

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
May 19, 2020**

The County Council of Cecil County met in work session in an online virtual meeting because of the current health crisis and based on the Governor's orders to avoid public meetings. Council Members and presenters participated in this meeting; the public observed the meeting by connecting online at [www.ccgov.org/council](http://www.ccgov.org/council) and selecting "livestream".

The following members of the Council were present:

Robert Meffley, Council President  
Al Miller, Council Member  
George Patchell, Council Member  
Jackie Gregory, Vice President  
William H. Coutz, Council Member

**NOTE:** The video and audio recording with transcription of this meeting is available on the County website at [www.ccgov.org](http://www.ccgov.org).

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the County Council of Cecil County of May 19, 2020 was called to order by Council President Meffley at 4:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Council President Meffley asked for a roll call of attending Council Members. The Council Manager called the roll and recorded the following Council Members in attendance:

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-Present, Miller-Present, Patchell-Present, Gregory-Present, Meffley-Present.

Council President Meffley announced that there were five Council Members present, which constitute a quorum.

**SUSPENSION OF RULES**

Councilman Coutz made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Council Members who are connected to participate and vote in this work session, because of the current health crisis and orders by the Governor to avoid public meetings. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y  
The motion was unanimously approved.

### **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 May 12, 2020, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

### **FY 2021 Budget Amendments**

Council President Meffley stated that the Council will review proposed amendments to determine which amendments had a majority of support. Councilman Coutz clarified that the amendments that had a majority of support would be brought forward to tonight's legislative session for consideration.

Vice President Gregory made a statement prior to the review of proposed amendments to encourage the Council to consider reducing the budget to the constant yield because of the current health and economic crisis.

**The Council discussed each proposed amendment to Bill No. 2020-05 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance – FY 2021 in order to determine if there was a majority of Council Members in support of the amendment. Amendments Nos. 1-16 were proposed by Vice President Gregory.**

Amendment No. 01 to Bill No. 2020-05 – Cecil College – Allocation-Capital:  
To reduce Cecil College – Allocation-Capital budget from \$150,000, a reduction of \$50,000.  
Supported by Coutz and Gregory, opposed by Miller, Patchell and Meffley.  
Amendment No. 1 fails.

Amendment No. 02 to Bill No. 2020-05 – Libraries – Allocation:  
To reduce Libraries - Allocation budget from \$6,406,619 to \$6,190,730, a reduction of \$215,889.  
Supported by Coutz and Gregory, opposed by Miller, Patchell and Meffley.  
Amendment No. 2 fails.

Amendment No. 03 to Bill No. 2020-05 – Detention Center – Overtime:  
To reduce Detention Center Overtime budget from \$450,000 to \$150,000, a reduction of \$300,000.  
Amendment No. 03 withdrawn by Gregory.

Amendment No. 04 to Bill No. 2020-05 – Emergency Services – Overtime:  
To reduce Emergency Services Overtime budget from \$450,000 to \$150,000, a reduction of \$300,000.  
Amendment No. 04 withdrawn by Gregory.

Amendment No. 05 to Bill No. 2020-05 – Emergency Medical Services – Overtime:  
To reduce Emergency Medical Services Overtime budget from \$393,000 to \$193,000, a reduction of \$200,000. Amendment No. 05 withdrawn by Gregory

Amendment No. 06 to Bill No. 2020-05 – Tourism – Special Projects:  
To reduce Tourism Special Projects budget from \$391,130 to \$41,130, a reduction of \$350,000.  
Supported by Gregory, opposed by Coutz, Miller, Patchell and Meffley  
Amendment No. 06 fails.

**Amendment No. 07 to Bill No. 2020-05 – Information Technology – Professional Services:**  
To reduce Information Technology Professional Services budget from \$1,304,486 to \$1,238,486, a reduction of \$150,000. Supported by Gregory, opposed by Coutz, Miller, Patchell and Meffley  
Amendment No. 07 fails.

**Amendment No. 08 to Bill No. 2020-05 – Information Technology – Supplies and Materials:**  
To reduce Information Technology supplies and materials budget from \$955,460 to \$665,460, a reduction of \$70,000. Supported by Gregory, opposed by Coutz, Miller, Patchell and Meffley  
Amendment No. 08 fails.

**Amendment No. 09 to Bill No. 2020-05 – Information Technology – Machinery and Equipment:**  
To reduce Information Technology machinery and equipment budget from \$946,741 to \$923,741, a reduction of \$23,000. Supported by Gregory, opposed by Coutz, Miller, Patchell and Meffley  
Amendment No. 09 fails.

