

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
January 22, 2019

PRESENT: Council Members: Robert Meffley, William Coutz, Al Miller, 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 Meffley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and determined a quorum.

NOTE: Video and audio recording with transcription of this meeting are available on the County website www.ccgov.org.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Coutz, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of January 15, 2019, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

Impact of US 301 Bypass on Cecil County

Joe Zang, Mayor of Cecilton, updated the Council on the impact of increased truck and vehicle traffic from the new US 301 bypass. He stated that he had met with representatives from the State Highway Administration, Town of Galena and Middletown, Delaware. He stated that the most impact was in the vicinity of Warwick. He stated that the Cecil County Sheriff's Office could not dedicate a full-time deputy to patrol the area. He stated that the roads were not designed for the heavy truck traffic and there are no places for a large truck to turn around. He is working with the state delegation to install improved signage. Mayor Zang has observed car carriers, UPS doubles and industrial flatbed trailers, which have never used these roads. He stated that the Town of Cecilton was looking at possible speed cameras to lower the speed of vehicles. He also has asked the state to consider a traffic scale in order to reduce the number of heavy vehicles. He said that vehicles are using county country roads to avoid a toll on the Delaware portion of US 301.

County Executive McCarthy stated that he hopes to resolve this issue in the next few weeks.

The presentation on the North East Library Update was delayed because of equipment failure. Council President Meffley suspended the rules so that the Council could go to the next agenda item.

Council Member Comments

Councilman Patchell attended the open house for the proposed I-95 interchange at Belvidere Road and commented on it being well attended. He stated that there will be another open house in the summer to update the public on their plans. He also attended the Wrights AME memorial service for Martin Luther King, Jr. and commended the church for the fifteen years that they have held this event.

Councilman Miller attended the open house for the proposed I-95 interchange and commented on its plans. He was invited to speak to the Rising Sun Lions Club and commented on their exceptional community service outreach. He commented on their outstanding eyeglass program. He stated that the Lions Club is an outstanding service organization.

Councilman Coutz commented on the publicity of information about the proposed I-95 interchange at Belvidere Road and expressed his hope that future projects will be as well publicized. He thanked Morgan Miller, Library Director, for the library orientation given to Councilman Miller and him.

Vice President Gregory thanked the audience for attending today's session. She stated that Councilman Coutz and she attended the Governor's Inauguration. She will be attending the first meeting of the MACo Legislative Committee tomorrow.

Council President Meffley attended the Sheriff's Intel meeting and reported that there have been 20 overdose cases in Cecil County since January 1, 2019. Of these cases, there was one fatality. He attended a fundraiser for the Ecumenical Council of Chesapeake City and commented on the large attendance. He attended the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial service at Wrights AME Church and commented on the wonderful celebration. He also attended the Cecil County Fireman's Association at Hacks Point Fire Hall and commented on a program to install smoke detectors in each fire district.

Council Manager Report

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

North East Library Update

Morgan Miller, Library Director, introduced Chuck Wray and Jeff Hoover, representing Quinn Evans/Tappe Architects, who are designing the new North East Library. Mr. Hoover described the various methods used for community input. Mr. Wray provided a presentation to illustrate the site plan of the building and interior floor plans. He stated that the building will be two-stories of 44,000 square foot.

The construction manager, Mike Berardi, CM Wilson Construction, was also introduced and confirmed that the project was within budget. He stated that groundbreaking is tentatively scheduled for late summer or early fall 2019. He estimated fifteen months for construction and two months to move from the current building. Completion is tentatively scheduled by the end of 2020.

Council questions and comments ensued. Councilman Patchell confirmed that the budget includes furnishings. Ms. Miller stated that the Friends of the Library plan to raise funds to support a STEM center and Family Literacy Center, which is not a part of the project funding. She also stated that Delegate Hornberger is seeking a state bond to support the Family Literacy Program.

Ms. Morgan also stated that the library administration will be moving to the North East Library so that approximately 4,000 square foot at the current Elkton Library can be expanded.

Adjournment

Vice President Gregory made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Councilman Miller. Council President Meffley adjourned the Council work session at 10:45 a.m.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 9 am.

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Robert Meffley,
Council President