

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

September 26, 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: Bob Meffley, Rebecca Hamilton, Al Miller, Jackie Gregory (arrived at 4:41); 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 4:38 pm and announced that there were three Council Members present which constitute a quorum. Vice President Meffley noted that President Gregory will be joining the meeting shortly.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of September 19, 2023, as presented. The motion passed 3 to 0.

Presentations

a. Proclamation – Laurie Humphries Retirement

Councilwoman Hamilton read and presented the proclamation to Laurie Humphries congratulating her on her retirement from the Cecil County Health Department.

b. Cecil County Health Department Cannabis Update

Director of the Cecil County Health Department Lauren Levy presented an update on health issues associated with cannabis since its legalization. Director Levy noted the various legalization efforts since 2014 from medical cannabis to the newly enacted legislation that approved recreational cannabis use. Director Levy noted five key public health concerns including the vulnerable populations which include infant, children and young adults as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women, motor vehicle safety, adverse mental health effect, workplace safety and high potency cannabis products. Director Levy noted that cannabis is still a Schedule 1 drug at the federal level and scientific data is limited but studies have documented both the risks and limited benefits of cannabis. President Gregory inquired if the FDA have any approved studies and Director Levy noted most studies by the FDA are only on synthesized cannabis since it is still a Schedule 1 drug. Director Levy noted the packaging of edible products is of concern as well as risks to youths in brain development and mental health. She also noted the effect on pregnancy and breast feeding, impaired driving, effect on mental health and workplace concerns. Vice President Meffley noted his concern on workplace safety and Director Levy noted that companies can restrict cannabis use by policy. Councilman Miller inquired on workplace policies, state law and ADA issues and Director

Levy noted the state law does not prohibit policies on cannabis and that using cannabis is not covered by the ADA at this time. President Gregory discussed the state law and workplace policies. Councilman Miller inquired on the potency for medical use and Director Levy noted it depends on the treatment. President Gregory inquired about the Health Department participation in the state law and any potential changes. Director Levy noted they did meet to educate the state representatives on the health concerns and is unaware of any pending changes, but she does anticipate changes in the future to the law. Councilwoman Hamilton noted the presentation from the Health Officials at MACo and inquired about outreach to schools and the community. Director Levy requested that any community concerns be sent to the Health Department and that they will continue to work with the BOE on Drugfree Cecil as well as any community group. Councilwoman Hamilton also noted that sharing resources with other organizations will help to educate people on this issue and encouraged the Health Department to speak out on this issue.

c. **Monthly Review of County Contracts**

Director of Finance Shon McCollum reviewed the 4 contracts that were over \$100,000 for the month of August. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired as to the bid prices, addendum and change order process and Director McCollum reviewed the procedure for award and change orders. Vice President Meffley inquired on the Calvert Park basketball project contractor and other contracts they may have had with Cecil County and Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted this is the same contractor that just completed the turf fields at Rising Sun and Elkton High Schools. Councilman Miller inquired if the basketball court would be a complete rebuild and Director Overbay noted they would be completely redone. Councilman Miller also asked for clarification on the equipment being purchased for the landfill and Director McCollum noted how the machinery sprays a concrete cover over the trash at the landfill.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Culver noted the updated Council Manager report is in the packet. He noted that numerous event invitations are being reviewed and please respond as soon as possible so we can respond on attendance. He also noted that Council would need to enter into a closed session next week to discuss real estate purchases.

Council Member Items

Councilwoman Hamilton noted several upcoming events including Coffee with a Cop on October 4, Taste of Cecil County on October 4 and Cecil Cares Day on October 7 and encouraged people to attend or volunteer at these events. She also noted that the Parks and Recreation Car Show that was rained out the past week was rescheduled for October 21 at the Cecil Arena.

Vice President Meffley noted he attended the Upper Shore Regional Council Meeting, and they discussed potential uses for the Winslett Center in Chestertown. He also attended the MRDC Meeting, and they discussed the need for additional funding for teachers pay to remain competitive with the BOE. He also participated in the Republican Women Golf Outing fundraiser. He also noted that he attended the Elkton Rotary meeting and that they are seeking new members and that the organization has been growing. He also noted he attended the Cecil Can Meeting in North East to discuss the Chesapeake Club housing development.

Councilman Miller noted he is participating in the Drug Free Cecil County event "Plant Your Promise" on September 30 at Perryville High School. He noted that last year they did plantings at Calvert. He also noted that he would be attending the Voices of Hope Banquet this week and encouraged people to support this organization to help fight addiction.

President Gregory noted she attended the Little Black Dress event at Cecil College along with Councilwoman Hamilton. She was also at the Cecil Can Meeting with Vice President Meffley and gave an update on Chesapeake Club housing project in North East.

President Gregory announced that no further items are on the September 26, 2023 Work Session agenda.

Adjournment

Vice President Meffley made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton. Council President Gregory adjourned the work session at 5:24 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 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