**Amendment No. 10 to Bill No. 2020-05 – Animal Services – Salaries – Clerical:**  
To reduce Animal Services Salaries-Clerical budget from \$60,660 to \$30,660, a reduction of \$30,000 to eliminate new receptionist position. Supported by Coutz, Miller, Patchell, Gregory and Meffley.  
Amendment No. 10 will be considered for approval at tonight's legislative session.

**Amendment No. 11 to Bill No. 2020-05 – Director of Administration-Professional Services:**  
To reduce Director of Administration – Professional Services budget from \$50,000 to \$0, a reduction of \$50,000 to eliminate consultant. Supported by Coutz and Gregory, opposed by Miller, Patchell, and Meffley. Amendment No. 11 fails.

**Amendment No. 12 to Bill No. 2020-05 – Board of Parks – Salaries and Fringe:**  
To reduce Board of Parks – Salaries and Fringe budget from \$1,165,480 to \$1,105,480, a reduction of \$60,000 to eliminate two vacant positions. Supported by Gregory, opposed by Coutz, Miller, Patchell and Meffley. Amendment No. 12 fails.

**Amendment No. 13 to Bill No. 2020-05 – Board of Parks – Professional and related services:**  
To reduce Board of Parks – Professional and related services budget from \$303,598 to \$263,598, a reduction of \$40,000. Supported by Gregory, opposed by Coutz, Miller, Patchell and Meffley.  
Amendment No. 12 fails.

**Amendment No. 14 to Bill No. 2020-05 – Board of Parks – Supplies and Materials:**  
To reduce Board of Parks – Supplies and Materials budget from \$397,239 to \$197,239, a reduction of \$200,000. Supported by Coutz and Gregory, opposed by Miller, Patchell and Meffley. Amendment No. 14 fails.

**Amendment No. 15 to Bill No. 2020-05 – Cecil College – Allocation Capital:**  
To reduce Cecil College – Allocation Capital budget from \$350,000 to \$150,000, a reduction of \$200,000 to eliminate soccer field rehabilitation. Supported by Coutz, Gregory and Meffley, opposed

by Miller and Patchell. Amendment No. 15 will be considered for approval at tonight's legislative session.

Amendment No. 16 to Bill No. 2020-05 – Planning and Zoning – Professional Services: To reduce Planning and Zoning – Professional Services budget from \$400,000 to \$200,000, a reduction of \$200,000 to eliminate Lidar and Topography Acquisition. Supported by Coutz, Patchell, Gregory and Meffley, opposed by Miller. Amendment No. 15 will be considered for approval at tonight's legislative session.

**The Council discussed each proposed amendment to Bill No. 2020-04 Capital Improvement Program – FY 2021-2025 in order to determine if there was a majority of Council Members in support of the amendment. Amendments Nos. 1-7 were proposed by Vice President Gregory.**

Amendment No. 1 to Bill No. 2020-04 – Board of Parks – Capital Projects – Calvert Regional Park – Development: To reduce the Calvert Regional Park- Development budget from \$2,900,000 to \$1,900,000, a reduction of \$1,000,000. Supported by Coutz, Miller, Patchell, Gregory and Meffley. Amendment No. 01 will be considered for approval at tonight's legislative session.

Amendment No. 2 to Bill No. 2020-04 – Board of Parks – Capital Projects – Rising Sun Synthetic Turf Field: To delete the Rising Sun Synthetic Turf Field project of \$1,300,000. Supported by Coutz, Patchell, Gregory and Meffley, opposed by Miller. Amendment No. 02 will be considered for approval at tonight's legislative session.

Amendment No.3 to Bill No. 2020-04 – Facilities Management – Capital Projects – Administration Building Security: To delete the Administration Building Security project of \$150,000. Supported by Coutz, Patchell, Gregory and Meffley, opposed by Miller. Amendment No. 03 will be considered for approval at tonight's legislative session.

Amendment No.4 to Bill No. 2020-04 – Sheriff's Office – Capital Projects – Phase 2 Retrofit Space for Evidence and Armory: To delete the Phase 2 Retrofit Space for Evidence and Armory project of \$535,000. Supported by Coutz, Patchell, Gregory and Meffley, opposed by Miller. Amendment No. 04 will be considered for approval at tonight's legislative session.

