

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
March 13, 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, Brian Anderson, Council Attorney; 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.

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 March 6, 2018, as presented.

Councilman Meffley asked if the Council had received a legal opinion regarding the grandfathering clause for property owners who intend to construct poultry CAFOs. Brian Anderson, Council Attorney, stated that he will have his legal opinion to the Council by the end of the week.

Motion was approved unanimously.

Local Business Initiative

Council President Bowsbey led a review of the recommendations of the Local Business Initiative Committee.

On page 3, under Recommendations, Councilman Meffley suggested that a change in the wording of Recommendation #3. After discussion, the Council agreed by consensus to delete "...emphasize that Cecil County has a "policy" of encouraging..." and insert "encourage".

On page 3, under Recommendations, Councilman Meffley suggested that a change in the wording of Recommendation #4 in order to add the availability of the local business registry in the office of Permits and Inspections Division of the Department of Land Usage and Development Services. The Council agreed by consensus to add this phrase.

On page 4, under Justifications, Councilman Meffley suggested that Recommendation #3 should be reworded to reflect the revision of deleting "...emphasize that Cecil County has a "policy" of encouraging..." and inserting "encourage". The Council agreed by consensus to make this revision.

On page 6, under Justifications, under Recommendation #5, 2nd paragraph, Councilman Meffley suggested that the following be deleted, "The cost of sending these email blasts is the time for

county staff to select the businesses by trade in the database. With certain efficiencies, many small businesses can be made aware of county capital project quickly and in time to respond. The local businesses will only receive those bids that require their specialty.” The Council agreed by consensus to make this revision.

On page 7, under Acknowledgement, Councilman Meffley suggested to delete “Jason Zang” and insert “the staff of the Department of Economic Development” since Mr. Zang is no longer here. The Council agreed by consensus to make this revision.

Vice President Schneckenburger made a motion to submit the Local Business Initiative Report as revised to the County Executive for his consideration. The motion was seconded by Councilman Meffley and approved by a unanimous vote.

Poultry CAFOs Legislation

Council President Bowsbey led discussion on several issues that have been raised on Bill No. 2018-01 Amendment – Zoning Ordinance – Poultry Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations – CAFOS.

The Council discussed the various ventilation fan setback distances and the effect on the size of the parcel. The Council agreed that the 500 foot setback facing away from any dwelling on adjacent property, school, place of worship, day care center or nursing home requiring a minimum property size of 36 acres would be the best option.

In addition, the Council agreed by consensus to include the definition of tunnel ventilation fan in the legislation.

The Council discussed alternatives of grandfathering proposed poultry CAFOS. Brian Anderson, Council Attorney, provided his opinion that the “vested interest” as described in the current legislation was based on case law and was a good faith step. After further discussion, the Council agreed by consensus to keep the legislation as written, which is based on the concept of “vested interest”.

State Legislation Update

The Council Manager reviewed the legislative chart with the Council. It was noted that March 19, 2018 will be crossover day when each chamber sends the other chamber those bills that it intends to pass.

Vice President Schneckenburger stated that the highway user funds bill has passed the Senate and is likely to pass in the House. Bill SB 154 will increase Cecil County’s share of highway user funds from 1.5% to 3.2% starting in 2020 for five years. He stated that SB 187 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2018, which will reduce the cost of the Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation to the counties from 90% to 50%, is likely to pass. The hearing for over 300 bond bills was held on March 10, 2018. SB 790 proposes to change the words of the State song, “Maryland, My Maryland.”

Councilwoman Gregory asked about the PARCC test bill. According to Vice President Schneckeburger, most education-related bills are being routed to the Kirwan Commission for next year.

Council Manager Report

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

Council Member Comments

Councilman Patchell attended Union Hospital's legislative breakfast. He also attended the opening of Matt Roath's new Allstate Insurance office on Route 40 in Perryville.

Councilman Meffley attended the Sheriff's Intel meeting and reported on crime statistics. He also expressed his concern for all the used tires in Cecil County. He stated that a business is limited to 1,500 used tires and asked what the Council could do. Jason Allison, County Attorney, stated that the administration had contacted the Attorney General's office and requested them to take civil action against violators. Vice President Schneckeburger requested copies of correspondence with the Attorney General. The Council agreed to write a letter of support for this action. Councilman Meffley attended the funeral of Senator Wayne Norman with Vice President Schneckeburger and Councilwoman Gregory. He also attended the Chesapeake City Fire Company banquet and commented on several recognitions to volunteers with long years of service. He stated that Jeff Ritter of Chesapeake City received the Lifetime Membership Award from the Harford Cecil Volunteer Firemen's Association, an award that has only been presented seven times. Councilman Meffley attended the Union Hospital legislative breakfast and Boy Scout meeting at the Elkton United Methodist Church. He commented that Scouting is growing in Cecil County.

Councilwoman Gregory attended the funeral of Senator Norman and asked the audience to pray for his family. She attended the opening of the Allstate Insurance office in Perryville. She attended the Voices of Hope recognition for first responders. Ms. Gregory announced that the film, Chasing the Dragon, the life of an Opioid Addict, will be shown at the Perryville Library at 6pm tonight.

Vice President Schneckeburger attended the funeral for Senator Norman and stated that it was a very moving event. He attended the Voices of Hope banquet and commented on the number of recovering addicts who had been helped. He attended the Rising Sun National Rifle Association banquet and the Union Hospital legislative breakfast. He stated that the Maryland Department of Agriculture has offered twenty-five pallets of food for distribution in Cecil County.

Council President Bowsbey attended the viewing for Senator Norman and extended her condolences to Mrs. Norman. She attended Union Hospital's legislative breakfast and announced that Neil Meltzer and Dr. Rich Szumel will be making a presentation to the Council next week. She also attended the Family Violence Committee meeting and commented on their activities to raise funds. She stated that April is Child Abuse Awareness month. She stated that the State's Attorney's Office plans to prosecute more domestic violence cases. She stated that Tony Hopkins

will be speaking on Opioid Addiction, Prevention and Training at Elkton High School and Dr. Heather Pfeiffer will be presenting a program on Child Abuse and Empathy Training at the Elkton Town Hall. Ms. Bowsbey will be attending the Local Management Board meeting and commented on the Governor's initiatives.

CLOSED SESSION

9:57 A.M.

CLOSED SESSION

On motion made by Councilwoman Gregory, seconded by Councilman Meffley, the Council moved to convene in closed session pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article, §3-305 (a) (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

Roll Call Vote: Meffley - Y, Schneckenburger - Y, Patchell - Y, Gregory - Y, Bowsbey - Y.
The motion was carried unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

10:39 A.M.

The open session resumed at 10:39 a.m.

Adjournment

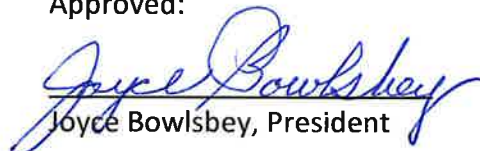
On a motion made by Councilman Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Gregory, the work session was adjourned by Council President Bowsbey.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 9 a.m.

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Joyce Bowsbey, President