

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
December 20, 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 Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of December 13, 2022, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Revised Agenda

President Gregory asked Council to consider moving Resolution 70-2022 to the first item on the Agenda since several people being considered are at the meeting. Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to consider Resolution 70-2022 first on the Agenda, seconded by Vice President Meffley. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of Legislative Agenda

a. Introduction of Resolutions

Resolution 70-2022 - Appointment—Police Accountability Board – Stephen A. Miller, Jamila H. Mettee, John W. Thompson, Michael W. Dawson, Robert F. McKnight, John R. Stricklett, and Rodney W. Heinze will be introduced at the December 20, 2022 Legislative Session.

County Attorney Lawrence Scott reviewed the background of the legislation and the State mandate on the CCPAB and CCACC. He discussed the required backgrounds and requirements for the various positions on the CCPAB and CCACC. He discussed the candidates and noted that they had both a State Police background check and also a check on credit history and other financial matters. He noted that the names submitted for consideration by Council meet the qualifications, and in many cases, greatly exceed the requirements. Councilman Miller requested clarification on the background check that was done by the Maryland State Police. County Attorney Scott clarified that it was the Maryland State Police.

County Attorney Scott introduced Stephen A. Miller who is being appointed as the Chair of the CCPAB. Mr. Miller gave a brief presentation on his background which included being a Maryland State Police officer, US Army vet as well as working for a private security firm and volunteering with the Boys and Girls Club. He also noted he is on the Cecil County Liquor Board and a member of the Maryland Trooper Association Lodge 15. Councilwoman Culberson thanked him for his service.

County Attorney Scott introduced Rodney W. Heinze who is being appointed to the CCACC. Mr. Heinze gave a brief presentation on his background which included being a sworn firefighter, paramedic, mayor and school board member. He also owned and operated several business and received a MBA. Vice President Meffley asked if he had any experience in police issues when he was mayor. Mr. Heinze responded he did and outlined the process. Councilwoman Culberson thanked him for his service. Stephen A. Miller also noted he strongly recommends Mr. Heinze.

County Attorney Scott introduced Michael W. Dawson who is being appointed to the CCACC. Mr. Dawson gave a brief presentation on his background which included being a veteran, a military police officer, a drill sergeant and working at APG. Councilman Miller inquired if he served as a sworn police officer or just as a MP. Mr. Dawson explain that the MP's only had jurisdiction on military matters and are not sworn officers. Stephen A. Miller also noted he strongly recommends Mr. Dawson.

County Attorney Scott introduced John R. Stricklett who is being appointed to the CCPAB. Mr. Stricklett gave a brief presentation on his background that included being retired from the US Army. He currently coaches wrestling and football at North East High School and volunteers with the Boy Scouts, North East VFW and started the Purple Heart Chapter in Cecil County. Vice President Meffley asked him about his experience with personnel issues. Mr. Stricklett outlined his military service and personnel decisions. Councilwoman Culberson thanked him for his service. Stephen A. Miller also noted he strongly recommends Mr. Stricklett.

County Attorney Scott introduced Robert F. McKnight who is being appointed to the CCPAB. Mr. McKnight gave a brief presentation on his background including being mayor of North East for 29 years, owned and managed several businesses and his church involvement including being senior pastor. Councilwoman Culberson commented on his years as mayor and thanked him for his service. Vice President Meffley thanked him for his service. Stephen A. Miller thanked Mr. McKnight for his service and also noted he strongly recommends Mr. McKnight.

County Attorney Scott introduced Jamila H. Mettee who is being appointed to the CCPAB. Ms. Mettee gave a brief presentation on her background as a human resources manager and her involvement with the Rockfield Board, Harford Community Foundation Board, Harford Family House and Cecil County Boys and Girls Club. Vice President Meffley asked about her human resource experience and Ms. Mettee addressed her professional background. Councilwoman Culberson thanked her for her volunteer work. Stephen A. Miller also noted he strongly recommends Ms. Mettee and that she would be a great asset to the Board.

