

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
January 18, 2022

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, Al Miller, Donna Culberson and Jackie Gregory; 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 five Council Members present, which constitute a quorum.

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 January 11, 2022, as presented. The motion approved unanimously.

Cecil County Arts Council

Annmarie Hamilton, Executive Director of the Cecil County Arts Council, introduced Paula Newton, President of the Cecil County Historical Society, Charles Herzog, member of the Cecil Land Trust, and Pam Howard, board member of the Arts Council. Ms. Hamilton provided a history of the building at 135 East Main Street and stated that the current agencies in the county building include the Arts Council, Cecil Land Trust and the Historic Society. Mr. Herzog stated that events were held in the shared building that involved all three groups. Ms. Hamilton explained that the arts council uses the facility for an art gallery and for art education. Additional letters of support for this building was provided by Rusty Eader. Ms. Hamilton, Ms. Newton, and Ms. Howard stated that the building was in poor condition on the exterior and interior. They stated that the county has maintained the building, although the maintenance service and liability was questioned by Lawrence Scott, County Attorney. Ms. Hamilton described problems with room temperatures that has caused some mold within the building. She also stated that roof shingles have been falling off and window shutters are deteriorating. She stated that the electrical system needs to be upgraded. Ms. Hamilton stated that these groups are requesting a \$1.5M funding to renovate the outside and inside of this building.

Review of Legislative Agenda

A public hearing will be held for rezoning cases 2021-06, 2021-07 and 2021-08 at tonight's session. Steve O'Connor, Land Use and Development Services Director, introduced Aaron Hardy, chief of Planning and Zoning Division. They will provide the staff report and findings of facts at tonight's session.

A public hearing will be held on Bill No. 2021-16 Amendment – Zoning Ordinance – Animal Husbandry- Backyard Chickens. The Council determined to wait for a full review of the amendments at the next work session. Council Manager Massey indicated that there are several amendments with alternative options that need to be determined. Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, and Charles MacLeod, Council Attorney, stated that Amendment No. 4 regarding

homeowner associations, deeds and covenants need to be revised. Mr. MacLeod agreed to draft new language.

Resolution No. 01-2022 Appointment – Board of Library Trustees – Shirley Simmons-McCrary, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Steve Overbay, Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Under New Business, Cecil County Public Schools budget amendment #94, in the amount of \$362,674 for December 2021, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey reported that the State of the County, sponsored by the Cecil County Chamber of Commerce, will be held on Monday, January 24 at 8:30am as a virtual meeting.

The Residential Noise Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, January 25 at 6:30pm in the Elk Room to continue discussion on developing a county ordinance.

Council Member Items

Council Members agreed to save their comments for the legislative session.

Adjournment

Vice President Gregory made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilman Coutz. Council President Meffley adjourned the session at 5:41 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, 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.


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Robert Meffley, Council President