

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
September 19, 2017

PRESENT: Council Members: President Joyce Bowlsbey, Vice President Dan Schneckeburger, Bob Meffley, George Patchell and Jackie Gregory; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant; Al Wein, Director of Administration; Jason Allison, County Attorney; members of the press; and members of the public.

Guests: Tim Ailsworth, Executive Director, LGIT; Carla Geiersbach, Executive Director, Fair Hill International

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 September 12, 2017, as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT)

Tim Ailsworth, Executive Director of LGIT, provided an overview of Cecil County Government's liability coverage with LGIT. He reviewed the history of LGIT and summarized the various coverage's including: automobile liability, property, general liability, law enforcement liability and public officials liability. He discussed examples and trends in government claims. Council questions and comments ensued.

Fair Hill International Four Star Designation

Carla Geiersbach, Executive Director of Fair Hill International, updated the Council on the process of designation of Fair Hill as a Four Star Event. She explained that the Technical Committee would be making a recommendation to the international board in November 2017. She also described construction plans funded through the Stadium Authority and Camden Yards Sports Complex that will be completed by 2019 for the first four star event. Ms. Geiersbach also discussed the need to build grass roots support for an international event. She also plans to attract running and bicycling events to enhance appreciation for Fair Hill. Council questions and comments ensued.

Mandatory Sewer Hookups

Mr. Wein stated that the administration has not made any final decisions about the proposed mandatory sewer hookup. He stated that a required public hearing will be held in the fall. The administration is looking at policies in other counties. Mr. Wein stated that the administration has no intention to place a financial burden on residents.

Mr. Allison stated that he has asked for clarification from the Attorney General's Office concerning mandatory sewer hookup by counties.

Vice President Schneckenburger thanked the administration for their comments and acknowledged citizen opposition to the administration's proposal. Councilman Patchell stated that more communication with the public on this proposal is needed and hopes that the new Public Information Officer can improve communications. Council President Bowsbey expressed her concern for the additional cost for closing an existing septic system. Councilman Meffley expressed concern for future plans for sewer system hookups. Councilwoman Gregory stated that county policies and fees regarding sewer hookups vary greatly.

Poultry CAFOs Committee

Council President Bowsbey stated that the Poultry CAFOs committee met for the last time on September 12. They have finalized their recommendations that will be coming to the Council for review. The Council will be discussing the need for recommendations and the specific regulations at the next Council work session.

Review of Legislative Agenda

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

Mr. Wein provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 47-2017 Appointment - Human Services Agency - John Donohue, which will be introduced at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

There were no comments or questions regarding Resolution No. 48-2017 Appointment - Commission on Aging - Stacy Kortas, Shalini Arora and Richard Wilson, which will be introduced at tonight's session.

Mr. Wein provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 49-2017 Supplemental Appropriations - Special Revenue - Other Grant Funds - MDOT - Asphalt Overlay Program, which will be introduced at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 38-2017 Authorization of Refunding Bonds, will be considered for approval at tonight's legislative session. Mr. Wein provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 40-2017 Appointment - Commission on Aging - Miles Dean, Jamie McCloskey, Ginny Jackson, and Lois Sutherland, will be considered for approval at tonight's legislative session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 41-2017 Budget Amendment - Casino Local Impact Fund Budget - VLT Local Community Grant Funds, will be considered for approval at tonight's legislative session. Mr. Wein provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 42-2017 Amendment - Policies and Procedures of Cecil County Council - Legal Opinions, will be considered for approval at tonight's legislative session. Mr. Massey provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 43-2017 Amendment - Policies and Procedures of Cecil County Council - Request for Return, will be considered for approval at tonight's legislative session. Mr. Massey provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 44-2017 Amendment - Policies and Procedures of Cecil County Council - Final Reading of Bills, will be considered for approval at tonight's legislative session. Mr. Massey provided comments.

The Council discussed Resolution No. 44-2017. Vice President Schneckenburger offered an amendment to require that final reading could be delayed at the request of one Council Member. Several Council Members agreed with this amendment.

The Council discussed the Charter's requirement that the effective date of Bills is sixty calendar days after enactment. Mr. Allison stated that a Charter amendment would require approval by voters.

Council discussion continued regarding the importance of the public having adequate time to become familiar with proposed legislation. Council President Bowsbey pointed out that no one comments during public hearings on most legislation. Councilwoman Gregory stated that citizens should have an opportunity after the public hearing to comment or raise additional issues.

Bill No. 2017-16 General Obligation Bond Authorization, will be considered for final 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. He reminded Council Members that Cecil County Public Schools have provided a preliminary copy of the 2017 update to the Bridge to Excellence for review.

Council Member Comments

Councilwoman Gregory thanked members of the Poultry CAFOs Committee for their time and dedicated service on the committee. She attended the Elkton Fall Festival.

Vice President Schneckenburger attended the Poultry CAFOs committee and commented on the committee's review of many documents and stated that he feels their recommendations are reasonable.

Councilman Patchell attended the press conference for the signing of the agreement between Cecil County Public Schools and the Department of Parks and Recreation. He praised the agreement that will reduce the cost for youth groups to use school facilities.

Councilman Meffley attended the Poultry CAFOs Committee and thanked committee members for their service. He visited the new turf field at Perryville High School and applauded the value of the project. He will be attending the APG community leader social. He also attended the Farm Bureau meeting and expressed his concern that the public schools' intend to drop the agriculture program at the School of Technology.

Council President Bowsbey attended the Poultry CAFOs committee and asked that the Council send a letter of appreciation to committee members. She attended the press conference for the signing of the agreement between Cecil County Public Schools and the Department of Parks and Recreation that will reduce fees for school facilities use. Council President Bowsbey will be attending the APG community leader social and Social Services Board meeting.


Adjournment

On a motion made by Vice President Schneckenburger, seconded by Councilman Meffley, the work session was adjourned by Council President Bowsbey at 10:27 a.m.

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Joyce Bowsbey, President
County Council of Cecil County