County Attorney Scott introduced John W. Thompson who is being appointed to the CCPAB. Mr. Thompson gave a brief presentation on his background as a firefighter, police dispatcher, US Army vet, Mount Rainer police chief, Prince Georges County Sheriff's Office and several non-profits. He is associated with the Nation Sheriff Association and is currently the Executive Director of Deep Roots. President Gregory thanked him for his service. Councilman Miller and Vice President Meffley thanked him for volunteering. Stephen A. Miller also noted he strongly recommends Mr. Thompson.

County Attorney Scott noted to Council that training slots for the CCACC and CCPAB members are available in January but are limited and reservations cannot be made until the candidates are

officially appointed. He noted this session begins January 20, 2023 and training is limited to 20 slots per session and asked Council to expedite the appointments. He also noted that the pay for the members was being proposed at \$300 per day plus travel. He noted this Board has serious responsibilities and needed to be trained so they can begin as soon as possible. He noted that they will be deciding on matters that could have an adverse impact on an officer's career. President Gregory asked if all members of both boards would be trained, and Attorney Scott indicated that all members would go to training.

Cecil County Sheriff Scott Adams introduced the other police chiefs in attendance at the meeting. He then addressed Council on the training needed for the CCACC and CCPAB members. He explained the difference between the two boards and the process the Sheriff office uses for investigations. Sheriff Adams discussed the required timeframes and the issues that it may cause in investigations. Council President Gregory asked Sheriff Adams how often the CCPAB and CCACC may need to meet, and Sheriff Adam responded it will be as needed and required. Councilwoman Culberson asked about the criminal investigation and how the States Attorney's Office and Internal Affairs would investigate. Sheriff Adams explained the investigation process and the criminal investigation and other investigations. County Attorney Scott explained that every complaint that comes into the Sheriff's Office or CCPAB would be logged, tracked and reported by the CCPAB in the quarterly and annual report. Council President Gregory confirmed that openings in training are available and if these are weekly or monthly slots. County Attorney Scott noted the training by the State is done monthly. Councilwoman Culberson asked when this was required to be implemented and County Attorney Scott noted July 2022, but Counties could not meet the deadline because the training was not set, but Cecil County is in the middle of counties as far as implementation. Councilwoman Culberson asked Sheriff Adams how many cases does he have pending and what is the typical yearly number of complaint cases on officers. Sheriff Adams believes he has three pending, and some cases are internal not external. Sheriff Adams also noted the yearly number varies. County Attorney Scott noted we have about 8 total cases counting municipalities so far this year. Councilwoman Culberson asked for additional clarification on the internal investigation process and Sheriff Adams explained the process.

Vice President Meffley asked about the legal advisor for both boards and would it be the same attorney for both boards. County Attorney Scott stated his office would be the legal support for both boards but does not have an attorney assigned. County Attorney Scott noted that an attorney will be at each meeting. Councilman Miller requested the amount in the FY23 Budget that was approved for the CCPAB and CCACC, how is a day defined and what is the cost per day for travel. County Attorney Scott explained the pay would be for a full day and travel costs. President Gregory inquired if an attorney has been hired for this position. County Attorney Scott indicated that it is currently vacant, but they do have a paralegal hired to assist the boards.

Vice President Meffley asked Sherriff Adams if the appointments were made January 3, 2023, would that have a negative effect. Sheriff Adams indicated that timing may become an issue for training but did not have an answer.

Council President Gregory reviewed the nomination process and pay. Vice President Meffley noted that everyone would be paid for training and travel. County Attorney Scott confirmed both the CCPAB and CCACC would all be trained. Council President Gregory stated the Council has many options on how the compensation could be paid. Councilman Miller noted that most of the budget would go to staffing in the Law Department and training but wanted to make sure they received

