

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
March 15, 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: Jackie Gregory, William Coutz, Al Miller, and Donna Culberson; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant, members of the administration, and members of the public.

Absent: Robert Meffley

Call to Order

Vice President Gregory called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm, and announced that there were four Council Members present, which constitute a quorum. Council President Meffley is ill.

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 March 8, 2022, as revised. The motion approved unanimously.

Cecil County Public Library Update

Morgan Miller, Library Director, updated the Council on the library system since last year. She stated that the number of library users has increased to pre-COVID levels. She stated that library staff have increased programming and outreach. She stated that library staff examined public usage and reviewed hours of operation; the North East Library is the only library open two evenings. She stated her current funding is inadequate and branch hours were adjusted. She shared the library administration's goals for FY 23 budget, which included COLAs for library staff, more night hours for larger branches and some renovation to the Elkton Library in the former office space. She also described several new programs and activities being undertaken.

Ms. Miller invited Council Members to Race for the Roses fundraiser being held on Saturday, May 7 at the North East Library. Council questions and comments ensued.

State Legislative Update

Vice President Gregory, MACo legislative committee representative, stated that there is no action on HB 1328 Counties and Municipalities – Water Transfer Fee – Authorization. She stated that Governor Hogan is proposing the elimination of state fuel tax for thirty days to help consumers with the high cost of fuel. She also stated that the legislature is considering several green new deal legislation. She also stated that the Governor is proposing several bills to give longer sentencing on crimes.

Budget Hearing Schedule

Council Manager Massey reviewed the proposed budget hearing schedule that begins April 5, 2022. Council work sessions will be suspended on days when a legislative session is scheduled. Budget hearings will begin at 4:30pm. The public hearing on the county budget is scheduled on Thursday, May 19 at 7pm at Elkton High School. Budget deliberation is scheduled on May 24 and 31. Final vote on the budget is planned on June 7, 2022.

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve the proposed budget schedule, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll Call Vote:

Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Culberson-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-A.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0. President Meffley was absent.

Review of Legislative Agenda

Vice President Gregory led a review of the legislative agenda.

A public hearing will be held for Bill No. 2022-01 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Health Department – Roof Replacement. James Appel, Finance Director, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

A public hearing will be held for Resolution No. 07-2022 Approval – Application – Enterprise Zone Expansion. Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 12-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Parks and Recreation – Elkton High School Stadium and Field, will be introduced at tonight's session. James Appel, Finance Director, provided comments. Councilman Miller commented that he hoped that a turf field will be installed at Rising Sun High School in the future.

Resolution No. 13-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Parks and Recreation – Pickle Ball Court and Sensory Playground, will be introduced at tonight's session. James Appel, Finance Director, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 14-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Older American Act Activities, will be introduced at tonight's session. James Appel, Finance Director, provided comments. Councilman Miller clarified that these funds would be used to support senior nutrition programs, senior programming and personnel.

Resolution No. 15-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance, will be introduced at tonight's session. James Appel, Finance Director, provided comments. Councilman Miller clarified that 10% of the grant will be used for administration. Councilwoman Culberson clarified that funding will be distributed to

successful applicants. Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, stated that the funding for this grant is from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development using American Rescue Plan Act, which is not the same as Cecil County's allocated ARPA funds.

Resolution No. 16-2022 Supplemental Appropriation and Budget Transfer – Community Services Foundation – Animal Services, will be introduced at tonight's session. James Appel, Finance Director, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 17-2022 Appointment – Adult Public Guardianship Review Board- Nancy Reasin, Michael-Anne Mundy, Stacy Kortas, Shelly Gullledge Sawyer, Mary Falkenstein, Lisa Beeman, will be introduced at tonight's session. Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. Councilman Miller clarified that board members are appointed to three-year terms, unlike the Weed Control Advisory Board.

Resolution No. 18-2022 Appointment – Board of Parks and Recreation – Matthew Morris and Bernard Brown III, will be introduced at tonight's session. Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. Councilman Miller clarified that board members are unpaid volunteers.

Resolution No. 19-2022 Appointment – Human Services Agency – Stephen Yates, George Stanko, John Shitama, John Roush, Morgan Miller, Sharon Kurfuerst, Betty Johnson, Shelly Gullledge Sawyer, Suanne Blumberg, and Matthew Barrett, will be introduced at tonight's session. Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 20-2022 Appointment – Economic Development Commission – Jeffrey Emmons, Will be introduced at tonight's session. Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. Vice President Gregory commended Mr. Emmons for his assistance with Delmarva Power.

Resolution No. 21-2022 Appointment – Commission for Women – Tammy Perkins, Sheila Murphy, Kathleen Kennedy, Casie Goins, and Annette Brown, will be introduced at tonight's session. Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. Councilman Miller clarified that this board has been inactive since 2011 and will be appointed to one-year, two-year and three-year terms.

Resolution No. 09-2022 Supplemental Appropriation and Budget Transfer – Debt Service - Salaries and Fringe Benefits, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, provided comments. Councilwoman Culberson clarified that the \$2.8M was related to the savings in the sale of bonds. Councilman Miller stated that he was opposed to extending the bond terms to thirty years. Mr. Scott explained that the 30 year term was advised by the bond counsel.

Resolution No. 10-2022 Appointment—Weed Control Advisory Board – Monty Johnson, Jim Calao, Lane Heimer, Ryan Fisher, Kenneth Newcomb, Robert Weaver, Doris Behnke, and Charles Herzog, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. He stated that the administration will be requesting the approval of two additional appointments of long-time members to the Council. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 11-2022 Appointment—Adult Public Guardianship Review Board- Erin Bird and E. Sean Poltrack, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. Vice President Gregory stated that this board provides guidance to people who need assistance. Mr. Scott stated that most of the people in this program are either in a hospital or nursing home.

Under New Business, Cecil County Public Schools – Budget Amendment #96, in the amount of 352,198 for February 2022, will be considered for approval at tonight’s session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey reported on Adopt a Road program, Senior Volunteer Program and Elkton Alliance’s Brick Program.

Council Member Items

Due to the time, Councilman Coutz, Councilwoman Culberson, and Vice President Gregory agreed to save their comments until the legislative session.

Councilman Miller announced that the avian influenza is a very serious problem on the eastern shore and urged backyard chicken owners to contact the Health Department or Department of Agriculture for any problems or concerns.

Adjournment

Councilman Coutz made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilman Miller. Vice President Gregory adjourned the session at 5:31 pm.


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Robert Meffley, Council President