

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
February 25, 2020**

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.

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 February 18, 2020, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

State Legislative Update

After discussion, the Council agreed to send a letter of support for HB 779/ SB 777 Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Emergency Service Transporters and Emergency Medical Services Providers – Reimbursement. The Council took no action on HB 1485 Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Emergency Service Transporters – Reimbursement and HB 1496 Medical Assistance Program - Emergency Service Transporters - Reimbursement for Transportation and Medical Services.

The Council agreed to send a letter of opposition for HB 403/SB 903 Immigration Enforcement - Public Schools, Hospitals, and Courthouses – Policies.

Council Manager Massey reviewed the status of legislation that the Council had taken a position. SB 495 Bay Restoration Fund – Use of Funds – Municipal Wastewater Facilities, was approved with amendments by the Senate and sent to the House for their consideration. The public hearing for SB 955 Federal Clean Water Act – Authority of State, was rescheduled to March 11, 2020.

Council Manager Massey suggested that the Council review proposed sports betting legislation; which includes: SB 4 Gaming – Sports Betting – Implementation; HB 169 Expansion of Community Gaming – Referendum – Sports Wagering; SB 58 Expansion of Commercial Gaming – Referendum – Sports Wagering; and HB 225 Gaming – Sports Wagering – Implementation.

He also suggested that the Council should review HB 1625 Sales and User Tax – Rate Reduction and Services.

Vice President Gregory discussed HB 1117 Economic Development – Enterprise Zone Program – Alterations and recommended that the Council oppose. The Council agreed by consensus to send a

letter of opposition. She also discussed HB 01/SB 01 Build to Learn act of 2020, and recommended support. Councilman Miller asked to table consideration until the next session. She asked the Council to support SB 982/ HB 1394 Highway User Revenues – Revenue and Distribution. After discussion, the Council agreed to send a letter of support.

Council Manager Report

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

Council Member Items

Councilman Patchell had no comments.

Councilman Miller attended the Census Committee and commented on its progress. He also stated that more Census workers were needed in the Elkton and North East area. He also stated that he hoped that our county's rate of Census participation will be at least 90%.

Councilman Coutz attended the Boys and Girls Club Mardi Gras and stated that he hoped that this organization will grow in Cecil County. He also attended a turkey shoot fundraiser for Special Olympics.

Vice President Gregory attended the turkey shoot for Special Olympics at Pine Grove and plans to participate in the Ice Splash on Saturday for Special Olympics.

Council President Meffley attended the Sheriff's Intel meeting and stated that there have been 51 overdoses in the county with 7 fatalities. He attended the Upper Shore Regional Council executive committee and stated that they are buying new software that will provide data by location for businesses interested in moving to the county. He attended the business startup expo at Rising Sun Elementary School where he purchased items created by the students. He attended a comedy program at Elkton United Methodist Church. He also attended the Census Committee and stated that he will encourage municipalities to participate in our efforts to encourage participation in the 2020 Census.

Adjournment

Council President Meffley asked for a motion to adjourn the open session in order to go into closed session. Councilman Coutz made a motion for adjournment, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory and approved by a vote of 5 to 0. Council President Meffley adjourned the work session at 9:30 am.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 9am in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building.

9:31 A.M.

CLOSED SESSION

On motion made by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Coutz, the Council moved to convene in closed session pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, § 3-305 (b) (7) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation,

removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y.
The motion was carried unanimously by a vote of 5 to 0.

The closed session was concluded at 9:58 A.M.


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Robert Meffley
Council President