

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
June 4, 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 May 28, 2019, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

Council President Meffley stated that he was very dissatisfied with the State Fire Marshall's presentation regarding used tires. He stated that the Council will pursue local legislation to limit the number of used tires on a property because of the potential fire hazard.

Review of Legislative Agenda

Resolution No. 35-2019 Appointment – Board of License Commissioners – Bernard M. Chiominto, will be introduced at tonight's session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions and comments.

Resolution No. 26-2019 Fees – Structure Permit, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, summarized the legislation. Council Member Coutz clarified that the \$10 fee proposed by this legislation replaces a fee of \$30, a reduction of \$20.

Resolution No. 29-2019 Amendment – Purchasing Manual, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, commented on the legislation and stated that the administration was in favor of the proposed amendments. Council Manager Massey reviewed Amendment Nos. 1 to 4 to Resolution No. 29-2019.

Bill No. 2019-07 Trust Fund – Volunteer Length of Service Award Program – VLOSAP, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, commented on the legislation and stated that the administration was in favor of the primary amendments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council Manager Massey reviewed Amendment Nos. 1 to 5, which includes: (1) Adding Council Member to the board to legislation, (2) Adding Council Member to the board of the trust

agreement, (3) Requiring Council approval for termination of trust agreement in the legislation, (4) Requiring Council approval for termination in the trust agreement section 7.02, (5) Requiring Council approval for termination of trust agreement in trust agreement section 7.03.

Vice President Gregory voiced concern that Amendment Nos. 3 and 4 were originally proposed to require Council approval of any amendment to the trust agreement. Council Manager Massey stated that when he reviewed the proposed amendments with the administration, they were not in agreement with Amendment Nos. 3 and 4. After discussion, the administration agreed to require Council approval for termination of the trust agreement. Amendment Nos. 3 and 4 were revised to reflect their position. In addition, the administration agreed that the Executive would not have the authority to terminate a Council Member appointed to the board, which is proposed as Amendment No. 5 to Bill No. 2019-07.

Jason Allison, County Attorney, stated that approving any amendments to the trust agreement was an administrative function based on operation of law. He cited Section 212 of the Charter of Cecil County regarding non-interference of the Council in the executive branch. The Council discussed legal opinions provided by Council Attorneys Victor Jackson and John Downs, which indicated that amendments to the trust agreement are legislative in nature and do not constitute an interference in administrative or operational functions.

Vice President Gregory made a motion to revise Amendment Nos. 3 and 4 to require Council approval of any amendment to the trust agreement, as originally proposed by the Council. The motion was seconded by Councilman Coutz and approved by a voice vote of 4 to 1. Councilman Miller was opposed. Amendment Nos. 3 and 4 will be revised to reflect this revision.

Councilman Miller discussed Amendment Nos. 1 and 2, which adds a current member of the Council to the board. The Council discussed a legal opinion from Council Attorney Jackson, which advised that a Council Member should not be a voting member on the trust board. The Council agreed to propose that a Council Member should be a non-voting member of the trust board. Amendment Nos. 1 and 2 to Bill No. 2019-07 will be revised to add "as a non-voting member".

Bill No. 2019-04 Lease and Purchase – Vehicle and Equipment, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Bill No. 2019-05 Capital Improvement Plan – FY 2020-2024, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no comments from the administration. Vice President Gregory requested a map of Calvert Regional Park that could show the proposed improvements. She recommended that the Council not fund Calvert Park until the buildout of current fields was completed.

Bill No. 2019-06 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance – FY 2020, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no comments from the administration. Council Manager Massey reviewed Amendment No. 1, which would delete funding for a telephone

system in the Sheriff's Office, which had been proposed at a cost of \$72,615. As presented as a possible budget cut, Councilman Coutz stated that he met with Sheriff Adams to discuss his need for funding for renovation of two suites in his building, which have recently become available. Councilman Coutz suggested that the Council should delete this funding since the intended use has been eliminated. Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, explained that the funding could be transferred after the adoption of the budget for the Sheriff's renovation. Lisa Saxton, Finance Manager, explained the administration's internal process to transfer funds between agency accounts. The Council made no decision about Amendment No. 1.

Vice President Gregory discussed her proposal to reduce the property tax rate to the constant yield rate. She suggested a reduction in the Parks and Recreation budget of 10%. Ms. Anderson, Budget Manager, stated that this reduction would eliminate funding for a program that also receives program income. Councilman Patchell stated that the program will revive a former state funded afterschool and summer youth program for low income youth. He also stated that this program will also give children positive activities that will reduce the opportunities for substance addiction.

Vice President Gregory also recommended a reduction in Calvert Park funding. Council Members discussed the intended projects to be funded. Councilman Miller stated the importance of the park for economic reasons, the value to youth and the use of the parking lot by Rising Sun High School. Council President Meffley discussed the importance of parks, including Brantwood, for the benefits to youth and wellness. There was no final decision.

Councilman Coutz stated that he hoped that the administration can find additional funding for the State's Attorney Office for additional staff.

Resolution No. 27-2019 Adoption of the Tax Rate – Fiscal Year 2020, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. Vice President Gregory suggested that the Council should reduce property tax to constant yield rate. The Council discussed her proposal but no decision was made.

COUNCIL MANAGER REPORT

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

COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS

Councilman Patchell attended Memorial Day remembrance ceremony at the American Legion Post #135 in Perryville and commended them for their remembrance of fallen servicemen. He presented the county's Cecil College scholarship to Crystal Isenhart at Perryville High School awards assembly.

Councilman Al Miller attended the Gallery Walk of Capstone Projects and commented on the students' exceptional projects. He attended the Rising Sun High School awards assembly and presented the scholarship award to Jadie Eller. He stated that the new farm market at the Arts Council in Elkton was doing well.

Councilman Coutz thanked the audience for attending. He attended the Gallery Walk of Capstone Projects and commented on the amazing projects, including one that analyzed the sediments and chemicals from the Conowingo Dam reservoir flowing into the Susquehanna River. He presented the scholarship to Taniece Redden at Elkton High School and commented on the 96 students who were receiving awards.

Vice President Gregory attended the Gallery Walk of Capstone Projects and commented on the students' imaginative projects using 3D printers. She attended the North East High School awards assembly and presented a scholarship to Nicholas Nuzzo. She attended the dedication of Gilpin Manor Elementary School and commented on the 1950 time capsule that was opened.

Council President Meffley attended Fair Hill Races and commented on the impressive event. He attended the Elkton Memorial Day parade. He attended the Memorial Day remembrance ceremony at the VFW in North East. He attended the Transit Hub Study meeting and commented on proposed changes in the local routes. He presented the county scholarship award to Jade Brinkley at Bohemia Manor High School. He attended the dedication of Gilpin Manor Elementary School. He also recognized Tom Kappra, soon to be retired as Chief Financial Officer at Cecil County Public Schools.

Vice President Gregory commented on the need to separate small capital projects budget from the maintenance of efforts of the Cecil County Public Schools. Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, stated that the county does divide the school budget so that the small capital budget is separated.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Gregory made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilman Coutz and approved unanimously. Council President Meffley adjourned the work session at 10:06 a.m.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 9am in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building.

Approved:


Robert Meffley
Council President


James Massey
Council Manager