

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

March 19, 2024

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, Donna Culberson, Jackie Gregory; David Culver, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant, members of the administration and members of the public.

Call to Order

President Gregory called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm and announced that there were five Council Members present which constitute a quorum.

Revised Agenda

President Gregory noted the agenda is being revised to move New Business to the first agenda item to accommodate the Board of Education schedule.

New Business

1. Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #121

President Gregory noted that the Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #121 is for \$111,436 and was discussed at the last BOE Meeting. Denise Sopa from the Board of Education reviewed the requested Budget Amendment and noted this amendment included school activities fees and donations being used and various grants being received. She noted the Perkins grant for CTE supplies and McKinney grant for transportation costs for homeless students. President Gregory inquired on how the McKinney grant functioned and Ms. Sopa noted it is required to transport homeless students to the school they were last at, regardless of County or State lines. Councilman Miller inquired if the \$31,000 grant covered all costs and Ms. Sopa noted it did not.

Ms. Sopa also reviewed the significant budget changes for the Susquehanna Workforce funding, nonpublic cost for the health provider, new bus costs and healthcare costs. Councilwoman Culberson inquired if the CCPS owned buses or was it all contracted out and Ms. Sopa noted they do own and operate buses for special education transportation. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired on transportation costs in the Blueprint formula and how the McKinney grant may affect that cost and Ms. Sopa noted that transportation costs are not specifically part of the Blueprint, but an allocation between State and local governments based on the wealth formula. Councilwoman Culberson also inquired on the number of students that are homeless and Councilwoman Hamilton inquired on how the home school is determined for those students. Ms. Sopa noted she would need to get those numbers and the home school is based on the last residence of the child. Vice President Meffley inquired on the average age of the homeless children and Ms. Sopa noted they do not have that data. President Gregory inquired on the Blueprint transposition cost breakdown

and the effect on the Blueprint funding and Ms. Sopa noted it was a roughly 75/25 split with the State and Cecil County and noted she would review the Blueprint funding for transportation.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilwoman Hamilton, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council Work Session of March 12, 2024, as presented. The motion passed 5 to 0.

Review of Legislative Agenda

a. Public Hearings

1. Bill 2024-04 – Amendment - Building Construction – Building Code

Director of Land Use and Development Services Stephen O'Connor who noted that Bills 2024-04 through 2024-09 are all related to the adoption of the 2021 International Building Codes (IBC) and mandated by the State. He noted that this adoption cycle is later than normal because of delays in the 2021 review by the State because of Covid issues and the ability to meet.

2. Bill 2024-05 - County Code Adoption – Swimming Pools and Spas

Director O'Connor noted this will be a new section of code since the IBC recently moved this to be a stand-alone code just for pools and spas.

3. Bill 2024-06 – Amendment – HVAC Standards

Director O'Connor noted this bill only addresses the HVAC system and updates the code from 2018 to 2021.

4. Bill 2024-07 - Amendment – Energy Conservation Standards

Director O'Connor noted this bill only addressed the Energy Conservation Standards and updates the code from 2018 to 2021.

5. Bill 2024-08 – Amendment – Plumbing Code

Director O'Connor noted this bill only addressed the Plumbing Code and updates the Code from 2018 to 2021.

6. Bill 2024-09 – Amendment – Electrical Standards

Director O'Connor noted this section has the most revisions because of changes at the State level on licensing procedures for electricians. Vice President Meffley inquired why the State took over the electrical licensing but not the plumbing licensing and Chief Funk noted that was not discussed during this current Code adoption but may be done in the future.

b. Introduction of Resolutions

1. Resolution 14-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Community Partnerships and Cecil Transit Divisions.

Director of Community Services David Trolio noted this resolution addressed 3 separate grants that are all in Fund 109 of the Community Services Budget. The first grant is for \$127,955 that will go to the Cecil Transit Division to record a Statewide Transit Innovation Grant awarded by the Maryland Transit Administration to update the trip software the County uses. Councilwoman Culberson inquired if this update would make it easier for people to schedule and Director Trolio noted it would enhance both the scheduling procedures and make it more efficient.