proper reimbursement for travel. Councilwoman Culberson asked for confirmation of the amount in the FY23 budget. Finance Director Shon McCollum indicated it was approximately \$296,000. Vice President Meffley indicated he had no issue with pay for training and the CCACC but questioned if other Boards and Commissions would also seek compensation. County Attorney Scott discussed the difference between professional boards, such as the Liquor Board, and boards that issue advisory opinions. County Attorney Scott noted that the CCPAB and CCACC would need to decide critical issues that would affect an officer's career. Councilwoman Culberson noted she supports this board being compensated. President Gregory noted that having a fixed amount so we know the budget number may be preferred since we do not know how many times they may meet. Vice President Meffley asked about the future budget costs and County Attorney Scott said it would need to be reviewed annually during the budget. President Gregory asked if a meeting would have a minimum time before it is paid as a day and County Attorney Scott indicated it would be tracked in blocks. President Gregory noted the resolution may need to be amended to say that, but County Attorney Scott noted that may be too much detail. Councilman Miller inquired what would constitute a day in order to be paid, would a full day be paid for a meeting that only lasted an hour. County Attorney Scott noted they would track the time and come back to Council if it needed to be changed. Councilwoman Culberson noted that they need to be compensated and expects changes in the future.

President Gregory polled the Council to see if they wanted to change the compensation to be a set amount. Councilwoman Culberson stated to leave as is and review in the future. Councilman Miller requested a daily rate but also to define a day. Vice President Meffley agreed with Councilman Miller. Councilwoman Hamilton also agreed with Vice President Meffley but thought the rate should be different for CCPAB and CCACC and that it would be difficult to lower the rate in the future. County Attorney Scott clarified the roles of the CCPAB and CCACC and noted some members will be on both. Vice President Meffley noted if it is possible for a member to be paid twice for one day if both boards met on the same day. County Attorney Scott said that would not occur under the Human Resources regulations. Councilwoman Culberson, Council President Gregory and Vice President Meffley clarified this point with County Attorney Scott. President Gregory clarified it was administrative for CCPAB and legal for CCACC. Councilwoman Hamilton asked for clarification on the meeting location and serving on both boards. She also noted that the two boards should be paid differently and Vice President Meffley agreed. Councilwoman Culberson asked for clarification on the different rates. President Gregory requested members to write up suggestions for amendment on compensation.

President Gregory noted that Council could meet on December 27, 2022, to consider the resolutions. Councilwoman Hamilton asked if the compensation could be removed and voted separately. Council President Gregory noted that it could but thought it should be voted on as one resolution. Council Manager Culver reviewed the process for passing a resolution at a meeting that it was introduced and noted Council rules stated it had to be unanimous decision to do so. Councilman Miller indicated he would like it to remain for a vote on January 3, 2023, and noted the delay in the original legislation and the time it took to get the nominees. President Gregory noted that it took time since this is very complicated and Council should not delay the resolution. County Attorney Scott noted that they cannot be registered for training until they are appointed. President Gregory asked if anyone had an issue voting on the names tonight and Councilman Miller indicated his objection and noted they should be voted on January 3, 2023. Councilwoman Culberson wanted to vote on the names this evening. President Gregory stated that Council should

consider this matter sooner and that can be discussed at the December 20, 2022 Legislative Session if someone would like to make a motion.

Being no further discussion Council resumed the regular agenda.

Resolution 66-2022 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Human Services Division – Domestic Violence Program/The Bridge will be introduced at the December 20, 2022 Legislative Session. County Attorney Scott and Director of Community Services David Trolio explained the grant and how it would be used. Vice President Meffley inquired as to how many people applied for the housing grant. Director Trolio indicated that this is only for transitional housing for victims of domestic violence.

Resolution 67-2022 - Cecil County Hazard Mitigation Plan – 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update will be introduced at the December 20, 2022 Legislative Session. County Attorney Scott, Director of Emergency Management Wayne Tome, Emergency Services John Donohue and Michael Berth outlined the update to the Emergency Plan. Mr. Donohue noted the Plan address both natural and man-made disasters and protocols. This plan address everything from storm issues to Peach Bottom to railroad accidents and accidents on Route 95 or Route 40. The plan also is necessary to get federal assistance during these events as well as helping to establish flood rates for FIRM insurance. Mr. Donohue also note that FEMA deemed the plan approved once approved by Council. Mr. Donohue also noted that the Cecil County municipalities have either approved the plan or will be doing so in the near future. Council had no questions or comments.

