

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
March 6, 2018**

PRESENT: Council Members: President Bowsbey, Vice President Dan Schneckenburger, Robert Meffley, George Patchell and Jackie Gregory; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant, members of the press; and members of the public.

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.

CLOSED SESSION

February 27, 2018

9:05 A.M.

On motion made by Councilwoman Gregory, seconded by Vice President Schneckenburger, the Council moved to convene in closed session pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article, §3-305 (a) (1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific employees.

Roll Call Vote: Meffley - Absent, Schneckenburger - Y, Patchell – Absent, Gregory - Y, Bowsbey - Y. The motion was carried by a vote of 3 to 0. Councilman Meffley and Councilman Patchell were absent.

Present: Council Members: President Bowsbey, Vice President Schneckenburger, and Councilwoman Gregory; James Massey, Council Manager; and Terry Hale, Council Assistant.

Council Members interviewed three firms that responded to the Council’s Request for Proposal for a consultant. After the interviews were concluded, the Council discussed the applicants and agreed by consensus to hire Weyrich, Cronin and Sorra for consulting services.

On motion made by Councilwoman Gregory, seconded by Vice President Schneckenburger, the Council moved to conclude the closed session at 11:46 a.m.

Roll Call Vote: Meffley - Absent, Schneckenburger - Y, Patchell – Absent, Gregory - Y, Bowsbey - Y. The motion was carried by a vote of 3 to 0. Councilman Meffley and Councilman Patchell were absent.

Moment of Silence

Council President Bowsbey asked for a moment of silence in memory of Senator Wayne Norman who died on Sunday.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilwoman Gregory, seconded by Vice President Schneckenburger, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of February 20, 2018, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

On a motion made by Councilwoman Gregory, seconded by Vice President Schneckenburger, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of February 27, 2018, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

On a motion made by Councilwoman Gregory, seconded by Vice President Schneckenburger, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council closed session of February 27, 2018, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

Nor'easter Storm Recap

Council President Bowsbey suspended the rules in order to allow John Donahue, Deputy Director, Emergency Services, to provide Council Members with a report on the Nor-easter storm that caused the Tydings Bridge over I-95 and the Hatem Bridge on Route 40 to be closed. He stated that the Maryland Department of Transportation had never closed both bridges simultaneously. He stated that the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, MEMA, provided some information to his agency. He stated that a strict protocol is used to determine when and if a bridge is to be closed. He stated that wind sensors on the bridge provided the State information on wind speed. According to him, the State will issue wind warnings at 30-39mph, restrict empty trailers at 40-49mph, allow only cars at 50-55mph, and close the bridge at 55mph or more.

He stated that two trucks blew over on the Tydings Bridge at 10:30am, which caused the bridge to be closed for 16-1/2 hours. He further stated that two trees blew onto the approach to Hatem Bridge at 2:15pm, which closed the bridge for 9-1/2 hours.

He noted that trees and utility wires had blown down all over Cecil County. Traffic was diverted from Route 40 and I-95 to smaller roads that became traffic snarls. He stated that many interstate buses were stranded and there was concern for bus drivers that exceeded the allowable driving time. He also stated that AMTRAK stopped running and six railroad cars derailed on the CSX line, several falling into the Susquehanna River. There were widespread electric outages across the State and in Cecil County. He noted that two emergency shelters were set up in Perryville and Rising Sun. The 911 call center received over three times as many calls and provided information as needed.

He stated that Cecil County Emergency Services will be meeting with MEMA, law enforcement and first responders to evaluate the response and review possible changes. Council questions and comments ensued.

State Legislation

The Council reviewed legislation proposed in the Maryland General Assembly for consideration of support.

The Council reviewed HB 1371 Recordation Tax – Collection by state Department of Assessment and Taxation – Distribution, and agreed to send a letter of support.

The Council reviewed SB 1132 Creation of a State Debt – Cecil County – Bee Hive Colonial Village, and agreed to send a letter of support.

The Council reviewed SB 1133 Creation of a State Debt – Cecil County – Perryville Railroad Monument Sign, and agreed to send a letter of support.

The Council reviewed HB 88 Public Health – Prescription Drug Monitoring Program – Revisions, and agreed to send a letter of support.

