

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
September 11, 2018**

PRESENT: Council Members: President Bowsbey, 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.

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 and video recording of this meeting is available on the County website www.ccgov.org.

Council President Bowsbey asked the audience to observe a moment of silence in memory of September 11, 2001.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilman Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Gregory, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of September 4, 2018, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

Susquehanna Workforce Network

Bruce England, Executive Director, Susquehanna Workforce Network, updated the County Council on his agency. He stated that his board members are very engaged in the organization. He reviewed the priorities of the agency and the industry composition of the region. He provided statistical data on the labor force within Harford and Cecil Counties. He stated that as of September 4, 2018, 1,053 jobs were available in Cecil County to 14,492 candidates from Cecil County. Mr. England discussed the type of jobs available and how SWN connects employers with potential employees. He stated that truck drivers and IT skilled workers were in demand; and that employers were looking for soft skills such as customer service and interpersonal skills. He described the services to businesses, youth and job applicants. He also described his initiatives in manufacturing, construction, IT/Cyber and warehouse distributions. Council questions and comments ensued.

Elk Creeks Preservation Society

Josey Poteet provided a presentation about the Elk Creeks Preservation Society, which grew out of the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration. She stated that this organization strives to preserve the heritage of the region between the Big Elk Creek and Little Elk Creek in Cecil County. She stated that her organization has worked to preserve Fair Hill Inn, Fair Hill Races, Center School. She stated that her organization is focused on preserving Beehive property on Route 273, which includes a cooper shop, dwelling, tavern, and harness maker shop. She stated that her organization raises private funds through fundraising events including the Apple Butter Festival. She also stated that the organization recently received a grant from the County's Video Terminal Lottery program. Council questions and comments ensued.

MDOT Consolidated Transportation Plan

Council President Bowsbey led discussion of the Cecil County projects that were included in the Maryland Department of Transportation's Consolidated Transportation Program for FY 2019-FY2024. Council Members also reviewed Cecil County's FY 2019 Transportation Priorities letter, dated April 1, 2018, which was signed by the County Executive, County Council and members of the Cecil County delegation. The Council discussed the top requested priority of the I-95 interchange at Belvidere Road.

Councilman Patchell expressed concern that the requested sidewalk in Perryville along Route 222 was not included in the funded projects. He will follow up with the administration.

Vice President Schneckenburger stated that Ken Fender was the new State Highway Administration Engineer for Cecil County. He stated that the State shows all three roundabouts are under construction and that the BlueBall Road roundabout was to be completed by December 2018.

Vice President Schneckenburger noted that the proposed bridge replacement on Route 273 was not included in projects to be funded.

Council President Bowsbey stated that the three issues in question should be brought up at the Consolidated Transportation Plan Tour meeting on Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at 10:00 am.

Council Manager Report

Mr. Massey updated Council Members about upcoming meetings and events. He stated that the Upper Shore Regional Council's planned retreat on September 18th has been postponed.

Council Member Comments

Councilman Patchell visited Perryville High School to see the security improvements and commented that it was well designed.

Councilman Meffley attended several meetings of the Maryland Development Rural Council in Greensboro. He also attended a meeting with the School of Technology officials regarding a new diesel program. He stated that this project cost \$1M, which will cover expenses for equipment, tools, and instructor salaries. He also stated that local businesses will be contributing tools for the program that should begin in 2019.

Councilwoman Gregory will be attending the 9-11 memorial program at Pell Gardens in Chesapeake City. She will also be attending the MACo legislative committee in Annapolis.

Vice President Schneckenburger attended the Economic Development Commission meeting and commented that there were very positive activities going on to increase employment and bring new businesses to Cecil County. He will be attending the 9-11 Patriot's Day program at Pell Gardens. He will also be attending Economic Development's commercial broker event. He will also will be attending the Octoberfest at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Council President Bowsbey attended the Crab Crawl, sponsored by the Cecil County Public Library, and commented that it was an outstanding event. She also attended the Lobster Fest fundraising for Union Hospital at Woodys and commended Pete Wood for an outstanding event.

Council President Bowsbey also reported on items from the Local Management Board. She stated that a survey of residents indicated that 87% are in favor of a community center. She said that there is an effort to revitalize Hollingsworth Manor, which held a well attended community day recently. There will be a basic training session in adolescent trauma in October. She stated that the Health Department is offering a program in suicide awareness on October 24. She also explained the Local Care Team, a committee of local organizations, which focuses on the needs families regarding behavior health.

Council President Bowsbey will be attending the 9/11 memorial service at Pell Gardens and the Little Black Dress program, a fundraiser for Cecil College scholarship fund.

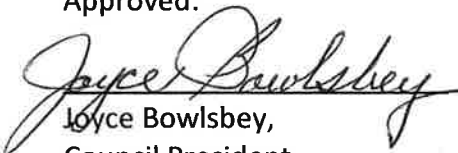
Councilman Meffley stated that he attended a Bohemia Manor High School football game played on the new turf field and praised the turf field for its resiliency.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Councilwoman Gregory, seconded by Councilman Meffley, the work session was adjourned by Council President Bowsbey at 9:59 am.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 9 am.

Approved:


Joyce Bowsbey,
Council President

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager

