

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
February 5, 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: Audio and video recording with transcription of this meeting are available on the County website www.ccgov.org.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of January 22, 2019, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

Cecil College Update

Dr. Mary Bolt, Cecil College President, provided highlights of Cecil College programs. She showed two videos that focused on the CDL truck driver and the skilled trades programs. She discussed the variety of students who attend and the many instructional programs provided. She stated that the college has a new theme, "Own your future". She stated that a new Facilities Practice Building will be dedicated on March 14, 2019 at 5pm. She also stated that the Cecil College Foundation will sponsor the annual Collegium de Vinum gala on May 4, 2019 at Bohemia River Overlook.

Council questions and comments ensued. Dr. Bolt stated that Cecil College's nursing program was the only institution in the state with 100% passing certification.

Red Flag State Statute

First Deputy Gerald Widdoes, Cecil County Sheriff's Office, provided an overview of the recently implemented state statute referred to as the "Red Flag Law".

As a result of concerns for multiple active shooting events nationwide, Deputy Widdoes explained that the State passed legislation that authorized law enforcement to seize firearms of persons who is believed to be at risk to themselves or others. He stated that a Judge or District Court Commissioner can sign an order based on specific reasons to order confiscation of a person's firearms. He stated that a petition could be filed by law enforcement, health professional, or family member. He stated that there have been eight orders issued in Cecil County since the law became effective in October 2018. He provided additional statistics and commented on this emotional charged issue. Council questions and comments ensued.

Vice President Gregory asked Deputy Widdoes regarding proposed legislation regarding providing medical treatment in detention centers. Deputy Widdoes responded that it would be very difficult to meet the 24-hour deadline for an inmate to be seen by a physician.

Second Quarter Financial Projections

Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, presented the second quarter financial projections report. She provided a written report and explained how to read the report.

Ms. Anderson stated that the second quarter find the county's general fund expecting a favorable variance from budget of \$738,052. The projected net of all revenue streams is \$783,036 less than budget. Projected expenditures are expected to approach but not equal the budget. A total of about \$1.5M less than budget is projected to be spent. Expenditures increased by about \$3.2M when compared to FY 2018, largely due to the first-time principal and interest payments on the 2017 public improvement bonds.

The Landfill Fund is projecting a \$91,690 increase in operating revenues compared to budget and \$122,386 lower in expenditures. If this continues, the operating gain will be \$214,076 to the positive.

The Wastewater Fund is projecting a revenue deficit for the year of \$554,053. The FY2019 budget was estimated using a rate increase that would be in effect as of July 1, 2018. The actual 15% rate increase will only impact the quarterly billings beginning on October 1. The bottom line loss in net position of \$743,770 should continue to be no surprise as the health of the Wastewater Fund is an ongoing conversation.

There were no Council questions or comments.

Review of State Legislation

Mr. Massey reviewed the legislative log of proposed State bills with the Council. He suggested that the Council may wish to send letters of support for SB 132/HB 80 regarding repeal of the Fair Hill Races allocation to Union Hospital. He suggested that the Council may wish to send a letter of support for HB 242 regarding hunting; which would permit hunting in season on Sundays, require 50 yard safety zone for archery hunting and prohibit the use of snare traps. He also suggested that the Council may wish to send a letter of opposition against HB 166/SB280 regarding the increase of minimum wage rate to \$15 by 2023 through gradual increases annually.

He also stated that a letters of support have been sent regarding SB259 Special Taxing District – Broadband Internet Services. He stated that a letter of support will also be sent for the proposal to permit Cecil County Correctional Officers to be represented by collective bargaining, but this legislation has not been filed yet.

Vice President Gregory made a motion to send letters of support for SB 132/HB 80 and HB 242; and a letter of opposition against HB 166/SB280. The motion was seconded by Councilman Coutz and approved by a unanimous vote.

Review of Legislative Agenda

Steve O'Connor, Zoning Administrator, provided introductory comments on Bill No. 2019-02 Approval – Agricultural Land Preservation District – Leon King, which will be introduced at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 05-2019 Appointment—Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board- Dale K. DeWeese, which will be introduced at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 06-2019 Reappointment—Board of Parks and Recreation-Matthew Morris, will be introduced at tonight's session. There were no introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 07-2019 Appointment—Planning Commission – Joyce Bowsbey, which will be introduced at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 08-2019 Appointment—Cecil County Ethics Commission- Bradley Moore, will be introduced at tonight's session. There were no introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 09-2019 Appointment - Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council – Rebecca J. Flood, will be introduced at tonight's session. There were no introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 10-2019 Appointment - Historic District Commission – Macon H. Coleman, IV and Heidi M. Coleman, will be introduced at tonight's session. There were no introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 11-2019 Appointment—Mental Health Core Service Agency Advisory Board – Eric M. Upperman, which will be introduced at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Eric Sennstrom, Director of Land Use and Development Services, provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 12-2019 Approval - Master Water and Sewer Plan 2018, which will be introduced at tonight's session. He stated that the Master Water and Sewer Plan must be updated every three years. He also indicated that the 2018 proposed plan replaces the current 2015 plan. He stated that his department reached out to the municipalities, Department of Public Works and utilities for their revisions. He also stated that he notified the Mayors of the hearings held by the Planning Commission and County council. He stated that the Maryland Department of the Environment has new criteria that is needed to be in compliance. Mr. Sennstrom stated that after the Council approves the plan, it is submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment for their certification.

