

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
April 16, 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 April 9, 2019, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

VLOSAP

Jason Allison, County Attorney, requested to make his presentation during the review of the legislative agenda.

Purchasing Manual

Lisa Saxton, Finance Director, requested to make a presentation on the proposed Purchasing Manual. She introduced Connie Kamet, Purchasing Agent, who had assisted in updating the manual. Ms. Saxton reviewed major changes since the current 2012 Purchasing Manual was approved. She reviewed the revisions in the amounts of purchasing to the corresponding policy. Ms. Saxton presented several new sections of the manual. She also provided a comparison with other counties to illustrate the various cost limits and corresponding policy. She stated that the objective of revising the manual was to simplify the process and make it customer oriented. Council questions and comments ensued.

Review of Legislative Agenda

Jason Allison, County Attorney, provided introductory comments on Bill No. 2019-07 Trust Fund – Volunteer Length of Service Award Program – VLOSAP, which will be introduced at tonight’s session. Councilman Patchell asked why a member of the Council was not a member of the board of trustees. Jason Allison, County Attorney, stated that it was a separation of powers and a violation of the Charter. Council Members expressed their concern for this interpretation. Lisa Saxton, Finance Director, explained the finances of the program. She stated that she would be bringing legislation to the Council regarding funding.

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 29-2019 Amendment – Purchasing Manual.

There were no Council questions or comments.

David Trolio, Community Services Director, provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 30-2019 Supplemental Appropriation and Budget Transfer – Grant Fund – Community Services Foundation – Animal Services, which will be introduced at tonight’s session. He introduced Abigail Bingham, Animal Services Director, and Debbie Cycyk, Budget Analyst. Ms. Bingham stated that Alma McLean had bequeathed the Animal Services \$138,426 for building improvements. Council questions and comments ensued.

David Trolio, Community Services Director, provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 31-2019 Supplemental Appropriation- Fund Balance - Animal Services, which will be introduced at tonight’s session. Mr. Trolio reviewed the current Animal Services budget, which showed that there have been significant increases in the number of animals at the shelter. Ms. Bingham suggested that there is more community trust in the current shelter and that the shelter is more accessible. Council questions and comments ensued.

Resolution No. 16-2019 2020 Cecil County Strategic Plan, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments. Councilwoman Gregory expressed concern that the plan was extended from five to ten years.

Resolution No. 19-2019 Road Abandonment – Portion of Nazarene Camp Road, Cecil County, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments. Council questions and comments ensued. The Council expressed concern about synchronizing traffic signals to prevent traffic backups.

Resolution No. 28-2019 Budget Appropriation – Grant Funds – Broadband Expansion – Upper Shore Regional Council, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. Council questions and comments ensued. Council President Meffley expressed concern of proposed state legislation that would tax expansion of broadband projects at \$8,000.

Under new business, the Council will be considering the approval of the recommendation of the Independent Auditor Evaluation Committee. Councilman Coutz and Councilwoman Gregory were members of the evaluation committee and expressed their support for the recommendation.

Under new business, Cecil County Public Schools – budget Amendment #61 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 Items

Councilman Patchell will provide comments at tonight’s session.

Councilman Miller will provide comments at tonight’s session.

Councilman Coutz attended the Business Resource meeting on opportunity zone, sponsored by the Maryland Department of Commerce, and commented how the program will work in Cecil County.

Vice President Gregory attended the North East Town Board meeting with Councilman Coutz and commented that the Town was discussing a MS-4 issue. She attended Rising Sun's Little League parade and opening of the Town's Little Free Library at town hall. She attended the Water Witch Volunteer Fire Company awards banquet with Councilman Patchell and Councilman Miller. She attended the grand opening of Rosewood Farm and commented on the beautiful venue for events in Cecil County.

Council President Meffley attended the Business Resource meeting on opportunity zones and commented that he would like Frank Dickson, the Director of Strategic Business Initiatives, to make a presentation to the Council. He attended the opening of the CASA of Cecil County office and commented on their new chair lift.

**10:10 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 Councilwoman Gregory.

Role Call Vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y.
The motion was carried by a vote of 5 to 0.

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;

The open session was reconvened at 10:58 a.m.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Gregory moved for adjournment, which was seconded by Councilman Coutz. Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 10:58 am.

The next Council work session is scheduled on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 9am in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building.

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Robert Meffley
Council President