

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
November 5, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Council Members: Robert Meffley, Jackie Gregory, William Coutz, Al Miller, and George Patchell; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant; John Downs, Council Attorney; 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:** The video and audio recording with transcription of this meeting is available on the County website [www.ccgov.org](http://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 October 15, 2019, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

**Review of Legislative Agenda**

A public hearing for Bill No. 2019-16 Amendment – Plumbing Code, is scheduled at tonight's session. William Funk, Division Chief, Permits and Inspection, provided comments. Council questions and comments ensued.

A public hearing for Bill No. 2019-17 Amendment – Energy Conservation Standards, is scheduled at tonight's session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

A public hearing for Bill No. 2019-18 Amendment – HVAC Standards, is scheduled at tonight's session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

A public hearing for Bill No. 2019-19 Amendment – Building Construction – Building Code, is scheduled at tonight's session. There were no comments from the administration.

A public hearing for Bill No. 2019-20 Agricultural Preservation District - William and Wanda Creeger - Hidden Valley Farm, is scheduled at tonight's session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 64-2019 Surplus Property – Booth Street Maintenance Building – Town of Elkton, will be introduced at tonight's session. Jason Allison, County Attorney, provided comments. He also provided a plat of the area showing the location of the building. Council questions and comments ensued. Council Members commended plans for this building to become an African American historic museum.

Resolution No. 65-2019 Supplemental Appropriation – Sheriff’s Office – Technology and Furnishings, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, provided comments on the proposal. Scott Adams, Cecil County Sheriff, provided comments on plans to move his department into Suite 100 and 105 of the facility at 107 Chesapeake Blvd. Council questions and comments ensued.

Resolution No. 56-2019 Appointment—Adult Public Guardianship Review Board, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 57-2019 Appointment—Mental Health Core Service Agency Advisory Board, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. Council President Meffley also stated that the administration has proposed Amendment No. 1 to delete the names of Frederick Martin and Placida Brasswell from being reappointed. There were no administrative comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 58-2019 Appointment—Department of Social Services Board – Randy Bailey and Natalie Gentry, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 59-2019 Appointment—Commission on Aging – Mary Klesius and Shawn Markey, which will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 60-2019 Amendment – Sustainable Community Area – Town of Perryville, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 61-2019 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Volunteer Fire Service, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 62-2019 Supplemental Appropriation – Sheriff’s Office – School Traffic Safety Enforcement Grant, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no administration comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

#### **Council Manager Report**

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

#### **Council Member Items**

Councilman Patchell commended the Fair Hill International and commented on the outstanding event. He attended the 2020 Census Committee and reported on their efforts to increase participation of local residents in the Census so that Cecil County will receive its share of federal and state funding.

Councilman Miller attended the Firemen's Association and commented on their opposition to any exemption from installation of sprinklers for all dwellings. He attended the Farm Bureau's annual meeting and commented on bringing their comments to the Maryland Farm Bureau. He participated in the tour of Bainbridge with Lt. Governor Rutherford and Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio. He attended the School of Technology National Honor Society induction and commented on the high caliber of students. He attended the Drug Free Cecil Spooktacular event that emphasized drug prevention.

Councilman Coutz thanked the audience for attending. He attended the Growth and Development Symposium and commended the Economic Development Department for their program. He attended the School of Technology National Honor Society induction and commented on the forty students who are already on their career path. He attended the Drug Free Cecil Spooktacular and Take Back Drug event and commended Beth Creek for her success. He attended the Arts Council Gala and stated that the council had awarded \$50,000 in grant funding to other organizations.

Vice President Gregory attended the School of Technology National Honor Society induction and congratulated the students for their achievement. She attended the North East Trunk or Treat event and commended the community for coming together. She attended the Arts Council Gala and commented on their positive impact on the community. She attended the North East fundraiser for the benefit of Veterans.

Vice President Gregory stated that she wanted to address any concerns about her eligibility to serve as a Council Member. She stated that she has been a teacher for twenty-three years. She is currently teaching online for a private company, working at a marina and being a substitute teacher at the local public school system. She also worked for the Hogan campaign last year. She stated that she conducted research about her eligibility to serve as a Council Member because of being a substitute teacher in the public schools. She looked at the Charter of Cecil County and found that Carroll County has a similar language about the eligibility of their County Commissioners. She stated that she found that a Carroll County Commissioner, who taught full time at the public schools, was cited as a possible ethics violation. The ethics complaint was sent to the local ethics commission, which forwarded to the Attorney General's Office. The Attorney General's Office issued an opinion that the local school board, not the local legislative body, determines how school funds are appropriated, and stated that there was no conflict in being a local legislator and being a teacher in the local public school system. She explained that as a substitute teacher, she has no influence in school policies or no involvement in negotiations of school contracts. She stated that her goal today was to make this information available to the public.

Council President Meffley attended a meeting with MDOT regarding traffic volume through Cecilton. He stated that MDOT intends to increase funding for police enforcement of truck restrictions in the communities impacted by the detour of traffic from US 301. He also stated that MDOT is considering restricting the weight limit on the Chesapeake City bridge over the C&D Canal in order to deter trucks. He stated that farm traffic would be exempt from any weight restriction. He attended the Sheriff's Office Intel meeting and reported that the number of overdose and overdose fatalities is the same as last month. He attended Fair Hill International and commented on the outstanding event for Cecil County. He attended the tour of Bainbridge with Lt. Governor

Rutherford and commented on efforts to preserve Tome School. He stated that he hopes that the water and sewer connections can be completed so that the development of Bainbridge can progress. He attended the School of Technology National Honor Society induction and Arts Council celebration. He commended the staff of the Arts Council for their outstanding work. He attended the Census Committee meeting and commented on developing strategy to encourage our residents to participate.

**Adjournment**

Councilman Coutz made a motion for adjournment, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory and approved by unanimous consent. Council President Meffley adjourned the work session at 9:39 a.m.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 9am in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building.

  
James Massey  
Council Manager

Approved:  
  
Jackie Gregory  
Council Vice President