

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
May 14, 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.

CLOSED SESSION

May 7, 2019

9:48 a.m.

Council President Meffley asked for a motion to go into closed session, which was made by Vice President Gregory and seconded by Councilman Coutz.

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y.

The motion was carried by a vote of 5 to 0. Council President Meffley, Vice President Gregory, Councilman Coutz, Councilman Miller and Councilman Patchell voted in favor of the motion. There was no opposition.

Council Manager Massey read into the record:

The Council is going into closed session as authorized by the General Provisions Article, §3-305 (b)(1) of Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals;

PRESENT: Council Members: President Meffley, Vice President Gregory, Councilman Coutz, Councilman Miller and Councilman Patchell; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant.

The Council discussed proposals for Council Attorney. There were no decisions made.

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to conclude the closed session at 10:29 a.m.

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 May 7, 2019, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

On a motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council closed session of May 7, 2019, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously

Cecil County Public Schools Update

Dr. Jeff Lawson, School Superintendent, stated that Justin Zimmerman will be the principal of Bohemia Manor Middle and High School. He stated that he will be presenting information at the Council recall budget hearing about school security funding. He stated that his proposed FY 20 budget did not include any Kirwan Commission recommended funding because it has not been finalized. He also stated that proposals for "Kirwan 2" will be at least twice as large.

Bainbridge Development Corporation Update

Dr. Carl Roberts, chair of the Bainbridge Development Corporation board, introduced Toni Sprenkle, project manager. Dr. Roberts stated that Steve Cassard was appointed as the Executive Director of BDC. He stated that the BDC board included 15 members, 9 voting members and 6 ex-official non-voting members.

He summarized the history of BDC. In 1986, the US Navy declared the Bainbridge Naval Base as surplus property. The property is now owned by the Bainbridge Development Corporation, whose mission is to develop the property for economic development. Since 2015, the BDC and US Navy have agreed to have an appraisal. When the US Navy would not agree to funding the cleanup, the BDC threatened litigation. Grant awards funded a study to determine the need for more and deeper samples of the property. In 2016-2017, additional samples were taken and analyzed. The US Navy reported that the samplings were favorable to development for commercial or industrial usage. It is BDC's intention to sell 400 acres for a prospective warehouse manufacturing business. The US Navy agreed to pay for the cost of mitigation for 400 acres that the prospective business wishes to buy. In addition, MDE agreed to accept new EPA standards. The 400 acre property is located behind the current BDC office where the land is flat and geographically closer to I-95 access. Tests showed that the entire Bainbridge property can be used for commercial industrial with the exception of an area around the former hospital. BDC has separated 50 acres where the Tome School was located. There can be no residential properties on the former naval base.

Dr. Roberts stated that the former Tome School has a historic easement on the buildings, which will remain, even if BDC sold the property. He stated that the State Department of Planning will be conducting a pilot project on three historic properties owned by the state to determine the feasibility of relaxing or modifying the easements so that the properties could be economically profitable. He stated that certain rooms in the Tome School buildings may be too small for alternate use. BDC has requested that Tome School be selected as one of the state's pilot projects.

Toni Sprenkle, project coordinator, stated that the BDC was working with a prospect that is interested in 400 acres for a warehouse distribution center. She is working with the Town of Port Deposit to ensure that their comprehensive plan can be updated for this usage. She stated that the county intends to install a new wastewater treatment plan to service Bainbridge as well as the Town of Port Deposit.

Dr. Roberts attributed the recent success to Governor Hogan, Congressman Harris, Cecil County Government and the Town of Port Deposit.

Council questions and comments ensued. Dr. Roberts clarified that Artesian Water will work with the proposed project. Dr. Roberts stated that he would keep the Council up to date as the project develops.

Council Manager Report

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

Council Member Items

Councilman Patchell attended the groundbreaking for the North East Library and commented on the large audience who attended the event.

Councilman Miller attended the groundbreaking for the North East Library. He also attended the Drug-free prevention rally and commented on the support for young people.

Councilman Coutz attended the groundbreaking for the North East Library and commented on the ten years in planning this project. He attended the Drug-free prevention rally and commented on his support for the young people who are most effective in bringing this issue to their peers. He attended the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month event and commended Mie Mie Strickler for the outstanding performances and attendance by international officials, which showed the diversity of culture here. He attended the Singerly Fire Company awards banquet and stated that he was honored to recognize their members' achievements.

Vice President Gregory thanked the audience for attending the session. She attended the Eagle Court of Honor for William Seymour and commented on the Scout's impressive achievements.

Council President Meffley attended the Clean Chesapeake Coalition executive committee and commented on the focus on the relicensing of Conowingo Dam. He stated that the coalition will meet with General Taylor from Aberdeen Proving Ground to discuss the possibility of bringing the dam reservoir's dredging to the army base. He attended the groundbreaking for the North East Library and commented on the large turnout. He attended the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month event at Mount Aviat Academy and commented on the large number of performances. He attended the Singerly Fire Company's awards banquet. He attended the Drug-free prevention rally and praised the Youth Empowerment Source and the students who created videos on drug prevention. He attended the Maryland Rural Development Corporation meeting and commented on a new Head Start building in Cecilton. He attended the Chesapeake City Commissioners meeting and commented on an upcoming Bayhead Brewery 5K race, plans

for a sewer plant, and their tax increase. He stated that Chesapeake City will have fireworks on July 5, 2019.

10:07 A.M.

CLOSED SESSION

Council President Meffley asked for a motion to go into closed session, which was made by Councilman Coutz, and seconded by Vice President Gregory.

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y.

The motion was carried by a vote of 5 to 0. Council President Meffley, Vice President Gregory, Councilman Coutz, Councilman Miller and Councilman Patchell voted in favor of the motion. There was no opposition.

Council Manager Massey read into the record:

The Council is going into closed session as authorized by the General Provisions Article, Section 3-305 (b)(1) of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

The open session was reconvened at 10:41 a.m.

Adjournment

Vice President Gregory moved for adjournment, which was seconded by Councilman Coutz, and approved by consensus. Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 10:41 am.

The next Council work session is scheduled on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 9am in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building.

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Robert Meffley
Council President