

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
June 28, 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, Jackie Gregory, William Coutz, Al Miller, and Donna Culberson; James Massey, Council Manager; Charles MacLeod, Council Attorney; 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.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of June 21, 2022, as presented. The motion approved unanimously.

2022 Primary Election Update

Doug Walker, the new Election Director of Cecil County, and Karen Perry, Acting Election Director, summarized plans for the 2022 Primary Election to be held on July 19. Mr. Walker discussed his background and previous experience. He stated that early voting will be held at the County Administration Building and Calvert Elementary School July 7-14. Ms. Perry stated that there were ten ballot boxes at sites throughout the county that will be monitored by camera for the entire period. Council questions and comments ensued.

Heroin Program Update

Robert Cameron, Heroin Coordinator, Cecil County Sheriff's Office, discussed his job responsibilities and previous experience. He stated that there is a serious drug crisis in Cecil County with the use of Fentanyl, a synthetic opium, and Xylazine, a veterinary drug used to sedate animals that causes open sores. Mr. Cameron described their uses by addicts and the serious risk of cross contamination when drug dealers mix these narcotics.

Councilman Coutz suggested that the Council should meet with Mr. Cameron on a quarterly basis to keep up with the drug issues in Cecil County.

Bill No. 2022-08 Establishment – Police Accountability

Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, reviewed the suggested amendments to Bill No. 2022-08 with the Council.

1. Under Section 82.4 Membership, on page 6, line 121, to add residency requirements:
Insert the following:
D. Membership to the PAB and ACC will be restricted to County Residents who have met residency requirements of at least 6 months and successfully pass a background check, including a criminal record check, before a nomination is forwarded to the County Council.”
Administration and Council agreed to amendment.

2. Under Section 82.4 Membership., on page 6, line 122, to prohibit county and municipal employees to be members of PAB or ACC:
Insert the following:
“E. Employees of Cecil County Government and Cecil County Municipalities are prohibited from serving on the PAB or ACC.”
Council and administration agreed to amendment, Council suggested to specify that employees of municipalities that have no police department may be appointed members of the PAB or ACC.

3. Under Section 82.8, Ethics, Rules, Record Keeping, and Support, on page 12, line 303-304, replace text “managerial” and “as well as management”
Delete in its entirety and insert the following:
“2. The Office of the County Attorney shall provide legal support and administrative oversight to the PAB and ACC, and will be the as record legal advisory to each.”
Administration and Council agreed to amendment.

4. Under Section 82.1 Definitions, on page 3, line 53, suggest additional definitions
Insert the following:
“C. Administratively charged: a police officer has been formally accused of misconduct in an administrative proceeding.
D. Not administratively charged: a determination has been made not to administratively charge a police officer in connection with alleged misconduct.
E. Disciplinary matrix: a written, consistent, progressive, and transparent tool or rubric that provides ranges of disciplinary actions for different types of misconduct.
F. Open Meetings Act: A statute that requires many State and local public bodies to hold their meetings in public, to give the public adequate notice of those meetings, and to allow the public to inspect meetings minutes.
G. Conflict of Interest: a real or seeming incompatibility between one’s private interest and one’s official responsibilities in a position of trust.”
H. Exonerated: Police officer acted in accordance with the law and agency policy”
Administration opposed.

5. Under Section 82.4 Membership, on page 6, line 126 (add age limit)
Insert after an adult “21 years of age or older”.
Administration and Council agreed to amendment.

6. Under Section 82.4 Membership, on page 6, line 150, to specify 30 days from date of introduction of appointment.
Delete "from the date of appointment" and insert "from the date of introduction at legislative session."
Administration and Council agreed to amendment.

7. Under Section 82.4 Membership, on page 7, line 178, , to specify 30 days from date of introduction of appointment.
Delete "from the date of appointment" and insert "from the date of introduction at legislative session."
Administration and Council agreed to amendment.

8. Under Section 82.8 Ethics, Rules, Record Keeping, and Support, page 11, line 274
Use of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.
Discussion of quorum when 5-7 members cited.
Administration agreed to limit number of members of PAB and ACC to five with a quorum of three.

