

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
November 9, 2021**

OPEN SESSION – Elk Room

4:30 P.M.

NOTE: The recording and transcription of this meeting are available on the County website at www.ccgov.org/council.

PRESENT: Council Members: Robert Meffley, William Coutz, Jackie Gregory, and Al Miller. James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant, members of the administration, and members of the public.

Call to Order

Council President Meffley called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm, and announced that there were four Council Members present, which constitute a quorum. The office of Council Member from the 4th Councilmanic District is currently vacant.

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 November 2, 2021, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

North East River Water Quality Report

Mark Dobbins, President of the Elk and North East Rivers Watershed Association, introduced Dr. George Kaplan, ENERWA Director of the Water Quality Monitoring Program. Mr. Dobbins reviewed the origin and history of this nonprofit organization. He stated that the priorities of the group include: forming partnerships for stormwater management projects, conducting the water quality monitoring program, educational outreach, and forming new partnerships. He demonstrated their most recent partnership with the Town of North East at the town hall where they refitted a stormwater management plan to eliminate groundwater flooding in the building.

Dr. Kaplan described the water quality monitoring program and reported that in 2020 they evaluated the water quality as "C-", a drop from the previous year grade of "C+". Council questions and comments ensued.

Residential Noise Committee

Vice President Gregory led discussion on legislation to establish an ad hoc committee to consider residential noise legislation. The Council discussed membership on the committee should include citizens, business owners, and representatives of law enforcement, the State's Attorney's Office, the county administration and Council. Council Members were asked to be prepared to submit possible members of the committee at the next work session.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey reported that Dr. Roberts, chair of the Redistricting Commission, will be submitting their report and plan to Council on Friday, November 12. He will make a special presentation to the Council at the next legislative session on November 16. A public hearing on the

plan will be held at the Council's legislative session on December 7. He reminded the Council that if no other redistricting plan is adopted by the Council within 90 days of the presentation, then the Commission's plan becomes law.

He also stated that the Council must approve the appointment for a new Council Member from the 4th councilmanic district by November 16. Approval of the appointment is scheduled at the Council legislative session on November 16.

Council Member Items

Councilman Coutz participated in the Economic Development Council meeting and commended Susan O'Neill for her presentation on the Upper Shore Regional Council progress. He attended the ribbon cutting for Chick-fil-A and Aspen Lee Boutique. He also attended the Art Council Gala and Silent Auction and the FOP Crab Feast. He reported on statistics from the Sheriff's Intel meeting that calls have increased and there were seven overdose incidents last week, including one fatality.

Vice President Gregory attended the graduation at the Drug Court and commended this program for its success with first time offenders. She reminded the audience that Veterans Day is Thursday and called for everyone to recognize veterans for their sacrifice and commitment.

Councilman Miller participated in the graduation of the 55+ Volunteer Leadership Program. He helped decorate a Christmas tree for the CASA fundraiser being held at Woody's in North East. He attended the Local Management Board meeting and praised the community services staff for their efforts to help people with their problems. He attended the Fair Hill International meeting and commented on this great event in the county.

Council President Meffley attended the Arts Council Gala and commented on the condition of the building where the Arts Council is located. He attended the FOP Crab Feast and Elkton Rotary Club. He commented on the importance of Veterans Day to honor those who served our nation.

Adjournment

Councilman Coutz moved to recess the work session in order to go into a closed session. The motion was seconded by Vice President Gregory and approved by a vote of 4 to 0. The work session was recessed at 5:24 pm.

Roll Call Vote

Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y

Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0. Councilmanic District 4 is vacant.

CLOSED SESSION

5:30 P.M.

Pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions § 3-305 (b)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

OPEN SESSION

6:59 P.M.

Council President Meffley reconvened the work session at 6:59 pm.

Councilman Coutz moved to adjourn the work session, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory. Council President Meffley adjourned the work session at 6:59 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 4:30 pm in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building. The session will also be livestreamed on the County Council's webpage at www.ccgov.org/council. Members of the public who do not have broadband access should contact the Council Office for instructions to be connected via telephone.

Approved:


James Massey
Council Manager


Robert Meffley, Council President