Council Budget Hearing Schedule

Council Manager Massey reviewed the final Council budget hearing schedule. He noted that seven public hearings will be held and alternate at 1:30pm and 5:30pm. The public hearing on budget bills will be held on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 7pm at Elkton High School. Deliberation sessions will be held on May 29, 2018 and May 31, 2018. The Council's final vote on the budget is planned on June 5, 2018.

Review of Legislative Agenda

A public hearing on Bill No. 2018-01 Amendment – Zoning Ordinance – Poultry Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation – CAFOs, will be held at tonight's session. The Council reviewed the legislation and agreed to consider an amendment to specify that the ventilation fan should be placed facing away from a dwelling on an adjacent property, or school, place of worship, day care center or nursing home. Eric Sennstrom, Director of Land Use and Development Services, provided four setback options and the calculated minimum size of the property. The Council discussed reducing the setback for ventilation fans from 600' to 500'. An amendment will be prepared for tonight's session. Council President Bowsbey asked the Council Manager to obtain a legal opinion regarding proposing a grandfather clause for property owners who intend to construct a poultry CAFOs.

A public hearing on Resolution No. 02-2018 Amendment – Master Water and Sewer Plan – Water Service Map – Town of Perryville, will be held at tonight's session. Eric Sennstrom, Director of Land Use and Development Services, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

A public hearing on Resolution No. 03-2018 Amendment – Master Water and Sewer Plan – Sewerage System – Town of Perryville, will be held at tonight's session. Eric Sennstrom, Director of Land Use and Development Services, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Clyde VanDyke, Parks and Recreation Director, provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 10-2018 Approval – Road Abandonment – Brick Meeting House Road – Portion. Scott Flanigan, Public Works Director, provided additional comments. Mr. VanDyke and Mr. Flanigan provided a map of the area to illustrate the planned road closure. Council questions and comments ensued.

Council President Bowsbey stated that Resolution No. 07-2018 Appointment – Board of Library Trustees – Phyllis Kilby, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Bowsbey stated that Resolution No. 08-2018 Appointment – Planning Commission – Donald C. Harmer, Jr., will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Bowsbey stated that Resolution No. 09-2018 Budget Amendment – Board of Education – Bohemia Manor High School, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council Manager Report

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

Council Member Comments

Councilwoman Gregory expressed her condolences to the family of Senator Wayne Norman. She joined Vice President Schneckenburger and Council President Bowsbey in thanking the men and women who worked to keep us safe during last week’s storm. She participated in the Ice Splash recently to raise funds for the Boys and Girls Club and Special Olympics. She attended the 4-H Achievement night and expressed her admiration for this vibrant program. She attended the safe schools meeting at Bohemia Manor High School and commented on the concerned parents and on her disappointment that the school budget amendment did not prioritize school security. She also announced that there will be a showing of “Chasing the Dragon, a Day in the Life of an Opioid Addict” at Perryville Library, sponsored by Steps to Recovery on March 13 at 6pm.

Vice President Schneckenburger commended the county for its excellent public service during the recent storm. He expressed his condolences to the family of Senator Wayne Norman. He stated that Jason Gallion will be taking his place in the State Senate. He will be attending the NRA banquet and Voices of Hope banquet.

Councilman Patchell will save his comments for tonight’s session.


Councilman Meffley commented on his experience of flying back from Hawaii and landing in Philadelphia during the nor’easter. He expressed his condolences to the family of Senator Wayne Norman. He attended the school safety meeting at Bohemia Manor High School and commented on his concern over the lack of security at some schools. He stated that he hoped that the school administration will make safety of children a priority.

Council President Bowsbey expressed her condolences for the family of Senator Wayne Norman and commented on his hard work for Cecil County. She attended the Social Services Board meeting and provided statistics. The Help Center provided clothing to over 30,000 persons and food to over 3,000. The Homelessness Prevention Services provided rent and mortgage assistance of over \$46,000. The Office of Home Energy Program assisted over 3,000 persons and provided \$3.6M in energy costs. The Domestic Violence Resource Center has served over 100 persons and provided over 2,000 nights in motels. The Child Advocacy Center has served over 100 children, and conducted over 80 investigations of abuse and completed over 50 medical examinations. She attended the Legacy program, which assists disenfranchised youth.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Vice President Schneckenburger, seconded by Councilman Meffley, the work session was adjourned by Council President Bowsbey at 10:14 a.m.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 9 a.m.

Attest:

James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Joyce Bowsbey, President