

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
July 17, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Council Members: President Bowsbey, Vice President Dan Schneckenburger, Bob 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](http://www.ccgov.org).

**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 July 10, 2018, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

**Communication Plan**

Jennifer Lyall, Public Information Officer, provided an overview of the communication plan that has been developed as a guideline to communicating with the public. Ms. Lyall reviewed the vision and mission statements, key goals, and strategies. Ms. Lyall also detailed the use of social media. The communication plan will be available on the county's website.

Council questions and comments ensued. Al Wein, Director of Administration, recognized Dr. Carl Roberts for his assistance in developing this plan. Mr. Wein also stated that a quarterly meeting with municipal Mayors and Commissioner Presidents have improved communications with the county.

**Review of Legislative Agenda**

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided introductory comments on Bill No. 2018-06 Amendment – Zoning Ordinance – Private Schools – Industrial Zones, which will be introduced at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided introductory comments on Bill No. 2018-07 Amendment – Zoning Ordinance – Solar Power Generating Facilities, which will be introduced at tonight's session. Council questions and comments ensued. Eric Sennstrom, Director of Land Use and Development Services, stated that this Bill would provide flexibility and use of a new technology. He also stated that this legislation required a 50-acre minimum parcel acreage.

Steve O'Connor, Zoning Administrator, provided introductory comments on Bill No. 2018-08 Approval – Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation – Robert and Roberta Durgin,

Bill No. 2018-09 Approval – Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation – Randalia Farms LLC, Bill No. 2018-10 Approval – Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation – Janice Eggers – Abel, Bill No. 2018-11 Approval – Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation – McKeown Family LLC, and Bill No. 2018-12 Approval – Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation – Herring Creek Farm. All of these resolutions will be introduced at tonight’s session. Mr. O’Connor responded to Council questions and comments. Mr. O’Connor explained that these applicants had applied for Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation in order to sell their development rights in perpetuity. He explained that MALPF is allowing twelve submissions from each county. Farms are selected by evaluation of soil quality, location, development rights, environmental and location of other MALPF farms. He stated that the impact to the County is that these farms receive a 75% tax credit.

Christopher Moyer, Economic Development Director presented Bill No. 2018-13 Clean Energy Program, which will be introduced at tonight’s session. Lisa Saxton, Finance Director, also provided introductory comments. Council questions and comments ensued. Ms. Saxton stated that her department had some reservations about this program. She determined this program was favorable to the County after determining that any amount owed would be the responsibility of the originator of the loan.

Resolution No. 27-2018 Appointment—Cecil County Ethics Commission-William DeFreitas, will be introduced at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Scott Flanigan, Public Works Director, provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 28-2018 Fees – Wastewater Rates, which will be introduced at tonight’s session. He demonstrated that the color of the wastewater after being treated is cleaner than the current water in the North East River.

Mr. Flanigan and Lisa Saxton, Finance Director, provided a presentation about the Wastewater Fund rate study that was conducted after the withdrawal of previous sewer rate legislation in June 2018. They explained the estimated growth in sewer accounts and the demand for wastewater treatment. They discussed the operation and maintenance costs of the county wastewater system. They provided an estimate of future wastewater capital projects and the current value of the county’s infrastructure. They discussed the difficulty in comparing systems and rates because of the number of variables. Finally, they provided their recommended adjustments to the wastewater rates, which would be phased in for four fiscal years. Lastly, they discussed the impact of not increasing wastewater rates on the county’s bond rating.

Council questions and comments ensued. The administration estimates that this year’s wastewater fund deficit to be \$1.5M, which includes a projected growth of 3%. Mr. Flanigan explained that the current wastewater hookup policy makes it difficult to estimate revenue. There was discussion of the impact of the reduction of hookup fees. He also discussed the differences between special assessments and the proposed plan. Mr. Flanigan explained that establishing two tiers user rates would help low volume users who have been paying the same rate as larger users.

Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #52 will be considered for approval at tonight's session. Tom Kappra, Chief Financial Officer of CCPS, explained an increase in the special education category.

#### **Council Manager Report**

Mr. Massey updated Council Members about upcoming meetings and events. The Council requested that the MACo dinner with Michael Sanderson and Jerry Walker be rescheduled because of a conflict in schedules.

#### **Council Member Comments**

Councilman Patchell attended the Parks and Recreation board meeting. He also attended a meeting regarding the proposed I-95 Interchange at Belvidere Road. He stated that he will be away next week.

Councilman Meffley attended the Sheriff's Office Intel meeting and reported that the number of overdoses have increased since last year from 260 to 320; and the number of overdose fatalities have increased from 26 to 36. He attended the recent graduation for Correctional Officers and commended the certified in-house training. He attended the Farm Bureau board meeting and commented on Maryland's advanced programs on nutrient management and watershed implementation planning. He commented on the Farm Bureau's proposal to build a permanent building at the Cecil County fair grounds, and his plan to ask the Vo-Tech School to allow students to construct the building with the Farm Bureau supplying the materials.

Councilwoman Gregory attended the Republican Women's Club meeting in Rising Sun. She plans on attending the Cecil County Fair.

Vice President Schneckeburger stated that the County Executive and he attended the MACo legislative committee in Annapolis. He commented on the Kirwan Commission unfunded recommendations. He stated that these recommendations, including teacher salaries, would dominate next year's General Assembly sessions. He also commented on the MS-4 Permit and the counties issues with phase 2. He said that there was also discussion of Maryland joining the Regulatory Greenhouse Commission with Delaware and New Jersey. He stated that Secretary Grumbles proposed a climate academy. He stated that he shared the concerns of Councilman Meffley about Brantwood Park and stated that the county planned to open the park for passive use on August 18. He also attended the Cecil County Firemen's Association and stated that there was no resolution for full funding request. He stated that the Video Lottery Terminal grant provided support for the Town of Rising Sun for four fire hydrants to be installed along the new water line. He attended the Correctional Officers Graduation with Councilwoman Gregory and Council President Bowsbey.

Council President Bowsbey praised the graduates of the Correctional Facilities Academy for their comradery. She reported on the Planning Commission's actions.

**Adjournment**

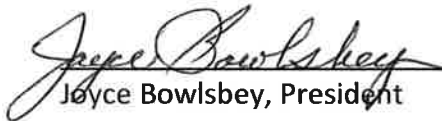
On a motion made by Councilwoman Gregory, seconded by Councilman Meffley, the work session was adjourned by Council President Bowsbey at 10:40 am.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, July 24, 2018 at 9 am.

Attest:

  
James Massey  
Council Manager

Approved:

  
Joyce Bowsbey, President