# COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY WORK SESSION MINUTES

June 13, 2023

OPEN SESSION – Elk Room 5:15 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 5:15 pm and announced that there were five Council Members present, which constitute a quorum.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

On a motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of June 6, 2023, as presented. The motion passed 5 to 0.

# **Presentation**

Fair Hill Nature Center

Laura Hannan, Executive Director of the Fair Hill Nature Center, presented the history of the Fair Hill Nature Center. She noted the Center was founded in 1990 and is a private non-profit organization. She noted that the mission of the Center is to inspire stewardship and community through outdoor environmental education. She also noted in the past year 6,000 students from grades K to 5 from the Cecil County schools have been to the nature center. She also noted the success they are having with grants, the renovation to the building, the new green lab pavilion and the summer and winter break programs. She also noted the current staff and the number of volunteers for the programs.

President Gregory inquired about the summer programs and Director Hannan noted that they can be registered for through the Cecil College programs and they are about 90% full. President Gregory inquired as to the camp counselor's qualifications, and Director Hannan noted they need to be at least 18 years old and have CPR and first aid training. They also have junior counselors that can be 16 years old that can assist. Councilman Miller noted that the Health Department should help to promote these programs and the assistance of the Cecil Soil Conservation District in the teaching of programs. He also inquired as to other funding sources such as the 5 Star event. Director Hannan noted the 5 Star does allow them to set up a booth at the event and the Point to Point was a contributor in the past. Councilman Miller also noted the history of the DuPont Farm at Fair Hill and the large number of livestock that was on the farm. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired as to the adult programs and Director Hannan noted they try to do a program every month depending on funding and help. Councilwoman Culberson also inquired about the volunteers and Director Hannan noted they are always seeking more volunteers. President Gregory noted that this is a great resource in Cecil County and hopes to see the program grow in the future.

### **Council Manager Report**

Council Manager Culver noted the updated Council Manager report is in the packet.

#### **Council Member Items**

Councilman Miller noted he, along with 35 other people, toured Long Green Farm, winner of the Leopold Award, and congratulated the Crothers family. He noted that other Leopold Award winners from Maryland and Pennsylvania joined in the tour.

Vice President Meffley thanked everyone for attending the meeting and noted that both the Health Department and Fair Hill Nature Center did excellent presentations.

Councilwoman Hamilton also thanked the attendees and wished everyone a safe summer now that schools are out.

Councilwoman Culberson gave the weekly intel report. She also thanked everyone for the presentations.

President Gregory noted she attended the Deep Roots volunteer lunch on June 9. She also attended the Manila Sweet Treats ribbon cutting and encouraged people to go to the Sabroso Farmer Market on Bridge Street. She also attended the ribbon cutting for the Cecil College soccer fields on June 13.

President Gregory announced that no further items are on the June 13, 2023 Work Session agenda.

# Adjournment

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley. Council President Gregory adjourned the work session at 5:48 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 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:

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David M. Culver Council Manager

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