

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
June 23, 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 June 23, 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.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**June 16, 2020**

**5:31 P.M.**

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 consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

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.

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

John Downs, Council Attorney, provided legal advice regarding incidents of interference by the administration.

On motion made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilman Coutz, the Council moved to conclude the closed session at 6:04 P.M.

**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 June 16, 2020, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

On a motion made by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Coutz, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council closed session of June 16, 2020, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

**Charter Amendment**

Council President Meffley began discussion of the proposed charter amendment that would permit employees of county agencies, not substantially controlled by the Executive or Council to be eligible as Council Members. Council Members discussed the proposal and the impact.

Council Manager Massey stated that the proposed charter amendment would be introduced by resolution on June 30, at which time the Council must approve of its treatment as expedited legislation. If approved for expediting, the public hearing and consideration for approval would be scheduled on July 28, 2020. The deadline for the Council Attorney to submit to the State Board of Election is July 31, 2020.

Council President Meffley asked for a roll call vote to schedule a special legislative session on June 30 to introduce legislation to propose a charter amendment.

Coutz-Y, Miller-N, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y.

Council President Meffley announced that the Council will go forward with plans to introduce the legislation for a charter amendment at a special legislative session on June 30, 2020, to be scheduled at 7:00pm, at which time the Council must consider approval as expedited legislation. If the Council approves expediting of legislation, the public hearing and consideration for approval will be scheduled at a special legislative session to be held on July 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

#### **Council Manager Report**

Council Manager Massey reported that NorthBay Adventure Camp is opening their facility for the public for day and overnight stays for the first time as part of the Governor's Roadmap to Recovery Plan.

#### **Council Member Items**

Councilman Miller hoped that everyone had a Happy Father's Day on Sunday. He commended the State Highway Administration for their progress on Route 273 between Calvert Road and Dr. Miller Road. He expressed his appreciation for the rain showers for the farmers.

Councilman Coutz commented on the perfect weekend weather. He expressed his concern for the significant increase in overdose fatalities and domestic violence as reported at the Sheriff's Intel Meeting. He asked for a briefing in Part 1 Calls by Sheriff Adams, Chief Deputy Widdoes, or Ray Lynn, the county's opioid strategy coordinator.

Councilman Patchell had no comments.

Vice President Gregory hoped that everyone had a Happy Father's Day. She announced that the North East VFW Post will be sponsoring a golf tournament on Saturday, June 27 at 1pm. She also stated that the Boys and Girls Club will also be sponsoring a golf tournament in August.

Council President Meffley stated that he received several letters from the public in support of the police force in Cecil County, including the Sheriff's Office, municipal police and the Maryland State Police. He received a notice from Laurie Levy, Health Officer, that a community test site will be held on Wednesday, July 1 at Bohemia Manor High School by appointment and at no charge. He plans to attend the virtual meeting for the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council on June 25 at 3pm.

#### **Adjournment**

Council President Meffley asked for a motion to adjourn the 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 5:04 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 4:30pm, 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