Under Section 82.4 Membership, page 6, line 144-145, to limit members to 5
Delete "and no more than seven (7)"
Administration and Council agreed to amendment.

9. Under Section 82.8 Ethics, Rules, Record Keeping, and Support, On page 10, line 268,
Suggest ACC to require quorum of 4
Delete "a quorum of at least three (3) voting members must be present" and insert "a quorum of at least four (4) voting members must be present".
Administration opposed.

10. Under Section 82.8 Ethics, Rules, Record Keeping, and Support, On page 11,
line 284-286, to specify County Attorney as custodian of records.
Delete in its entirety and insert the following:
"1. The Custodian of all records, of any form, including, without limitation, paper, media, and electronic, of the CCPAB shall be the County Attorney's Office."
Administration and Council agreed to amendment.

11. Under 82.4 Membership, on page 5, line 115, to post notice for appointment applicants
Insert the following:
"A. The County Executive shall post a public notice to invite persons to apply to serve on the PAB. Public notice shall be posted prior to initial appointments and any successive term or vacancy of a member.
Administration and Council agreed to amendment.

12. Under Section 82.7 Budget, on page 10, lines 253-254, suggest establishing a specific amount of stipend of \$25 per attended meeting.
Delete in its entirety and insert the following:
"A Quarterly stipend of \$25 for members for attendance at each meeting".
Administration opposed to amendment.
13. Under Section 82.6 Meetings and Reporting, on page 10, lines 241-246, to require members to attend in person to meetings.
Delete in its entirety and insert the following:
"All meetings of the CCPAB must be conducted in person and shall require at least three-day notice prior to the meeting."
Administration and Council agreed to amendment.
14. Under Section 82.5 Resignations and Removal, on page 8, line 199, add "just cause"
On page 8, line 199, insert "just cause"
Administration and Council agreed to add "f. Just cause" to line page 8, line 211.
15. Under Section 82.3 Administrative Charging Committee, page 4, line 84,
Delete "fiscal" and insert "calendar"
Council and administration agreed to amendment.
16. Under Section 82.3 Administrative Charging Committee, page 5, line 94,
Delete "LEA's" and insert "model"
Council and administration agreed to amendment.
17. On page 12, line 313, delete "Resolution" and insert "Bill".
Council and administration agreed to amendment.

Council President Meffley stated that the public hearing for Bill No. 2022-08 will be held on July 5, 2022.

Bill No. 2022-09 Fire Companies Volunteer – Emergency Services Expenses – Reimbursement
Councilman Coutz summarized his proposed legislation to authorize fire companies to be reimbursed for providing emergency transport services to people. He stated that Wayne Tome, Emergency Services Director, contacted the Maryland Insurance Administration that indicated that they had no objections to the legislation.

Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, stated his opposition to the legislation because it could discourage the public from calling 911. Councilman Coutz stated that the fire association members are unanimously in favor of this legislation. He stated that this legislation will strengthen the fire companies' efforts to receive reimbursement from insurance companies. Council Members discussed the reasons for fire companies requesting reimbursement for materials used during an emergency rescue. Vice President Gregory stated that the fire companies should file a complaint with the Maryland Insurance Administration if they are not

being reimbursed by insurance companies. Council Members asked if other counties have adopted similar reimbursement legislation. The public hearing on Bill No. 2022-09 will be held on July 26.

Bill No. 2022-06 Residential Noise Ordinance

Council President Meffley led discussion of possible actions that the Council may consider about Bill No. 2022-06, which had been vetoed by the Executive. The Council discussed the feedback from State’s Attorney Dellmyer and asking him for additional comments. There was also discussion of including a sunset clause so that the effectiveness and unintended consequences could be evaluated.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey thanked the Information Technology staff for their assistance with Council taping and website assistance. He also reminded Council Members that the work session of June 12 will be cancelled.

Council Member Items

Council Members Items were postponed until tonight’s legislative session.

Adjournment

Vice President Gregory made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilman Coutz. Council President Meffley adjourned the session at 7:02 pm.


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved: 
Robert Meffley, Council President