

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
March 3, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Council Members: Robert Meffley, Jackie Gregory, William Coutz, and George Patchell; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant; John Downs, Council Attorney; members of the press; and members of the public.

**Absent:** Councilman Miller

**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:** Due to technical difficulties a portion of the video and audio recording with transcription is not available for this meeting. It is available on the County website [www.ccgov.org](http://www.ccgov.org).

**CLOSED SESSION**

**February 25, 2020**

**9:30 A.M.**

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

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

The motion was carried by a vote of 4 to 0.

**Present:** Council Members: President Meffley, Vice President Gregory, Councilman Coutz, Councilman Miller, and Councilman Patchell; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant, and John Downs, Council Attorney.

The Council discussed the hiring of an attorney to represent them at a hearing. After discussion, Councilman Coutz made a motion to hire Victor Jackson, which was seconded by Councilman Patchell.

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

The motion was carried by a vote of 5 to 0.

On motion made by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Coutz, the Council moved to conclude the closed session at 9:58 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

On a motion made by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Coutz, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of February 25, 2020, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

On a motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council closed session of February 25, 2020, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

**Coronavirus Update**

Lauren Levy, Health Officer, provided an update on the coronavirus. In attendance from the Health Department were Dr. Henry Taylor; Dan Coulter, Director of Health Planning; and Judi Rodemich, Director of the Division of Community Health Services. Ms. Levy described the symptoms of the people with the coronavirus. She stated that the general public is very unlikely to be exposed. She provided statistics on the number of cases worldwide and the deaths. She discussed the public should have a preparedness kit. She also described local planning in case of an epidemic. Dr. Taylor commented on coronavirus and its unlikely transmission. Council questions and comments ensued. Councilman Coutz clarified that the virus is not airborne, but spread through droplets onto surfaces. The Health Department stated that they were more concerned with this year's flu and encouraged the public to get their flu shot.

**State Legislative Update**

The Council Manager presented the state legislation that had been provided at the previous work session. After discussion, the Council agreed to send a letter of support for HB 01 and SB 01 Built to Learn Act of 2020. The Council agreed to send a letter of opposition for HB 1628 Sales and Use Tax – Rate Reduction and Services. The Council agreed to table discussion on the sports betting bills for additional information.

Vice President Gregory reported on legislation as discussed by the Rural Maryland Counties and MACo legislative committee. After discussion, the Council agreed to send a letter of support for HB 356/SB 273 Violent Firearm Offenders Act, HB 357/SB 271 Witness Intimidation Prevention Act, HB 358/SB 268 Victims' Rights to Restitution Act, and SB 198 Public Safety – Permit to Carry, Wear, or Transport a Handgun – Qualifications. After discussion, the Council agreed to send a letter of opposition for HB 1623 Education – Community Colleges, Collective Bargaining, SB 208 Public Safety – Rifles and Shotguns – Sales, Rentals, and Transfers, SB 39 Public Safety – Regulated Firearm – Definition.

**Review of Legislative Agenda**

The public hearing for Resolution No. 07-2020 Amendment- Master Water and Sewer Plan- Town of North East and Artesian Water, is scheduled at tonight's session. Eric Sennstrom, Land Use and Development Services Director, provided comments. Council President Meffley clarified that there was an existing interconnection near Red Toad Road.

Bill No. 2020-01 Approval - Agricultural Preservation District – McKeown Family LLC, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Devyn King, Planner, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 12-2020 Appointment - Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council – James W. Ziccardi, will be introduced at tonight’s session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 13-2020 Appointment—Weed Control Advisory Board, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, stated that Mark T. Martin is the new Weed Control Coordinator for Cecil County. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 14-2020 Master Water and Sewer Plan – Tables – Town of Perryville, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 15-2020 Appointment—Board of Parks and Recreation—Brian Morgan, will be introduced at tonight’s session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 09-2020 Appointment- Historic District Commission- Michael Dixon and Patricia Folk, will be considered for approval at tonight’ session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 10-2020 Appointment- Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council- April Foster, will be considered for approval at tonight’ session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 11-2020 Appointment- Cecil County Ethics Commission- Janice K. Colvin, will be considered for approval at tonight’ session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Under Old Business, there were no comments on Rezoning Case 2019-05 109-111 Providence Road, LLC, which is scheduled for consideration at tonight’s session.

#### **Council Manager Report**

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

#### **Council Member Items**

Councilman Patchell read an article from 24/7 Wall Street that stated Cecil County had the fastest growing GDP in the State. He attended the Bainbridge Elementary School as part of Read Across America and read stories to students in three classrooms.

Councilman Coutz thanked the audience for attending. He attended the opening of Bog Turtle Brewery in Rising Sun and commended Lt. Governor Rutherford for his attendance.

Vice President Gregory attended the Candidates Forum and thanked the sponsors, which included the Chamber of Commerce, BEPAC and Classroom Teachers Association and Education Partnership Advisory Board. She attended the Ice Splash, fundraiser for Special Olympics and commended them for raising \$70,000.

Council President Meffley attended the public workshop for Brantwood Park and commented on the large attendance and citizen interest in the new facility. He also attended the Roast for Earl Piner.

**Adjournment**

Council President Meffley asked for a motion to adjourn the Council work session. Councilman Coutz made a motion for adjournment, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory. Council President Meffley adjourned the work session at 9:49 am.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 9am in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building.

  
James Massey  
Council Manager

Approved:

  
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Robert Meffley  
Council President