Resolution 68-2022 - Budget Transfer – Fund Balance – Liquor Board will be introduced at the December 20, 2022 Legislative Session. County Attorney Scott and Liquor Board Chairman Stephen A. Miller outlined the need for additional staffing at the Liquor Board since the last clerical person transferred to Public Works and the need for another part time inspector. County Attorney Scott explained the Liquor Board is a small budget and these funds are needed to keep the Liquor Board operational. Council had no questions or comments.

Resolution 69-2022 - Budget Amendment – Fund Balance – Department of Emergency Services will be introduced at the December 20, 2022 Legislative Session. County Attorney Scott and Director of Emergency Services Wayne Tome discussed the purchase of a new ambulance for the Southern District including the Chesapeake City area. The County currently has two ambulances for this part of the County, however, they are in need of replacement. This ambulance is new and available but if delayed it may take six to eight months for another unit to be ready. Once replaced, the two older ambulances would be maintained in the event they are needed. Some grant money will be available to help with the purchase of equipment for this vehicle. Councilman Miller inquired if this is new, and would it only be used in the Southern District in Chesapeake City and do we have two units. Director Tome stated it was new and is going to be stationed in the Southern District. Director Tome also noted the age of the two other units and the amount of time they are being repaired. Director Tome also indicated that this is the only transport unit Emergency Services operates. County Attorney Scott noted that this program started a year ago and is needed to assist the Southern District and Chesapeake City. Councilwoman Culberson inquired on the warranty. Director Tome indicated that this new ambulance will be covered by a warranty. Councilman Miller inquired when this would be in service. Director Tome hopes to have the unit within 60 to 90 days of purchase. County Attorney Scott also noted the backlog in availability and that the prices are going up, so this is a good time to purchase. Vice President Meffley inquired if the old ambulances

would be loaned or sold to the other fire companies. Director Tome indicated that is being examined. He also noted that protocol would need to be established and in Baltimore County, for example, the ambulances are covered County's insurance unless on loan to a fire company, in which case the fire company insurance would cover. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if this is not purchased now, would it be added to the FY24 budget. County Attorney Scott noted it would have been in the FY24 budget if not purchased now.

b. Consideration of Resolutions

Resolution No. 61-2022 Approval – Maryland Economic Development Assistance and Authority Fund – Loan for Northrop Grumman Innovation Systems, Inc. will be considered at the December 20, 2022, Legislative Session. Vice President Meffley inquired as to how the new employment numbers are tracked. County Attorney Scott indicated that the State tracks the additional employment as part of the loan.

Resolution No. 62-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Emergency Services – Laptops for Protocols will be considered at the December 20, 2022, Legislative Session. Council had no comments or questions.

Resolution No. 63-2022 Supplemental Appropriation- Grant Funds- Detention Center – Medication Supported Recovery will be considered at the December 20, 2022, Legislative Session. County Attorney Scott noted this grant was to cover part of the unfunded mandate to provide this service. Vice President Meffley asked for clarification is this was part of the settlement agreement. County Attorney Scott noted that this may be part of the settlement at the State.

Resolution No. 64-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Tourism – Winter Lights Cecil Nights will be considered at the December 20, 2022, Legislative Session. Council had no comments or questions.

Resolution No. 65-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Human Services Division – Food and Supplies will be considered at the December 20, 2022, Legislative Session. Council had no comments or questions.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Culver reported on the upcoming MACo Winter Conference. Mr. Culver reminded Council of the timeline to fulfill Section 601 of the Charter that requires a Charter Review Commission every 10 years. Mr. Culver noted the Chambers State of the Economy meeting on January 23, 2023. Mr. Culver noted the upcoming presentation from WILMAPCO and the Board of Education at the January 10, 2023, Work Session. Mr. Culver noted that any councilmember that needed office supplies or calendars should contact him so they can be ordered.

Council Member Items

Council deferred comments until the December 20, 2022, Legislative Session.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton. Council President Gregory adjourned the session at 6:28 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, December 27, 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