

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

January 10, 2023

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, Al Miller, Donna Culberson, and Jackie Gregory; David Culver, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant, members of the administration, and members of the public. Rebecca Hamilton arrived at 4:40 pm.

Call to Order

Council President Gregory called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm, and announced that there were four 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 January 3, 2023, as presented. The motion passed 4 to 0 with one absent.

Presentations

a. Board of Education CAFR Presentation

Dr. Jeffrey Lawson, Superintendent of the Cecil County Schools, and Denise Sopa, Chief Financial Officer, presented the annual ACFR (formally called the CAFR). The ACFR was completed in September and sent to Council in October. Ms. Sopa discussed the three funds, General, Special and Capital and how the funds are administered. Ms. Sopa also noted that food services and the student activity funds must be treated as standalone funds. Dr. Lawson explained the administration costs, mid-level costs and institutional costs as well as pension and health care costs. Dr. Lawson also discussed the funding challenges going forward once the federal funds through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) expires and how the fund balances will be used to meet these future shortfalls. Councilwoman Culberson clarified the state pension cost share from the state. Councilwoman Hamilton and President Gregory requested clarification on the health care costs. Dr. Lawson noted the self-insurance program and caps on insurance costs. Councilwoman Culberson requested clarification on enrollment and the PRE K program. Dr. Lawson reviewed the enrollment numbers and noted that the Pre K program is growing and funded from the fund balance. Dr. Lawson also reviewed the capital projects, school safety measures and teacher vacancies. Councilman Miller thanked Dr. Lawson for the update and noted the growing enrollment and the need to help low-income students. Councilman Meffley noted that the schools he visited in his district are excellent with very qualified teachers. Dr. Lawson noted that he would send any additional information that Council would like upon receipt of the question.

b. WILMAPCO Regional Transportation Plan

David Gula, Principal Planner at WILMAPCO, presented the 2050 WILMAPCO Regional Transportation Plan that include the 2023 updates. Mr. Gula explained the role of WILMAPCO with

New Castle County and Cecil County as well as the Maryland and Delaware Departments of Transportation in the planning and funding process. Mr. Gula noted that the Regional Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) is updated every 4 years, the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Congestion Management System (CMS) is updated annually. WILMAPCO also monitors and reports on air quality. Mr. Gula reviewed the current and future projects for roads, bicycles trails, pedestrian linkages and greenways. Councilman Miller requested clarification on the MD 222 and Bainbridge projects and noted that the Rt. 301 toll in Delaware still creates problems in Cecil County. Councilwoman Hamilton requested addition information on the healthy and affordable living options and noted that these option need to be made available to low income areas. Mr. Gula noted that he would send the links to the various projects to Council.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager 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 State of the County address by County Executive Danielle Hornberger would be at the January 17, 2023 Legislation Session and her State of the Economy address will be at the Chamber of Commerce meeting on January 23, 2023. Mr. Culver noted that Council may need to go into a closed session at the January 17, 2023 work session to discuss the acquisition of real property for a public purpose. Mr. Culver noted that Council is invited to the State of the Economy Address, Martin Luther King celebrations and Drug Court graduation and to let staff know if they would like to attend.

Council Member Items

Vice President Meffley noted he attended the MACo Conference and reviewed several of the seminars and meetings including the Clean Chesapeake Coalition, Upper Shore Regional Council Meeting and Rural County Coalition Meeting. Vice President Meffley also congratulated Council President Jackie Gregory on being named the Vice Chair of the Rural County Coalition Committee. He also noted the positive impact the Upper Shore Regional Council has made with helping students from the School of Technology and other trade schools.

Councilwoman Culberson also noted her attendance at MACo and reviewed the seminars on opioid and cannabis issues, open meeting laws, election reforms and mental health. Councilwoman Culberson also noted that steps are being taken to make schools safer.

Councilwoman Hamilton noted that she attended the MACO Conference and the newly elected officials' seminars. Councilwoman Hamilton noted the diverse panels and how helpful they were to show how large and small counties work together on issues. Councilwoman Hamilton also noted Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Finally, Councilwoman Hamilton encouraged everyone to go to the Winter Lights - Cecil Nights website to find out when to visit the municipalities.

Councilman Miller noted he attended the MACo conference and noted the excellent job done by the MACo staff. Councilman Miller noted Maureen O'Shea micro agriculture program won an award at MACO and David Trolio, Director of Community Services was one of the panel speakers. Councilman Miller noted that the Winter Lights-Cecil Nights will be in North East and that the wagon tour would be available.

President Gregory also noted she attended the MACo conference and noted she attended the Police Accountability Board and several Counties noted frustration on the training and implementation of this law. She also attended the Clean Chesapeake Coalition meeting, the Upper Shore Regional Council meeting and the Rural County Coalition Meetings as well as numerous seminars. President Gregory also congratulated County Executive Danielle Hornberger on being selected for the MACo Board of Directors. President Gregory also announced that the utility work on Oldfield Point Road was for the installation of fiber optics line for broadband for this area.

Vice President Meffley also noted several other seminars at MACo that were not discussed by fellow Councilmembers. President Gregory stated that Cecil County has won major MACo awards the past two years and noted this is a major accomplishment and a testament to our excellent county employees always thinking of innovative way to deliver better services to our citizens.

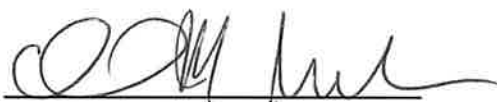
Adjournment

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley. Council President Gregory adjourned the session at 6:24 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 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