislative Agenda**

Council President Bowlsbey led a review of tonight's legislative agenda.

Mr. Wein and Mr. Robinson provided introductory comments regarding Bill No. 2017-16 General Obligation Bond Authorization, which will be introduced at tonight's session. Mr. Robinson provided a document, Review of Capital Projects to Size Bond Issue - Revised through 07/26/17, which detailed a total of \$42.4M. This amount includes \$9.9M of prior year carryover, \$18.3M of FY2017 budget and \$24.7M of 2018 budget, which totals approximately \$53M. He also indicated a reduction of approximately \$10.6M for projects to be funded outside the bonding period.

Mr. Robinson explained that the county issues bonds every two years so that Bill No. 2017-16 proposes funding capital projects from FY 2017 and FY 2018. He reviewed the process in issuing bonds and the proposed schedule. He provided a document, Series 2017 General Obligation Bonds Financial Schedule.

There were no comments or questions regarding Resolution No. 35-2017 Appointment - Building Board of Appeals - Leroy Scott III, which will be introduced at tonight's legislative session.

There were no comments or questions regarding Resolution No. 36-2017 Appointment - Cecil County Plumbing Board - Ronald Dixon, Thomas Vaughn, Sr., and Melvin Reburn, which will be introduced at tonight's legislative session.

Mr. Wein provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 37-2017 Expedited Legislation - Approval - Transfer of Real Property - Site Plan CCPS Athletic Building - Town of Elkton, which will be introduced at tonight's legislative session. Council questions and comments ensued. Mr. Wein stated that the administration is still working with the Town of Elkton to resolve the sewer use issue at the Detention Center. The Council also discussed regulations regarding school surplus property.

Mr. Wein provided comments on Resolution No. 38-2017 Authorization of Refunding Bonds, and distributed a document, Early Bond Refunding Estimate, which showed an estimated refunded amount of approximately \$21.7M. He described the process to refund certain outstanding general obligation bonds that can result an estimated savings of \$671,854.

#### **Council Manager Report**

Mr. Massey updated Council Members about upcoming meetings and events. He stated that the Governor's Conowingo Dam Summit will be held on August 8, 2017. He also stated that the first meeting of the Poultry House CAFOs Committee will be held on August 8 at 7pm in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Blvd, Elkton, Md. He reviewed MACo Summer Conference programs of interest.

## **Council Member Comments**

Councilman Patchell had no comments.

Councilman Meffley attended the Maryland Rural Development Corporation board meeting and visited the Head Start program in Hollingsworth Manor. He attended the Cecil County Fair and commented on its success. He also visited Perryville High School where the new turf field is being installed. He attended Senator Cardin's luncheon where the Senator commented on the USN being willing to clean up Bainbridge.

Councilwoman Gregory commented that Councilman Meffley and she recently toured the new ODEC Wildcat Point Generating Facility, which will completed in September. Councilman Meffley and she also attended the luncheon with Senator Ben Cardin and discussed issues related to the Conowingo Dam, homelessness and drugs. Councilwoman Gregory also participated in the Republican Chicken barbeque at the Cecil County Fair with Vice President Schneckenburger and Councilman Meffley. She commented on the Fair's success and praised the bus demolition event.

Vice President Schneckenburger commented on the nomination of Fair Hill to host world class, four-star horse eventing competitions. He attended the Economic Development Commission

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meeting held at the Cecil County Fair. He also commented on his visit to ODEC and their final completion scheduled in October 2017. He also mentioned that Chesapeake Solar will have an open house on August 10 at 7pm at Schaefer's Canal House.

Council President Bowlsbey will be attending the open house at OBX Farm for the Bohemia River State Park. She also encouraged Council Members to attend the Night at the Aquarium for elected officials. She commented on the recent dinner with MACo Executive Director and incoming President. She will be speaking to the Chamber of Commerce legislative committee next week.

## Adjournment

On a motion made by Vice President Schneckenburger, seconded by Councilman Meffley, the work session was adjourned by Council President Bowlsbey at 10:40 a.m.

Approved:

Joyce Bowlsbey, President

**County Council of Cecil County** 

James Massey

Council Manager

Attest: