

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
November 26, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Council Members: Robert Meffley, Jackie Gregory, William Coutz, Al Miller, and George Patchell; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant; Lisa Blackson, Acting 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 Miller, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of November 19, 2019, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

**Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine**

Stephen Goff, Spotted Lanternfly Specialist, Maryland Department of Agriculture, provided an update on spotted lanternflies in the county. He stated that this insect from China was discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014. He explained that this insect is very detrimental to crops and plants. In Cecil County, the first sighting of the lanternfly was at Fair Hill in the spring of 2019, which was in the form of small nymphets. His presentation showed the damage to trees caused by the insect sucking the sap out of trees and plants. In addition, the insect's secretion, a black sooty mold, covers surfaces of houses, cars and sidewalks, which is very hard to clean. He said that the State is placing barrier traps on tree trunks to capture the insect. Currently, Cecil and Harford County are quarantined and the State has implemented policies to reduce the spread of this insect to other regions. He stated that there are 243 sites where lanternflies have been documented within Cecil and Harford Counties. His agency is canvassing areas near the documented sites to make residents aware of this problem and suggest methods to eliminate them. He stated that that the local Extension Offices will help residents identify lanternflies and suggest possible treatments.

Mr. Goff emphasized the importance of destroying their eggs, nymphets and adult lanternflies using an alcohol solution. He described the best methods to scrap the eggs attached to trees, outdoor structures and automobiles. He stated that his office will be monitoring conditions and can assist residents with problems associated with this epidemic.

**Council Manager Report**

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

**Council Member Items**

Councilman Patchell stated that Census worker recruitment has been conducted successfully at the YMCA in Elkton on several days. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving holiday.

Councilman Miller thanked members of the Census Committee for attending and participating on the committee. He stated the importance of reaching out into the community to ensure that everyone is counted. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilman Coutz wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and encouraged them to reach out to the less fortunate. He stated that he was out of town last week, but was able to attend the Northern Chesapeake Symphony Orchestra concert in Perryville. He stated that the symphony's next concert will be held in March 2020. He will be attending the Cookie Baking Drop for Veterans at the Elkton VFW.

Vice President Gregory wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. She encouraged the public to attend a Thanksgiving dinner at the North East VFW.

Council President Meffley wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving with their families. He attended the Upper Chesapeake Regional Council and stated that officers will be elected during the MACo conference. He attended the BEPAC Superintendent's Brunch at the School of Technology and commended the school system for having 29% of the students receive a 4.0 GPA. He attended the Sheriff's Office Intel meeting and stated that the number of overdoses in 2019 in Cecil County has reached 566, with 52 fatalities. He attended the Chesapeake Homeowners Association meeting recently and discussed the County's limited role with homeowner associations. He recognized Council Members who will be serving Thanksgiving dinners to the needy.

**9:30 A.M.**

**CLOSED SESSION**

On motion made by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Coutz, the Council moved to convene in closed session.

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

The motion was carried unanimously.

Council President Massey stated for the record:

Pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions § 3-305 (b) (1) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of an appointee, employee, or official over whom it has jurisdiction; or (ii) any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and (7) consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

**Adjournment**

Councilman Miller 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 10:28 a.m.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 9am in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building.

  
James Massey  
Council Manager

Approved:

  
Robert Meffley  
Council President

