

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
July 7, 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 July 7, 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

Vice President Gregory 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 Miller, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of June 23, 2020, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

Police Reform Legislation

Sheriff Scott Adams introduced Major George Stanko and Ray Lynn, Heroin Coordinator, from the Cecil County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Adams provided a fact sheet to the Justice Policy Act of 2020, which is being proposed in Congress. He stated that local county sheriffs have raised serious concerns over the proposed federal legislation.

He explained several concerns of law enforcement regarding proposals that prohibit of "no knock warrants", the banning of choke holds, changing the standards for use of force from "reasonable" to "necessary," increased costs of body camera equipment and record keeping, and the elimination of "qualified immunity." He stated that these changes will put law enforcement officers in danger and make their job more difficult. He also stated his concern for the proposal to reduce funding for policing in order to increase funding for mental health programs. Council questions and comments ensued.

Domestic Violence and Overdose Statistics Update

Sheriff Adams stated that COVID-19 has caused a significant increase in cases of mental health, domestic violence, and overdoses, especially fatal overdoses. Heroin Coordinator Ray Lynn provided an overview of overdoses from heroin and Fentanyl. He discussed the impact of parent overdoses on children.

North Bay Adventure Camp

Jim Longenecker, Executive Director, North Bay Adventure Camp, discussed the opening of the North Bay facility to individuals and families for day and overnight visits as part of the Governor's Road Map to Recovery. He also showed a video presentation, which included Lt. Governor Rutherford touring the campgrounds and the various recreational activities. The camp will be complying with State guidelines for health safety during the pandemic.

Approval - Council Attorney Contracts

Council Manager Massey requested Council approval to renew the Council Attorney contracts for FY 2021, as required by County procurement.

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve the renewal of contracts with Council Attorneys for FY 2021, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory. The motion was approved by a voice vote of 5 to 0.

Review of Legislative Agenda

The public hearing for Bill No. 2020-06 Amendment- Forest Conservation Regulations, is scheduled at tonight's session. Eric Sennstrom, Land Use and Development Services Director, provided comments. Council questions and comments ensued.

The public hearing for Bill No. 2020-07 Budget Transfer – Capital Budget – Roads and Bridges – Central Yard Fuel and Mechanics Valley Road over CSX Bridge, is scheduled at tonight’s session. Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

The public hearing for Bill No. 2020-08 Amendment – Capital Improvement Program FY 2021-2025, is scheduled at tonight’s session. Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

The public hearing for Resolution No. 33-2020 Amendment – Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual, is scheduled at tonight’s session. Sally Kilby, Human Resources Director, provided two revisions of the manual. On page 2 of the manual, under Unclassified Positions, insert “deputy and assistant State’s Attorneys, criminal investigators and executive secretary.” On page 34, under Sick Leave Accrual, insert “Full-time, active employees accrue Sick Leave at hire at the rate of ten (10) hours for each full month worked.”

Bill No. 2020-09 Amendment – Collective Bargaining – Law Enforcement Deputy Sheriffs and Correctional Deputy Sheriffs, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Jason Allison, County Attorney, provided introductory remarks. Council questions and comments ensued.

Resolution No. 37-2020 Appointment – Planning Commission – A. Chad Johnston and Peter Kirsh, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Eric Sennstrom, Director of Land Use and Development Services, provided introductory remarks. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 38-2020 Appointment – Board of Appeals – Brad Carrillo, Jr. and Michael Linkous, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Eric Sennstrom, Director of Land Use and Development Services, provided introductory remarks. Councilman Coutz clarified that the terms of these appointees are expiring in August.

Resolution No. 39-2020 Approval – Water and Sewer – Sewer Use – Connection Charge-Extension, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Eric Sennstrom, Director of Land Use and Development Services, provided introductory remarks. Councilman Coutz clarified that the current connection charge could be extended for six months. President Meffley clarified that the proposed agreement will expire in July 31, 2022.

Resolution No. 40-2020 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Award – Broadband Expansion, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Eric Sennstrom, Director of Land Use and Development Services, provided introductory remarks. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 41-2020 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Broadband Expansion – Fair Hill Area, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, provided introductory remarks. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 42-2020 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Doctor Jack Road Bridge, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, provided introductory

remarks. Scott Flanigan, Public Works Director, provided additional comments. Councilman Coutz clarified that the damage to the bridge occurred last month.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey reported on plans for a Consolidated Transportation Plan meeting, a presentation to Council regarding options for managing the General Election, this week's Census response, and recognition of Van Funk.

Council Member Items

Council Members agreed by consensus to save their comments for the legislative session.

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 6:17 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 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