Vice President Gregory asked why there were missing text and maps that had been approved by the Council within the last three years. He stated that MDE has different requirements. He explained that the 2018 Master Water and Sewer Plan is a new document and that there is no point in comparing to the current version, which is no longer relevant. He used the example that the maps now show five categories instead of three. He illustrated the change to five categories as follows: W/S-1 is existing service, W/S-2 service to be provided in two years, W/S-3 service is to be provided in two to three years, W/S-4 service to be provided in three to six years, and W/S-5 service to be provided in six to ten years. He stated that the next update of the Master Water and Sewer Plan would be required in 2022.

Council President Meffley asked if the municipalities have replied to his requests for updates. He stated that his department sent requests to each municipality in February 2018 but has not received any response from the Town of Rising Sun. Council President Meffley asked about any changes in development projects since the 2015 version. Mr. Sennstrom stated that any new development projects would require Council approval.

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 13-2019 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Solid Waste Enterprise Fund – Agricultural Tire Recycling, which will be introduced at tonight’s session. Councilman Miller commended this project that will greatly help the farming community.

Resolution No. 46-2018 Great Wolf Lodge- Hotel Rental Tax- Administrative Fee Waiver, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. Council President Meffley stated that there is an amendment to correct language in this legislation. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 47-2018 Great Wolf Lodge- County Personal Property Tax- Tax Credit, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments on Resolution No. 04-2019 Supplemental Appropriation- Fund Balance- Voluntary Fire Service, which will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Bill No. 2018-21 Electrical Code- Compliance Requirements- Board of Electrical Examiners, will be considered for final approval at tonight’s session. There were no questions or comments.

Cecil County Public Schools – Budget Amendment #58 will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council Manager Report

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

Council Member Comments

Councilman Patchell attended the Perryville Volunteer Fire Company Banquet and commended Eddie Ryan for responding to 330 calls in 2018. He also attended the Chamber of Commerce State of the County Breakfast and thanked the Chamber for sponsoring this event as well as Cecil Night in Annapolis.

Councilman Miller attended the Perryville Volunteer Fire Company Banquet and commended John Jones for his induction into the Harford/Cecil Hall of Fame. He stated that many farmers have voiced concern over the increased truck traffic because of the US301 bypass. He commended the county government employees for their assistance with him as a Council Member. He also thanked Carl Roberts for his efforts in the State of the County Breakfast and Cecil Night in Annapolis.

Councilman Coutz expressed his appreciation of the Chamber of Commerce for their sponsorship of the State of the County Breakfast and Cecil Night in Annapolis. He also commended County Executive McCarthy and Council President Meffley for their addresses in moving the county forward. He stated that Fair Hill Races will be celebrating their eighty-fifth anniversary in 2019. He also commended the administration for their response to his constituent concerns.

Vice President Gregory thanked the audience for their attendance today. She attended the Early Childhood Advisory Committee and commented on their focus on children in trauma. She participated in the Pine Grove Chili Cook-off to raise funds for the Boys and Girls Club and the Special Olympics. She attended the MACo Legislative Committee and discussed topics of new legislation including Next Generation-911, protecting victims' identify and equitable funding of schools. She also discussed issues of the reprioritizing of public health, the preemption of state laws on the counties, medical treatment of inmates, contractor occupancy safety, prescription drug monitoring, prevailing wage on school construction, and small cells.

Council President Meffley attended the Sheriff's Office Intel meeting and reported on the increase of domestic violence. He attended the Maryland Rural Development Corporation and reported on grants received to repair buildings. He commented on assisting with MRDC plans to expand the Boys and Girls Club in Aberdeen. He stated that MRDC centers will be opening in Bela Air, Elkton and Cecilton. He commented on the State of the County Breakfast and comments about moving Cecil County forward. He served dinners for the homeless at the Paris Foundation. He announced a meeting to be held on February 13, 2019 at 10am at the Cecilton Community Center to discuss the increased traffic flow caused by the US301 bypass.

Adjournment

Vice President Gregory made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Councilman Coutz. Council President Meffley adjourned the Council work session at 10:27 a.m.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 9 am.

Attest:

James Massey
James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:

Robert Meffley
Robert Meffley,
Council President