

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
June 9, 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 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.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the County Council of Cecil County of June 9, 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 Vice President Gregory.

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 Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of May 19, 2020, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

COVID-19 Update

Lauren Levy, Cecil County Health Officer, provided an update on current conditions in Cecil County. She acknowledged her staff for their remarkable work during the last twelve weeks and provided statistics on the number of cases of the COVID-19 and the number of deaths. Ms. Levy stated that her department has worked closely with Christiana Care Union Hospital. She stated that they are seeing the number of COVID cases slowing down. She stated that there is a media campaign to keep emphasizing safe hygiene practices. She said that her department has an adequate supply chain of equipment and protective items and that they are focusing on vulnerable populations in nursing homes. She described the new contact tracing to reach people who have been exposed to others. She reported that they have are involved with 433 contact tracing cases. She stated that testing is available at Union Hospital and most primary care facilities. Council questions and comments ensued.

Community Block Grant Application

Dave Trolio, Community Services Director, requested the Council submit a letter of support for a Community Block Grant application to fund efforts of prevention, preparation for, and responses to the Coronavirus pandemic in Cecil County. He explained that these funds could expand and extend the home delivered meals program, provide hotel vouchers to domestic violence victims as a result of unavailability in the homeless shelters because of the epidemic. The Council unanimously agreed to support the grant application.

Mr. Trolio explained that there was a short deadline and this letter of support will be submitted. However, he stated that the State required a formal Council resolution. He explained that Resolution No. 32-2020 will be introduced tonight so that it can be formally considered for adoption on June 16, 2020.

Review of Legislative Agenda

The Council proceeded with the review of the legislative agenda.

Bill No. 2020-06 Amendment – Forest Conservation Regulations, will be introduced at tonight's session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided introductory comments; Matt Littlejohn, Plans Reviewer, provided a presentation of the program in detail. Council questions and comments ensued.

Bill No. 2020-07 Budget Transfer-Capital Budget-Roads and Bridges-Central Yard Fuel and Mechanics Valley Road over CSX Bridge, will be introduced at tonight's session. Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, provided introductory comments. Council questions and comments ensued.

Bill No. 2020-08 Amendment – Capital Improvement Program – FY 2021-2025, will be introduced at tonight's session. Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, provided introductory comments. Council questions and comments ensued.

Resolution No. 23-2020 Appointment – Board of Appeals – Michael Saunders, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Steve O’Connor, Zoning Administrator, provided introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 24-2020 Appointment – Ethics Commission – Janice K. Colvin, will be introduced at tonight’s session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 25-2020 Appointment – Board of License Commissioners- Stephen A. Miller, will be introduced at tonight’s session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 26-2020 Supplemental Appropriation-Fund Balance-Housing Fund-Housing Counselor, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, provided introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 27-2020 Supplemental Appropriation- Grant Funds- Parks and Recreation- County Parks Cleanup, will be introduced at tonight’ session. Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, provided introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 28-2020 Supplemental Appropriation-Grant Funds-Health Department-Coronavirus Pandemic, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, provided introductory comments. Council questions and comments ensued. Councilman Coutz asked for a copy of the funding distribution plan, which Ms. Anderson will provide.

Resolution No. 29-2020 Supplemental Appropriation-Grant Funds-Economic Development-Business Pandemic Relief, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Chris Moyer, Economic Development Director, provided introductory remarks. Council questions ensued.

Resolution No. 30-2020 Supplemental Appropriation-Grant Funds-Housing Fund-Coronavirus Pandemic, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, provided introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 31-2020 Approval-Compactor-Multiple Year Contract, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Scott Flanigan, Public Works Director, provided introductory comments. Council questions and comments ensued.

Resolution No. 32-2020 Approval-Grant Application-Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus Funding, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Council President Meffley stated that Dave Trolio, Community Services Director, had provided introductory comments during his previous presentation. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 33-2020 Amendment-Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Sally Kilby, Human Resources Director, provided introductory comments. Council questions and comments ensued.

Resolution No. 34-2020 Loan Endorsement-Maryland Economic Development Assistance and Authority Fund-Smithfield Distribution, LLC, will be introduced at tonight's session. Chris Moyer, Economic Development Director, provided introductory comments. Council questions and comments ensued.

Resolution No. 22-2020 Tax Credit – Historic Property – Keiffer Brick House, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. Mr. Wein provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey updated the Council on recent activities.

Council Member Items

Councilman Coutz congratulated Council President Meffley and Vice President Gregory for their Primary Election victory. He attended the Sheriff's Intel Meeting and expressed his concern at the 50% increase in overdose deaths.

Councilman Miller thanked the administration for grants to help Cecil County. He commended Mattison Dye, the Rising Sun High School student who won the County's scholarship. He stated that the current weather was great for farmers.

Councilman Patchell congratulated Vice President Gregory on her Primary Election win. He expressed his hope that the Governor will open restaurants for full recovery.

Vice President Gregory thanked Ruie Lavoie, Election Director, for her well run election and her staff's hard work. She attended the Eastern Shore Delegation press conference in support of reopening Maryland businesses. She asked the Council to send a letter of support to the Governor in support of opening businesses. The Council agreed by consensus to the letter of support.

President Meffley met with Susan O'Neill, Executive Director of the Upper Shore Regional Council, to review the proposed FY 2021 budget and consider how the budget could be reduced if funding is decreased by the State. He thanked the Primary Election candidates for their efforts and congratulated Vice President Gregory and Danielle Hornberger for their victories. He stated that Cecil County Government is in good shape during this economic downturn because of the work of the two previous County Executives.

Adjournment

Councilman Coutz made a motion for adjournment, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory. Council President Meffley adjourned the work session at 6:00 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 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
Council Manager

Approved:



Robert Meffley
Council President