

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
August 6, 2019**

PRESENT: Council Members: Robert Meffley, William Coutz, Al Miller, and George Patchell; James Massey, Council Manager; Maggie Tome, Unified Communications Specialist; John Downs, Council Attorney; members of the press; and members of the public.

Absent: Councilwoman Jackie Gregory

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: The video and audio recording with transcription of this meeting is available on the County website www.ccgov.org.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Miller, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of July 23, 2019, as presented. Motion was approved by vote of 4-0, Councilwoman Gregory was absent.

Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation

Steve O’Connor, Chief of the Division of Planning and Zoning, and Devyn King, Planner, provided an overview of the Agricultural Programs. They explained the difference and benefits of the Cecil County land preservation district program and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation program. They also provided explanations of the purchase of the development rights program and the transfer of development rights process.

Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna

Karen Blandford, Director of the Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna, introduced Kathy Herlinger, and Yvette Valentine. She stated that her organization serves Harford and Cecil counties by raising funds to repair and build houses for those in need. She explained that her organization has funding that can be loaned at low or no interest rate. She stated that there are also repair programs to assist the elderly and Veterans with minor and major home repairs. She stated that they hoped to locate an office in Cecil County to better serve this county. She stated that Habitat for Humanity has established a relationship with the School of Technology to purchase houses that are built by students. Council questions and comments ensued.

Review of Legislative Agenda

A public hearing on Resolution No. 39-2019 Amendment- Master Water and Sewer Plan-Conowingo Mobile Home Court and Maybelle Manor Mobile Home Estates, is scheduled at tonight’s session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Steve O’Connor, Chief of the Division of Planning and Zoning, and Devyn King, Planner, provided introductory comments on Bill No. 2019-10 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation –

Mary Lee Howard Vosters; Bill No. 2019-11 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation – Farmington Acres LLC; Bill No. 2019-12 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation – Clay Farms GP; and Bill No. 2019-13 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation – James and Ann Higgins; which will be introduced at tonight’s session. Councilman Coutz and Council President Meffley asked about the acreage of each.

Scott Flanigan, Public Works Director, provided introductory comments on Bill No. 2019-14 Budget Transfer and Appropriation – Capital Budget – Roads and Bridges – Belvidere Road Culvert Project, which will be introduced at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Scott Flanigan, Public Works Director, provided introductory comments on Bill No. 2019-15 Expedited Legislation – Budget Transfer and Appropriation – Capital Budget – Roads and Bridges – Bethel Church Road Bridge Project, which will be introduced at tonight’s session. He explained that the administration was requesting that this legislation be considered for expediting so that the project could get started sooner to avoid cold weather. There were no Council questions or comments.

Steve O’Connor, Chief of the Division of Planning and Zoning, provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 45-2019 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation – Application Finalists FY 2020, which will be introduced at tonight’s session. He stated that the identity of the finalists must be confidential but will be discussed in a closed session today. There were no Council questions or comments.

Bryan Lightner, Zoning Administrator, provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 46-2019 Approval – Cecil County Green Infrastructure – 2019, which will be introduced at tonight’s session. He provided a list of highlights of this legislation. There were no Council questions or comments.

Dave Trolio, Community Services Director, provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 47-2019 Expedited Legislation – Approval – Grant Application – Community Development Block Grant – Homeless Initiative, which will be introduced at tonight’s session. He explained that this legislation is requested to be expedited because the deadline for the grant application was August 19, 2019. Councilman Coutz requested a presentation by the consultant regarding the grant proposal.

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided introductory comments on Resolution No. 48-2019 Appointment – Local Development Council – Mike Travers, Bruce England, Steven Pearson, Robert DeWeese, Gary Benjamin, Robert Palsgrove, Larry Metz, Donald Harmer, Jr., Robert Amato and Sarah Colenda; which will be introduced at tonight’s session. Councilman Coutz clarified that the committee selection was vetted by the Cecil County delegation members, including Delegate Hornberger, Delegate Reilly, and Senator Gallion.

Resolution No. 43-2019 Appointment—Board of Appeals – Mark Saunders and Willard Whiteman, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 44-2019 Appointment—Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board- Norman Anderson, William Ewing and Charles Robinson, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Bill No. 2019-08 Roads- Cecil County- Repeal of Public Law- Purchasing Manual, 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, Councilman Miller, Councilman Coutz, and Council President Meffley agreed to hold their comments until tonight's session.

Adjournment

Councilman Miller made a motion for adjournment, which was seconded by Councilman Coutz and approved by unanimous consent. Council President Meffley adjourned the work session at 10:31 a.m.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 9am in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building.

CLOSED SESSION

10:34 A.M.

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

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

The motion was carried by a vote of 4 to 0. Council President Meffley, Councilman Coutz, Councilman Miller and Councilman Patchell voted in favor of the motion. There was no opposition. Councilwoman Gregory was absent.

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)(13) of the Annotated Code of Maryland to comply with specific constitutional, statutory or judicial imposed requirements that prevent public disclosure about a particular proceeding or matter.

On motion made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilman Coutz, the Council moved to conclude the closed session at 10:45 a.m.

Approved:



Robert Meffley
Council President


James Massey
Council Manager