

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

July 11, 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: Al Miller, Donna Culberson, Bob Meffley and virtually by Jackie Gregory; David Culver, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant, members of the administration and members of the public.

Call to Order

Vice President Meffley called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm and announced that there were three Council Members present in the Chamber and one attending virtually, which constitute a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilman Miller, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of June 20, 2023, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation

a. Monthly Review of Contracts

Director of Administration Steven Overbay handed out the monthly contract sheet to Council. Director of Finance Shon McCollum explained the three contracts that exceeded the provision of Section 516 of the Charter. One of the contracts was for Public Works sewer expansion construction management and inspection, one was for the purchase of development rights and one for the State's Attorney Office renovation. Councilman Miller questioned the length of the sewer contract and Director McCollum noted it was for one year but could be extended up to three. Vice President Meffley inquired if the renovation to the States Attorney Office has begun, and Director Overbay noted he would verify. Councilman Miller inquired on the development rights and Director Overbay noted it was passed several month ago by Council and he would verify the location.

Review of Legislative Agenda

a. Introduction of Resolutions

1. 37-2023 To allocate \$10,000,000 of unassigned general fund balance to a committed education fund.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay outlined that the creation of this committed fund was discussed during the FY24 budget hearings and noted this was to pay for future maintenance of effort increases and the Blueprint for Growth costs. Councilwoman Culberson inquired if this was

to cover State cost or county cost and Director Overbay indicated it was for county mandated increases. Councilman Miller verified this was for maintenance of effort and Blueprint cost only and Director Overbay confirmed it was only for those costs. Councilman Miller also asked how long the funds are committed and Director Overbay noted until the fund was allocated by Council. Vice President Meffley inquired if this fund would be replenished and Director Overbay noted it would not unless future budgets added more to this fund to help with these future mandated increases. President Gregory noted that fund balances use could only be allocated by Council and Director Overbay concurred.

2. 38-2023 Amend - Maryland Economic Development Assistance and Authority Fund Loan – Lidl.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted Lidl and the Maryland Department of Commerce have been great partners and made the required investments. He noted that because they opened during the Covid pandemic and had changes in leadership that the paperwork for this grant has not been fully completed. He noted this extension should allow this to be closed. Director of Economic Development William Sorenson noted they did hire in excess of the 80 full time positions required and invested well over 100 million into the project. Director Sorenson noted that the extension to September 30, 2023 will allow ample time to verify that the grant can be closed. Vice President Meffley noted they had to hire 80 full time positions and retain them for at least one year and Director Sorenson noted that was one of the requirements and they did meet this requirement. Director Overbay noted they well exceeded the number of projected employees.

3. 39-2023 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Parks and Recreation – Calvert Regional Park Basketball Court Improvements

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted this is to use the remainder of grant funds to resurface the basketball courts at Calvert Park. Director of Parks and Recreation Clyde Van Dyke noted the original grant was for 1.5 million dollars and did several projects in the County including the new turf field at Rising Sun High School. Councilman Miller inquired if the courts would remain in the same location and Director Van Dyke noted they would. Vice President Meffley inquired on the timing for the repairs and Director Van Dyke noted about four weeks and it will be done in September. Councilwoman Culberson inquired if this will be just for basketball or can other sports use it and Director Van Dyke indicated it would be just basketball.

b. Consideration of Resolutions

1. 35-2023 Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance – Board of Education – Safe and Secure School Entrances Projects - Rising Sun and Conowingo Elementary Schools (To be tabled).

Director of Administration Steven Overbay gave an update on the project and noted that it was being put out to bid again and the bids will be opened on July 26. Councilwoman Culberson inquired if the project would go into the new school year and Director Overbay indicated that was his understanding. Council Manager Culver noted that this would be tabled until August 1, 2023 and that by then Council should have the revised cost to amend the resolution. He also noted that in e-mails with Dr. Jeffry Lawson on this subject that Dr. Lawson indicated that the Board of Education may move up the August meeting to award the bid.

2. 36-2023 Appointment – Commission for Women – Abigail Bingham

Director Of Administration Steven Overbay noted the qualifications of Ms. Bingham and the expertise she will bring to the commission. Vice President Meffley agreed she will be an excellent appointment.

c. New Business

1. Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #111

Vice President Meffley noted the Budget Amendment was for \$303,425 for May. This Budget Amendment was discussed at the Board of Education Meeting.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Culver noted the updated Council Manager report is in the packet. Council Manager Culver also reminded Council that on August 1, 2023 the Council meeting will begin at 8:00 pm and that from 6:00 to 8:00 PM on that evening the opioid summit with State will be held. He also noted the Charter Commission met on July 10, 2023 and that on July 13, 2023 he was requested to participate in the Charles County Charter Commission meeting to discuss Charter government.

Council Member Items

Councilman Miller noted the pictures and art work for sale at the Elkton and North East Library and encouraged everybody to go to see them. He also noted the Cecil County Fair begins July 21 and will go to July 30.

Councilwoman Culberson gave the weekly intel report. She noted she attended the Salute to Veterans dinner and fireworks at the North East park.

Vice President Meffley noted he attended the Upper Shore Regional Council Meeting and the MRDC Meeting. He also attended the Great Wolf Lodge opening and noted it was a great venue. He also attended the VLOSAP Board Meeting and they discussed additional life insurance and changes to the point system for the volunteer firefighters. He also attended the Salute to Veterans dinner and fireworks at the North East park. He also encouraged everybody to attend the Cecil County Fair and the July 24 Chicken Dinner at the Fair.

President Gregory noted she also attended the Salute to Veterans dinner and fireworks at the North East park. She also attended the Great Wolf Lodge opening and noted it was a great location and venue for visitors. She also attended the Safetyville Graduation at Rising Sun High School and encouraged parents to sign up any preschoolers for the program when it becomes available again next year. On July 1 she went to the ribbon cuttings for Dimples and Port House Creamery and noted both had excellent establishments.

Vice President Meffley announced that no further items are on the July 11, 2023 Work Session agenda.

Adjournment


Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilman Miller. Council Vice President Meffley adjourned the work session at 5:12 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, July 18, 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