

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
August 11, 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
Jackie Gregory, Vice President
William H. Coutz, Council Member
George Patchell, 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 August 11, 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 approved unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

July 21, 2020

5:30 P.M.

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilman Miller, the Council moved to convene in closed session, pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions § 3-305 (b) (13) to comply with specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirements that prevents public disclosure about a particular proceeding or matter.

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

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

Councilman Patchell was absent

Present: Council Members: President Meffley, Vice President Gregory, Councilman Coutz, Councilman Miller, James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant, Grant Handley, Council Intern; Maggie Tome, IT Specialist; and Devyn King, Planner.

Ms. King presented the list of finalists being nominated for the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation.

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilman Miller, the Council moved to conclude the closed session at 5:38 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 July 21, 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 July 21, 2020, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

Bainbridge Development Corporation Update

Dr. Carl Roberts, Chair of the Bainbridge Development Corporation, introduced Steve Cassard, Executive Director; and Toni Sprenkle, Project Manager.

Mr. Cassard summarized their progress of reaching an Environmental Service Cooperative Agreement with the United States Navy, approved change in zoning by the Town of Port Deposit from mixed-use residential to commercial-industrial, progress on the county's wastewater treatment plant and the sewer connection to Bainbridge, and work with the Maryland Historic Trust on a recommendation for the buildings at Tome School site.

Ms. Sprenkle stated that parcels A,B, and C have been surface scanned for asbestos and additional work is being planned for parcel D. Groundbreaking will be planned in about thirty days to begin site construction. There will be additional investigation for remaining parcels in the fall.

Mr. Cassard discussed the prospects for development of 3.5M square feet for commercial distribution activities. Naval funds are being used for asbestos abatement. There are plans to coordinate the move of Cecil College truck training classes to another part of the property. They have received a matching state grant to pay for the new sewer lines. Plans for water on the property are being planned with Artesian.

Ms. Sprenkle summarized their work with the Maryland Historic Trust to make recommendations for the former Tome School buildings. She stated that there have been two recent fires that have severely damaged two of the buildings.

Dr. Roberts thanked the administration and Council for their support of the project. He thanked Chris Moyer, Economic Development Director, and his staff for their efforts. Council comments and questions ensued.

Cecil County Public Schools Update

Dr. Jeff Lawson, School Superintendent, presented the school system's Re-entry plans to the Council. He summarized the options of opening school, distance learning and a combination of both. He stated that the virtual school will begin on September 1. Beginning September 8, the system plans to invite 5% of the students, specifying the neediest students, to attend classes. The system will reevaluate their plans on October 12 and consider expanding the program. Dr. Lawson stated that most students have been given Chromebooks for use to access the internet. He stated that some students live in areas where there is no broadband access. Alternatives are being planned so that students may connect by hotspots or other means. He stated that the school system received \$3.6M from the Cares Act, which has been used for personal protective equipment and technology.

Coronavirus Update

Lauren Levy, Health Officer, introduced Laurie Humphries, Deputy Health Officer. Ms. Levy reported on the county's coronavirus status. She stated that Cecil County had a 2.3% positive rate. She stated that there was an increase in younger people testing positive. Cecil County's fatality rate was most affected by the loss of lives at the Calvert Manor Nursing Home. She stated that her department has contacted one thousand people in their contact tracing. The Health Department has offered weekly COVID testing and recently opened a site at the VEIP Station. Council questions and comments ensued.

Review of Legislative Agenda

A public hearing will be held tonight for Rezoning Case #2020-03 as requested by 109-111 Providence Road LLC. Eric Sennstrom, Director of Land Use and Development Services, provided a synopsis stating that the staff and Planning Commission had recommended approval based on a mistake in the zoning map. There were no Council questions or comments.

The public hearing for Bill No. 2020-09 Amendment – Collective Bargaining – Law Enforcement Deputy Sheriffs and Correctional Deputy Sheriffs, is scheduled at tonight's session. There are three amendments to this legislation from the administration. Jason Allison, County Attorney, provided

comments to explain the legislation and amendments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 35-2020: Amendment- Solid Waste Management Plan – 2016-2025, will be considered for approval at tonight's session.

Resolution No. 43-2020: Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation – Application Finalists – 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. 44-2020: Loan Application – Maryland Neighborhood BusinessWorks program – Clene Nanomedicine, 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. 45-2020: Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Board of Education – Small Capital Projects, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey reported on the Census Committee meeting, confirmation of the Consolidated Transportation Plan meeting on October 16 at 11am, and confirmation on the Board of Health meeting on October 13 at 4:30pm. He also stated that the Council proposed charter amendment has been successfully submitted to the State Board of Election and will appear on the November General Election ballot.

Council Member Items

Councilman Coutz thanked Mr. Massey for his work with the Census Committee. He reported on the recent Sheriff's Office Intel meeting on the increase in calls and the continuation of drug related incidents and the number of fatalities. He expressed his concern for the lack of communications during the recent hurricane by the Department of Emergency Services. He stated that he received calls from the public about the status of the weather event and received no updates from DES.

Councilman Miller congratulated the county fair committee for their very successful chicken sale, which benefits 4-H. He attended the Local Management Board, which is seeking funding. He recognized Delmarva Power, Department of Emergency Services and volunteer fire departments for their outstanding assistance with the recent hurricane.

Councilman Patchell stated that he will save his comments for tonight's session.

Vice President Gregory thanked the first responders who helped residents in distress during the recent hurricane. She also commended the Perryville Police Department for their efforts to collect school supplies for disadvantaged children.

President Meffley agreed that the power companies and first responders were very responsive to the community's needs during the recent hurricane.

Adjournment

Council President Meffley asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Coutz made a motion for adjournment, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory. Motion was approved unanimously. Council President Meffley adjourned the work session at 6:19 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 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

