

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

January 24, 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, 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 January 17, 2023, as presented. The motion passed 5 to 0.

On a motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council closed session of January 17, 2023, as presented. The motion passed 5 to 0.

**Closed Session
January 17, 2023
4:41 PM**

On a motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilman Miller, the Council moved to convene a close session, pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions §3-305 (b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

Roll Call Vote

Hamilton - Y, Miller - Y, Culberson - Y, Meffley - Y, Gregory – Y
The motion was approved unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

PRESENT: Council Members: Robert Meffley, Rebecca Hamilton, Al Miller, Donna Culberson and Jackie Gregory; David Culver, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant, Director of Administration Steven Overbay, County Attorney Lawrence Scott and Director of Finance Shon McCollum.

The Council reviewed the purchase of real estate. They agreed to move forward with the purchase pending a budget amendment.

On a motion by Councilwoman Hamilton, which was seconded by Councilman Miller, President Gregory adjourned the closed session at 5:37 pm

Presentation**School Water Testing by Public Works**

Director of Public Works Scott Flanigan and Mark Durrett, Chief of the Wastewater Division presented a power point on water testing at Rising Sun Elementary School (RSES). Director Flanigan noted that Public Works provides water operations at the 8 schools that are on wells since DPW is a Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) licensed operator.

The RSES tested above the acceptable limits for nitrates in May of 2020. In cooperation with the Board of Education and MDE a nitrate removal system was designed and implemented in January of 2021. During this design and construction phase bottle water was added to the school. Since this time the nitrate levels have dropped well below the acceptable level. Chief Durrett discussed the quarterly testing and results.

Councilwoman Culberson noted she received complaints about water at Rising Sun Middle School and Director Flanigan said he would notify the Town of Rising Sun since they provide that water service. Vice President Meffley inquired as to the nitrate system and was informed it used chlorine to remove the nitrates. Commissioner Augie Pierson from Rising Sun spoke about the Town's water and would note Councilwoman Culberson's issue. Commissioner Pierson also noted the Town is working with MDE on some water issues around the mushroom farm near the school. Robert Buckley from the Board of Education also addressed the water issue and how the BOE responds to any unsafe condition. Vice President Meffley inquired on the type of piping at RSES and Mr. Buckley indicated it was copper.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Culver noted that January is a five Tuesday month so no meetings are scheduled next week. Mr. Culver noted the timeline to fulfill Section 601 of the Charter that requires a Charter Review Commission every 10 years. He also noted he is still arranging for the Council pictures and hopes to have them scheduled on February 7, 2023 if everyone's schedule permits. Mr. Culver congratulated the Council and Administration on the State of the County address and State of the Economy. Mr. Culver noted that we are beginning to receive MACo requests on legislation being introduced at the State and we will respond to all inquiries on the various bills.

Council Member Items

Councilwoman Hamilton had no new meetings to report.

Vice President Meffley reported the former Chesapeake City Elementary School property was being turned over and he hoped Council would get a presentation from the Town of Chesapeake City on the potential use of this land. He also reported he attended the State of the Economy breakfast with the Chamber of Commerce. He also requested clarification on the budget surplus since it was presented as 11 million dollars at one meeting and 44 million dollars in another. County Attorney Scott noted it was 44 million dollars and that number did not include the stimulus money.

Councilman Miller thanked the people at DPW on the quick resolution on the water issues at the schools. He also attended the State of the Economy breakfast with the Chamber of Commerce. He reported that he has had discussions with Sheriff Adams on the Police Accountability Board and

potential changes. He also noted issues with permitting at the Health Department and hopes they are being resolved.

Councilwoman Culberson gave the intel report for the past week from the Sheriff's office. She also attended the State of the Economy breakfast with the Chamber of Commerce. She also noted upcoming zoom meetings with MACo.

President Gregory noted that MACo is sending out updates on bills. She asked Council if they wanted to take action on the following:

SB94 – Income Tax subtraction for volunteers Fire, Rescue and EMS. Send support with an amendment to make this a credit.

HB82/SB201 – Child Health Insurance Program. Council will not take a position.

SB134 – Property tax credit for disabled veterans. Send a letter of support with an amendment to make this a local opt in credit.

HB65 – Education- Public Libraries Collective Bargaining – MACo is opposed and Council does not need to send a letter.

SB1- Criminal Law – Wearing, Carrying of Transporting Firearms restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023; SB86- Rifles and Shotguns – Possession- Age Requirement; SB113/HB259- Civil Actions – Public Nuisances – Firearm Industry Members; SB118 – Criminal Law – Prohibitions on Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms. Send letter in opposition to bills and note Council is opposed to any infringement on 2nd Amendment rights.

SB199/HB119 – Primary and Secondary Education – Comprehensive Health Education Framework Established – Send letter in opposition.

HB81 – Labor and Employment – State Minimum Wage Rate – Acceleration. Council does not need to send letter at this time.

HB35 – Elections – In-Person Voting – Proof of Identity – Send letter of support.

President Gregory also noted she attended the Rural Counties Coalition Meeting on January 23, 2023. She also attended the Eastern Shore Delegation Meeting on January 20, 2023 and the MACo zoom meeting on the Blue Print mandate to provide money for tech programs. This will require each Board of Education to provide \$62.00 per student for tech training.

CLOSED SESSION

Council Manager Culver announced that County Council is entering a closed session pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions §3-305 for

(b)(1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and

(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; and

(b)(14) Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.

Council President Gregory asked for a motion to recess the work session and to go into a closed session. Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to go into closed session, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Roll Call Vote

Hamilton - Y, Miller - Y, Culberson - Y, Meffley - Y, Gregory – Y

PRESENT: Council Members: Robert Meffley, Rebecca Hamilton, Al Miller, Donna Culberson, and Jackie Gregory; David Culver, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant, Also: County Attorney Lawrence Scott, Director of Finance Shon McCollum

Council President Gregory recessed the work session at 5:26 pm.

OPEN SESSION

On a motion by Councilwoman Hamilton, which was seconded by Councilman Miller, President Gregory reconvened the work session at 6:28 pm.

President Gregory announced Council was out of closed session.

President Gregory also added to her weekly report that additional Blue Print zoom meetings will be held and encouraged Council to participate.

President Gregory announced that no further items are on the January 24, 2023 Work Session agenda.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson. Council President Gregory adjourned the work session at 6:32 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 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