

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
December 13, 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, Rebecca Hamilton, Al Miller, Donna Culberson, and Jackie Gregory; David Culver, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant, members of the administration, and members of the public.

Call to Order

Council President Gregory 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 Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of December 6, 2022, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentations

Belvidere Road Interchange Update

Jason Harris of the Maryland Transportation Authority presented an update on the Interstate 95 Belvidere Interchange Project. Mr. Harris indicated that the partial cloverleaf project had its groundbreaking in October 2022 and is expected to be completed by 2025. Once completed the new interchange is expected to help generate over 10,000 new jobs, reduce heavy truck traffic on local roads, reduce vehicles traveling through high crash intersections and promote economic development at the Cecil County commercial hubs.

Councilman Miller requested clarification on the location of the new interchange and Mr. Harris replied it will be in about the same location as the Belvidere Road bridge, but slightly closer to the current gravel overpass.

Councilwoman Culberson inquired about the dual lanes for the rest of Belvidere Road. Director of Public Works Scott Flanigan indicated it will be two lanes until the CSX bridge and then one lane to Route 40 but Public Works is looking at funding options to extend the two lanes all the way to Route 40. Director of Administration Steven Overbay commented on the some of the grants awarded for this project.

Vice President Meffley inquired if right of way to widen Belvidere Road to Route 40 has been acquired or dedicated and Director Flanigan stated that the amount of land needed is still being identified.

Councilwoman Culberson requested clarification on the number of jobs that will be created and Mr. Harris indicated that he believes that is post construction.

Quarterly Financial Update

Director of Finance Shon McCollum and Director of Administration Steven Overbay presented the Quarterly Financial Update. Overall, most of the revenue projections are at or exceeding the budgeted numbers to date for year over year, but Director McCollum indicated some concerns on License & Permits and Recordation fees. Director McCollum indicated that senior discounts were much higher this year and credits the Administration and Council for publicizing this benefit.

Councilwoman Culberson requested clarification on partial property taxes and permit fees. Director McCollum indicated that new construction is taxed once it is completed. Director of Administration Overbay also noted timing delays with the Health Department on some permits. Councilman Miller noted that permits fees were lagging in the Spring and Summer also and noted that the increase in recordation fees could also be affecting revenue.

Council President Gregory noted that the greater notification of senior discounts had a positive effect on helping seniors.

Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if the Finance Department had concerns of some departments nearing 50% expenditure this early in the budget. Director McCollum noted that some of these costs are annual fixed cost and not recurring, so the expenditure numbers were not of concern at this point.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Culver noted that permit and license fees are behind in many jurisdictions because of the economic condition of the housing market and loan rates. Mr. Culver reminded Council of the timeline to implement Section 601 of the Charter that requires a Charter Review Commission every 10 years. Mr. Culver noted that the revised Board and Commission assignments has been updated, sent to Council and the various agencies are being notified of the new assignments. Mr. Culver noted that the Board of Education needed to reschedule the CAFR presentation to Council until January and that the BOE would be asked to do other presentations at Council's request. Mr. Culver noted WILMAPCO will be doing a presentation in January on the regional transportation plan. Mr. Culver noted that a rezoning hearing will be forthcoming once Land Use sets its hearing date. Mr. Culver noted the Council budget will be submitted with minor adjustments for advertising and the hearing schedule for each department will be set in the near future.

Council Member Items

Councilwoman Culberson noted the date for the BOE CAFR and also noted the BOE is going to do a presentation on the Blueprint program.

Councilman Miller noted he attended the YES Foundation Dinner at Sinking Springs Farm. He also congratulated the Rising Sun Lions Club on its 90th anniversary celebration. He also attended the North East Christmas Parade and the Local Management Board Meeting.

Council Vice President Meffley also attended the YES Foundation Dinner and the North East Christmas Parade. He noted that he has been receiving some concerns about Land Use requiring new plats or surveys to show additional information that the County may already have and the cost of these plats and surveys. He also noted that the Police Accountability Board nominations are going to be sent for Council consideration next week. He also noted that the BOE informed him

that they were resolving the title issues at the former Chesapeake City Elementary school. He also noted he will be looking forward to the Blue-Ribbon Commission findings and an update on the Art Council Building.

Councilwoman Hamilton noted that she attended the Bohemia River Boat Parade this past weekend.

Council President Gregory noted she attended the Elkton High School gymnasium floor dedication this past weekend. She also attended the YES Foundation Dinner. She noted that the BOE CAFR is being scheduled for the January 10, 2023 work session and the Blueprint Program will be presented in February. She also noted the progress being made on the title for the Chesapeake City Elementary school property. She also noted the MRDC and Health Department will begin a new child care education program in January.

Adjournment

Vice President Meffley made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilman Miller. Council President Gregory adjourned the session at 5:26 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 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.

Approved:


Jackie Gregory, Council President



David M. Culver
Council Manager