Amendment No.5 to Bill No. 2020-04 – Community Services – Animal Services – Capital Projects – Main Building Expansion/sprinkler install at Animal Shelter: To delete Main Building Expansion/sprinkler install at Animal Shelter project of \$640,000. Supported by Coutz, Patchell, Gregory and Meffley, opposed by Miller. Amendment No. 05 will be considered for approval at tonight's legislative session.

Amendment No.06 to Bill No. 2020-04 – DPW Roads and Bridges – Capital Project – Replace Bridge CE0055 Belvidere Road over CSX: To delete Replace Bridge CE0055 Belvidere Road over CSX project of \$1,000,000. Supported by Coutz, Patchell, Gregory and Meffley, opposed by Miller. Amendment No. 06 will be considered for approval at tonight’s legislative session.

Amendment No.07 to Bill No. 2020-04 – DPW Roads and Bridges -Capital Project-Edgar Price Road Roadway Improvements: To delete DPW Roads and Bridges Edgar Price Road Roadway Improvements project of \$300,000. Supported by Coutz, Miller, Patchell, Gregory and Meffley. Amendment No. 07 will be considered for approval at tonight’s legislative session.

Councilman Coutz and Vice President Gregory requested that the Council postpone consideration of budget legislation until next Tuesday, May 26, 2020. Councilman Miller, Councilman Patchell and Council President Meffley were opposed to postponing the vote on budget legislation.

**Review of Legislative Agenda**

The Council proceeded with the review of the legislative agenda.

Resolution No. 22-2020 Tax Credit – Historic Property – Keiffer Brick House, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Eric Sennstrom, Director of Land Use and Development Services, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Bill No. 2020-02 Taxation – Tax Credit – Senior Citizens and Veterans, will be considered for approval at tonight’ session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments. Council questions and comments ensued. Vice President Gregory confirmed that the administration was unable to calculate the number of eligible senior citizens and veterans.

Bill No. 2020-03 Lease and Purchase – Vehicles and Equipment Financing, will be considered for approval at tonight’ session. Mr. Wein stated that the administration was available for questions. There were no Council questions or comments.

Bill No. 2020-04 Capital Improvement Program – FY 2021 – FY 2025, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Bill No. 2020-05 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance – FY 2021, 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. 19-2020 Adoption of Real Property and Personal Property Tax – FY 2021, 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, Council President Meffley stated that Thomas Kleine, representing the applicant, submitted a revised plan regarding Rezoning Case 2020-02 Cecil Real Property, LLC, which reduces the property acreage being requested for M-2 Heavy Industrial zoning. He stated that Mr. Kleine has proposed this change so that there is a buffer between the property and residential area. Final consideration of this rezoning case is scheduled at tonight's session.

Cecil County Public Schools – Budget Amendment #74 in the amount of \$111,350 for April 2020 will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

#### **Council Manager Report**

Council Manager Massey updated the Council on recent activities.

#### **Council Member Items**

Councilman Coutz attended the Sheriff's Intel Meeting and reported on the increase in overdose fatalities in new first time users. He reminded Council Members to encourage people to reach out to others who may be having mental health issues.

Vice President Gregory thanked the audience for connecting to the Council work session. She expressed her support in local businesses that will be reopening and hopes that the public will support their operations.

Councilman Miller announced that it was National Public Works Appreciation Week. He reached out to the county's public works department to thank Director Flanigan and his staff for their outstanding work.

Councilman Patchell commended Mr. Flanigan for his leadership and accomplishments as DPW Director. He also commented on the children who are missing playing sports outside and the socialization with others. He stated that he hoped that there can be a soccer and lacrosse season.

President Meffley congratulated the high school and college graduates and commented that they can claim the distinction of not participating in a graduation ceremony. He wished graduates good luck as they begin the next chapter of their lives. He expressed his regret that the high school senior awards assemblies could not occur because of the epidemic. He stated that the Council will be inviting students who earned the county's college scholarship to be recognized at a future Council meeting in the Elk Room. He also thanked Council Members for their hard work and comments on the budget.

#### **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 Councilman Miller. Council President Meffley adjourned the work session at 6:25 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 4:30 pm , which is planned as a virtual meeting because of the current health crisis. The session will be livestreamed on the County Council's webpage. Members of the public who do not have broadband access should contact the Council Office for instructions to be connected via telephone.

James Massey  
James Massey  
Council Manager

Approved:

Robert Meffley  
Robert Meffley  
Council President