

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
January 21, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Council Members: Robert Meffley, Jackie Gregory, William Coutz, Al Miller and George Patchell; 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:** The video and audio recording with transcription of this meeting is available on the County website [www.ccgov.org](http://www.ccgov.org). Due to technical difficulties audio and video is not available for this meeting.

**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 January 7, 2020, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

**School Superintendent Update**

Dr. Jeff Lawson, Superintendent, Cecil County Public Schools, stated that he will be bringing his proposed FY 2021 budget to the Board of Education on January 22, 2020. He stated that student enrollment has decreased by 93 students but the wealth of the county has increased. He said that these factors may result in a decrease in the state funding formula for the county. He stated that the school system received \$4M last year, which required this funding to be allocated to employee salaries, special education, and English language learners. He stated that the McKinney-Vento Education Act requires school systems to transport homeless children to the “school of original origin”. He stated that the school system is using private taxi services to transport homeless children, which increases the cost. Dr. Lawson also stated that they were looking at analyzing the number of students expected with the development of Southfields. Council questions and comments ensued.

**Maryland Rural Development Corporation**

Council Manager Massey explained Chris Benzing, executive director of the Maryland Rural Development Corporation, requested a letter of support for a grant to provide home repair services to low income families. The Council approved of the request.

**Council Departmental Budget FY 2021**

Council Manager Massey provided a preliminary Council departmental FY 2021 budget request for review. He stated that the total amount requested is the same as the current FY 2020 budget. The Council agreed by consensus to delay approval until the next work session so that Council Members may review the request.

## **Review of Legislative Agenda**

Council President Meffley led discussion of tonight's legislative agenda.

A public hearing will be held tonight for Rezoning Case #2019-04 as requested by Michael and Rachel Good. Eric Sennstrom, Director of Land Use and Development Services, provided a synopsis stating that the staff and Planning Commission had recommended approval based on a mistake in the zoning map. There were no Council questions or comments.

A public hearing will be held for Bill No. 2019-21 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Roads and Bridges Capital Budget – Belvidere Road Culvert Replacement, will be held at tonight's legislative session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments. Councilman Miller clarified that this funding is for the specific project, not for any other work on Belvidere Road.

A public hearing will be held for Bill No. 2019-22 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Roads and Bridges Capital Budget – Bethel Church Road Project, will be held at tonight's legislative session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

A public hearing will be held for Bill No. 2019-23 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Courthouse Capital Budget – Courtroom #3 Renovation Project, will be held at tonight's legislative session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments. Councilman Coutz clarified that this renovation was more extensive than the previous courthouse renovation project.

A public hearing will be held for Resolution No. 74-2019 Roads-Renaming-Sandy Hill Way, will be held at tonight's legislative session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 03-2020 Appointment—Board of Parks and Recreation—Jennifer Callaghan, will be introduced at tonight's session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 04-2020 Appointment—Cecil County Plumbing Board – Melvin Reburn and Edward Arellano, will be introduced at tonight's session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 05-2020 Appointment—Cecil County Mental Health Core Service Agency Advisory Board – Betsy Murphy, will be introduced at tonight's session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 06-2020 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – County Council Department – 2020 Census Outreach, will be introduced at tonight's session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 01-2020 Supplemental Appropriation- Grant Funds- Domestic Violence Department- Continuum of Care, will be considered for final approval at tonight's legislative session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 02-2020 Appointment- Soil Conservation Board- Bruce Yerkes, will be considered for final approval at tonight's legislative session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Cecil County Public Schools – Budget Amendment #70, in the amount of \$855,889 for December 2019 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 the upcoming meetings and events.

#### **Council Member Items**

Councilman Patchell attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration and commented on the outstanding turnout. He also commended Charles Givens for his thirty years of serving the community and leadership of this event.

Councilman Miller attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration and commended Rev. Brown and Wrights AME Church for their sponsorship. He said that he was pleased that the County and Town are able to transfer the historic land and property of the former Elkton Colored School to become a museum and community center with the assistance of Morgan State University. He attended the Soil Conservation District Cooperator of the Year banquet and commended Albeck Farms and the Haines family for their recognition. He attended the Superintendent's Business Brunch and commended Dr. Jeff Lawson for his service.

Councilman Coutz thanked the audience for attending. He attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration and thanked Five Rivers Church for allowing this event to be held at their building. He also commended the speaker, Dr. Velma Scantlebury-White, the first black woman to become a transplant surgeon in the country. He attended the Soil Conservation Cooperator of the Year and congratulated Albeck Farms and the Haines family. He attended the Perryville Fire Company awards banquet and commended them for recruiting twenty new volunteers.

Vice President Gregory left the meeting, but will provide her comments at tonight's session.

Council President Meffley attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration and spoke of the spirit of unity of the audience.

#### **Adjournment**

Councilman Coutz made a motion for adjournment, which was seconded by Councilman Miller and approved by unanimous consent. Council President Meffley adjourned the work session at 9:45 am.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 9am in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building.

  
James Massey  
Council Manager

Approved:

  
Robert Meffley  
Council President