

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
February 16, 2021**

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 February 16, 2021 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 Councilwoman 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 Councilman Miller, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of February 9, 2021, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

COVID-19 Update

Lauren Levy, Health Officer, provided an update on the status of COVID-19 in the county. She stated that the latest statistics show a decrease in positive cases. She provided comparative statistics on the number of cases, deaths and the 7-day positivity rate. She stated that there has been a drop in the number of COVID-19 testing. She stated that monoclonal antibody infusion therapy is now available at Union Hospital. She reviewed the priorities for vaccinations that were established by Governor Hogan. She stated that vaccination clinics are being expanded to Walmart, Walgreens and CVS locations.

She stated that the major challenge continues to be limited number of doses and the lack of advanced notice of the number of doses.

Council questions and comments ensued.

Proposed Elkton Annexation – Bell Hill Road et al.

C. Evan Rollins, representing Preston and Letitia Ayars, owners of the farm where the annexation is proposed, provided a concept plat that illustrated that Belle Hill Road was already owned and maintained by the Town of Elkton. Mr. Rollins requested that the Council reconsider the request to annex the property and rezone the property from the County's designation of High Density Residential (RM) to the Town of Elkton's Highway Interchange Commercial (C-3) zone.

Council questions and comments ensued. Council Manager Massey stated that the Town's original request that was considered in Resolution No. 67-2020 was tabled. He stated that the Town of Elkton would need to make this request with the additional changes that he proposes.

State Legislation Review

Vice President Jackie Gregory, Council representative on the MACo Legislative Committee, provided a review of State legislation.

HB 1329/SB 541 Maryland Transportation Authority-John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway-Toll Plazas; support

HB 1259/SB 19 Horse Racing – Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area- support

HB 22/SB 19 Environment-PFAS Chemicals-Prohibitions and Requirement: Oppose

Letters of support and opposition will be prepared and submitted to the committees, delegation, and members, if needed.

Review of Legislative Agenda

A public hearing on Bill No. 2021-01 County Council- Qualifications and Bill No. 2021-02 Ethics-Employment and Financial Interest Restrictions, will be held at tonight's legislative session. Mr. Massey, Council manager, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

A public hearing on Resolution No. 04-2021 Amendment- Comprehensive Plan-Mineral Extraction District, will be held at tonight's legislative session. Steve O'Connor, Land Use and Development Services, Acting Director, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 19-2021 Appointment- Economic Development Commission – Sharon Kurfuerst, will be introduced at tonight's session. Dan Schneckenburger, Director of Administration, provided comments. Council questions and comments ensued.

Resolution No. 08-2021 Appointment- Cecil County Ethics Commission-Janet Pope; Resolution No. 09-2021 Appointment- Cecil County Ethics Commission-Andrew Goins; Resolution No. 10-2021 Appointment- Cecil County Ethics Commission-Joseph Graf; Resolution No. 11-2021 Appointment- Cecil County Ethics Commission-Charles Kelso; and Resolution No. 12-2021 Appointment- Cecil County Ethics Commission-Heather O'Rourke 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 #83, in the amount of \$1,160,980 for transactions during January 2021, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey updated the Council on soliciting the county central committees for nominations for the Redistricting Commission and the County Executive's budget town hall to be held February 18, 2021.

Council Member Items

Councilman Miller attended the Farm Bureau meeting and stated that they had awarded \$28,000 in Micro-Ag grants. He encouraged attendance of the Rooted in Our Community program, sponsored by County's Agricultural Office of Economic Development on March 6.

Councilman Coutz, Councilman Patchell, Vice President Gregory and Council President Meffley will provide their comments during the legislative session.

Adjournment

Council President Meffley asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Coutz made a motion for adjournment, which was seconded by Councilman Miller. Motion was approved unanimously. Council President Meffley adjourned the work session at 5:38 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 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