

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
August 14, 2018**

PRESENT: Council Members: Vice President 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.

Absent: President Bowsbey

OPEN SESSION – Elk Room

9:00 A.M. –Vice President Schneckenburger 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 August 7, 2018, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

Viability of Syringe Services Program in Cecil County

Laurie Humphries, Deputy Health Officer, introduced Sonia Pandit, consultant, who is working with the Health Department in addressing the comprehensive harm reduction services program. Ms. Humphries also introduced Ken Collins, Director of Addiction Services; Mike Massuli, Deputy Director of Addiction Services; Dan Coulter, Director of Health Planning; and Katie Carroll, Peer Recovery Specialist.

Ms. Pandit provided a background by statistics of the serious increases in the number of drug and alcohol related intoxications, intoxicated deaths, deaths related to opioids and fentanyl. Cecil County led the state in the number of Hepatitis C related to injection drug users. The Cecil County Health Department is exploring ways to make a difference through a comprehensive harm reduction strategies, which can reduce negative consequences associated with high risk behaviors.

Ms. Pandit discussed the benefits of comprehensive harm reduction strategies to reduce drug use and increase participation in drug abuse treatment.

Ms. Pandit has worked with local stakeholders, completed an inventory of resources, and conducted interviews with drug users. Most stakeholders and drug users support a comprehensive harm reduction program in offering a needle exchange. She provided statistics to illustrate drug users willingness to participate in the program and benefits to the community. She stated that the next step is to explore potential implementation options by conducting outreach to key partners.

Council questions and comments ensued. The state health agency provides grant funds for needle exchange programs currently in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Washington County. Council

Members voiced concern on the public's reaction to the government providing syringes to drug users.

Wastewater Rate Fees

Councilman Meffley led discussion of his proposal to revise the administration's proposal to implement wastewater rates from three to five years. Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, provided calculations to compare the proposal of the Administration and Councilman Meffley. Ms. Anderson showed the revenue for each fiscal year and expressed concern that Councilman Meffley's proposal could jeopardize the county's bond rating, which could increase the cost of borrowing. Ms. Anderson also showed the effects of both proposals on the county deficit. The Council also discussed the options of a two year rate increase, permitting meters for non-metered users, hook up fees, and the projected growth. The Council also discussed the timing of payment of the hook up fee.

The Council asked the administration to provide the number of connections projected in the current budget. The public hearing for Resolution No. 28-2018 is scheduled on August 21, 2018.

Moratorium on Used Tires

Vice President Schneckeburger led discussion on the upsurge of used tire businesses in Cecil County and its effect on the county's economic growth. The Council discussed what could be done to reduce their numbers and the associated risks to safety and the environment.

The Council determined that a moratorium on used tire businesses was outside the authority of the County Council. State regulations limit the number of used tires on a property to 1,200.

County Executive McCarthy provided a summary of his efforts to address the used tire businesses that exceed the state's limit of tires on the premises. He stated that he had addressed this issue with the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Attorney General's Office. The Attorney General's Office has brought suit with one used tire business and a court date is scheduled in December 2018. He also stated that county authority over used tire businesses is limited to zoning. He said that there are currently 163 used tire businesses within Cecil County, including 39 on the Route 40 corridor. These numbers include legitimate car dealers and automobile maintenance shops, which receive used tires when they sell new tires.

Executive McCarthy said that there are used tire businesses that are paid to take used tires, which are then separated between saleable and unsaleable tires. The unsaleable tires are usually kept on site and become the concern. He stated the tire fires are difficult to control and give off poisonous vapor fumes. He also stated that tires that are stored outside breed mosquitoes and other insects that cause diseases such as the Zika virus, malaria, and encephalitis.

Eric Sennstrom, Director of Land Use and Development Services, provided a fact sheet with definitions, state regulations, current situation and conclusion. He concluded that the county should continue to bring the issue of used tire regulation to MDE to enhance inspection and enforcement.

The Council and Administration expressed concerns that if a used tire business becomes abandoned, the cost of proper disposal would be costly. There was also discussion of state legislation to require a surety bond that would cover the disposal of used tires if the business was abandoned.

Vice President Schneckenburger stated that the Council will support the Executive's efforts to initiate state legislation to require used tire businesses to post a surety bond.

Council Manager Report

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

Council Member Comments

Councilwoman Gregory thanked the audience for attending. She attended an event in Chesapeake City held on behalf of Governor Hogan.

Councilman Patchell attended the Lower Ferry Festival in downtown Perryville and expressed his appreciation of the summer event on the waterfront.

Councilman Meffley commented that he participated in an interview with Sonia Pandit regarding homelessness. He will be attending training by the Maryland Rural Development Corporation on Head Start, housing and adult education on August 24 at the Family Education Center in Hollingsworth Manor. He attended the ribbon cutting for the Chesapeake Feline Association and the fundraiser for Governor Hogan. He will be attending the Maryland Association of Counties summer conference later this week.

Vice President Schneckenburger will be attending the Maryland Association of Counties summer conference. He is working with MDE to support a water line to the Perryville Fire Company Station 16.

Adjournment

The work session was adjourned by Vice President Schneckenburger at 10:33 am.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at 9 am.

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Dan Schneckenburger, Vice President