

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY**  
**WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**August 18, 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  
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](http://www.ccgov.org).

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the County Council of Cecil County of August 18, 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.

**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 August 11, 2020, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

**Enterprise Zone Update**

Chris Moyer, Economic Development Director, introduced Sandra Edwards, Economic Development Manager.

Mr. Moyer explained that in Maryland the enterprise zone program is a joint effort between the state and county governments to encourage new development, jobs and growth in economically depressed areas by providing real property tax credits and state income tax credits for businesses under certain criteria.

Ms. Edwards reviewed the qualifying criteria to establish an enterprise zone and how an existing enterprise zone can be expanded. She also described Cecil County's specific standards for enterprise zones. She displayed a map of Cecil County's 7,179 acres of the current enterprise zone and commented on proposed legislation to expand it. She also provided an example of how tax incentives are calculated. Ms. Edwards also showed calculations of tax credits and county fees for five of the most recent businesses in the enterprise zone.

Mr. Moyer and Ms. Edwards provided explanations of the facts that dispute commonly held beliefs that enterprise zone tax credits are not funded by the county, but reimbursed by the state at 50% property tax and 100% of the income tax. They also showed that logistics management firms provide much needed jobs at salaries above the county's median incomes and additional revenue to the county.

Council questions and comments ensued. The Council requested the number of businesses in the enterprise zone with more than 30 employees.

**Maryland Rural Development Corporation Update**

Chris Benzing, Executive Director, Maryland Rural Development Corporation, introduced Tammy Duff, Deputy Executive Director.

Mr. Benzing reviewed the mission statement of MRDC of providing community and education services to increase self-sufficiency of families in rural Maryland, in partnering with governmental and non-governmental agencies. He stated that they are currently working with Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's Counties, but are expanding into Harford County.

Ms. Duff described their programs with Head Start, Early Head Start, housing, adult education, Circuit Rider/ Town Management, rural infrastructure and economic development.

Ms. Duff illustrated their services in Cecil County, which included Head Start in Cecilton. In addition, she stated that Elkton programs include Early Head Start, Head Start, adult education and work with

the Hollingsworth Manor Community Association. She also stated that MRDC is building a new building in Cecilton and Family Education Center rehabilitation and Pantry in Elkton.

Council questions and comments ensued. Ms. Duff agreed that COVID and the lack of broadband services have created some difficulties for their providing services.

#### **Review of Legislative Agenda**

Bill No. 2020-10 Supplemental Appropriation and Budget Transfer – Roads and Bridges Capital Projects – Mechanics Valley Road over CSX Bridge Project, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided introductory remarks. Councilman Coutz clarified how the funding would be transferred.

Resolution No. 46-2020 Appointment - Cecil County Ethics Commission – Robert Boonstoppel, will be introduced at tonight’s session. There were no comments from the administration. Councilman Coutz clarified that Mr. Boonstoppel’s current term had expired on July 19, 2020.

Resolution No. 47-2020 Approval – Application – Enterprise Zone Expansion, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Sandra Edwards provided introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 48-2020 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Land Use and Development Services – Broadband Expansion, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Eric Sennstrom, Director of Land Use and Development Services, provided introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 49-2020 Approval – Westlaw Edge Software – Multiple Year Contract, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided introductory comments. Councilman Coutz clarified that the term of the lease was three years because there was a financial savings. Council President Meffley clarified that the contract includes upgrades to the software during the three years of the contract.

Resolution No. 50-2020 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Cecil College Transportation Training Facility, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 51-2020 Approval – Workers Compensation Claims Administration Subscription – Multiple Year Contract, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided introductory comments. Councilman Coutz clarified that this is a three year subscription because of the savings.

Bill No. 2020-09 Amendment – Collective Bargaining – Law Enforcement Deputy Sheriffs and Correctional Deputy Sheriffs, will be considered for final approval at tonight’s session. Amendment Nos. 1-3 have been proposed by the administration. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Under Old Business, Rezoning Case # 2020-03 109-111 Providence Road LLC, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Under New Business, Cecil County Public Schools – Budget Amendment #77 in the amount of \$3,506,937 for June 2020 will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

**Council Manager Report**

Council Manager Massey announced that the ribbon cutting for Elkton West Sewer Project to be held on August 25, the 55+ Healthy Lifestyle Expo to be held on August 21 and the Cecil Cares Day to be held on October 3. He also announced the winners of the 2019 Maryland Recycling Awards awarded by the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Public Works.

**Council Member Items**

Council Members agreed to hold their comments until tonight's legislative session.

**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 6:00 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 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:

  
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Robert Meffley  
Council President