

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
September 1, 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 September 1, 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 18, 2020, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

FY2020 Third Quarter Financial Projections

Rebecca Anderson, Deputy Finance Director, presented the FY 2020 Third Quarter/Draft Year End Fiscal Projections. She provided a written report as a summary.

Ms. Anderson stated that these projections are not their normal third quarter analysis that would have been presented in April 2020. Because of the pandemic crisis, this presentation is reporting on the projected end of FY 2020, which are unaudited. She stated that this report does not reflect all of year end accruals for revenue, depreciations, or write off of revenue and expenses.

Ms. Anderson reported that year end projections find the county's general fund with a favorable variance from the budget of a little over \$7M. There is a real property favorable balance of about \$490,000, or about .04% variance from the budget. Personal property has an unfavorable balance of about \$1.5M.

The projected net of all revenue streams is \$4,478,533.58 greater than the budget. Projected expenditures are estimated at \$2,978,898.94 greater than the budget. Our actual general fund expenditures show a favorable balance of \$7,457,432.52.

The Landfill Enterprise Fund is projecting an increase of about \$700,000 in operating revenue as compared to budget and \$250,000 lower in expenditures.

The Wastewater Enterprise Fund is projecting an operating gain of about \$374,000.

The Casino revenue is projected to be a little over \$2M in receipts.

Council questions and comments ensued.

County Council Newsletter

Grant Handley, Council Summer Intern, reviewed the 2020 County council Newsletter, which he had updated. He reviewed the Council's accomplishments of 2020 and the impact of COVID-19 on this year's legislation. Council Members expressed their appreciation to Mr. Handley for his work and dedication to the Council office.

Review of Legislative Agenda

Bill No. 2020-11 Agricultural Preservation District – Darrell and Eva Byerly – Byerly Farm, will be introduced at tonight's session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, and Devyn King, Planner, provided introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Bill No. 2020-12 Establishment – Opioid Litigation Settlement Trust Fund, will be introduced at tonight's session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, and Jason Allison, County Attorney, provided introductory comments. Vice President Gregory clarified that the County is uncertain of how much Cecil County Government will receive from this settlement. Council President Meffley confirmed that the Council President, or designee, will be an ex-officio member of the Trustees of the board.

Bill No. 2020-13 Authorization – Refunding Bonds – By Executive Order, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, and Lisa Saxton, Finance Director, provided introductory comments. Council extensive discussion ensued. Councilman Coutz clarified that the Council’s approval of refinancing bond legislation by expediting could reduce the time for approval. Ms. Saxton stated that this legislation would save thirty days for County action on refinancing bonds. Vice President Gregory clarified that other counties require approval of Council for refinancing bonds. She expressed concern for the transparency of this action without formal Council approval and opportunity for public to ask questions during a public hearing of refinancing bonds. Ms. Saxton stated that the bond counsels, Joe Mason and Jennifer Dierksen, representing Davenport & Company, had made this recommendation.

Resolution No. 52-2020 Approval – Nuisance Flooding Plan, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Steve O’Connor, Zoning Administration, provided introductory comments. Council President Meffley clarified that the County has no responsibility for homeowner problems with flooding, except during the permit process. Councilman Miller stated that the County officials have sent stormwater management staff for some situations on private property. Councilman Coutz clarified that this nuisance flooding plan was developed by the State for implementation and approval by each county by October 1, 2020. Councilman Coutz clarified why this legislation did not require a public hearing. Vice President Gregory clarified that the only fiscal impact of this legislation was the expense for staff time. Councilman Coutz clarified that if this plan was not adopted before October 1, 2020, the County would be in violation of State law.

Council Manager Massey reviewed the following legislation that will be introduced at tonight’s session, which are related to amendments to the Council’s Policies and Procedures. These Resolutions include: Resolution No. 53-2020 Amendment – Policies and Procedures of the Cecil County Council – Legal Opinions; Resolution No. 54-2020 Policies and Procedures of the Cecil County Council – Legislative Days; Resolution No. 55-2020 Policies and Procedures of the Cecil County Council – Council Work Session and Workshop Meetings; Resolution No. 56-2020 Policies and Procedures of the Cecil County Council – Agenda Formats; Resolution No. 57-2020 Policies and Procedures of the Cecil County Council – Final Reading of Bills; and Resolution No. 58-2020 Policies and Procedures of the Cecil County Council – Format Legislative Session Agenda. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 59-2020 Chesapeake Country Scenic Byway – Zoning Regulations, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Council Manager Massey explained that this legislation was revised, prior to introduction, to request that the Planning and Zoning Division draft zoning regulations for the Chesapeake County Scenic Byway by July 1, 2021; and to continue the County’s efforts to extend the start of the byway at Long Creek on Route 213. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 60-2020 Approval – Grant Application – Community Development Block Grant – COVID, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Dave Trolie, Community Services Director, provided introductory comments. He also requested that at least one Council Member attend the virtual public hearing on September 23, 2020 at 2pm.

Resolution No. 46-2020 Appointment - Cecil County Ethics Commission – Robert Boonstoppel, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. Council President Meffley discussed tabling this Resolution and asked Council Members for their opinion.

Resolution No 48-2020 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Land Use and Development Services –Broadband Expansion; will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 49-2020 Approval – Westlaw Edge Software – Multiple Year Contract; will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments. Vice President Gregory clarified that this legislation will authorize a multiple year contract for year 2 and 3. Councilman Coutz clarified that extending the contract for year 2 and 3 reduced the cost.

Resolution No. 50-2020 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Cecil College Transportation Training Facility, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no comments from the administration. Vice President Gregory clarified that the Council was unaware of this cost when the budget was proposed. This request was generated by the Bainbridge Development Corporation Phase 2 plan so that the training facility could be moved from its current location.

Resolution No. 51-2020 Approval – Workers Compensation Claims Administration Subscription – Multiple Year Contract, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. Councilman Coutz clarified that this multiple year contract will result in savings for the County.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey reminded Council Members of the Health Department’s weekly COVID report, the Upper Shore Regional Council biannual fall meeting on September 16, 2020; and the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council’s meeting on September 24, 2020.

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 6:30 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 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