Director Trolio noted the other two grants were for \$105,000 for the Community Partnerships Division for a grant awarded by the Maryland Community Health Resource Commission that would allow them to employ a contractual family navigator to work with the County's local care programs, and a \$9,000 grant to the Community Partnerships Division from the Maryland State Department of Juvenile Services to help with expenses associated with the Department's Neighborhood Youth Panel Program. Councilman Miller thanked Director Trolio for getting these grants.

2. Resolution 15-2024 - Amendments – Opioid Litigation Settlement Trust Fund Trust Agreement

Director of Community Services David Trolio and State's Attorney James Dellmyer reviewed the history of the opioid settlement. Director Trolio noted that Bill 2020-12 was passed to address the opioid settlement with the various pharmaceutical companies, drug stores and State of Maryland. At the time of the original settlement he noted that it was anticipated that the settlement would be a lump sum to the various jurisdictions, however after the settlement occurred it was changed to be paid out over 18 years, in part by outright payment and in part by grants from the State. The original Trust Agreement that was created, but never adopted, was for how to handle the lump sum payment and with the changes to the program and in the State administration, the agreement needed to be revised before it was adopted. He noted that any changes to the Trust Agreement needed a 2/3 agreement among the 8 members, who hold various job titles in the State and County, and Council consent. State's Attorney Dellmyer noted the original Trust Agreement was never signed and they need this agreement in order to begin to distribute funds. Councilwoman Culberson inquired on how much has been received so far and expended and Director of Finance Shon McCullum noted \$700,000 has been received and no funds have been expended. Vice President Meffley inquired if the funds are invested and Director McCollum noted the funds are currently invested in the Maryland Local Government Investment Pool. Director Trolio also noted that the original settlement amount was anticipated to be 13 to 15 million dollars.

Director Trolio also reviewed the changes to create a grant administrator that could allocate the funds to various organizations. State's Attorney Dellmyer noted this will ensure a check and balance on the Trustees and the grant administrator distributing the funds in accordance with the settlement agreement. Councilwoman Culberson inquired if the Trustees would be accountable for the expenditures and State's Attorney Dellmyer noted they would approve the grants awarded by the grant administrator. Director Trolio noted that the grant administrator would most likely be a committee or subcommittee that would review the grant requests then ask the Trustees for approval. Director Trolio also reviewed the other revisions in Article III for the Grant Administrator,

Section 506 on accounting and Section 511 on indemnification of members. Vice President Meffley requested clarification on the members of the Trust and Director Trolio noted the 8 members and the positions they hold with the County or State.

3. Resolution 16-2024 - Appointment—Police Accountability Board – Cynthia Emmerich

County Attorney Lawrence Scott introduced Cynthia Emmerich and reviewed the standards for appointment to the PAB. He noted Ms. Emmerich is an excellent candidate for the PAB. Vice President Meffley inquired why she was interested in the PAB and Ms. Emmerich noted she is retired and is interested in serving the community.

c. Consideration of Resolutions

1. Resolution 13-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – Wastewater Fund Balance – Wastewater Division – Department of Public Works – Washington Street Force Main Repair

Director of Administration Steve Overbay noted that this amendment is needed because of an emergency repair on the Washington Street Force Main from January 14 to 19. This main is 24 inches and a major transmission line and the County needed to pump and haul the sewage from this lift station during the repair. Councilman Miller inquired if the rest of the line was being evaluated and Director Overbay noted that it is ongoing.

State Legislative Update

President Gregory inquired if Councilmembers had any updates to provide or bills to consider.

President Gregory gave updates on several bills the crossed over to the opposite chamber including HB 333 - Election Law - Election Disinformation and Improper Influence Related to Voting, HB 558 Primary and Secondary Education - Comprehensive Health Education Framework – Established, HB 760 - Office of Legislative Audits - Local School Systems – Report and SB 906 - Housing and Community Development - Conversion of Commercial Buildings for Residential Use – Report.

Vice President Meffley inquired if HB 725 - Oysters, Striped Bass, and Crabs - Commercial Authorizations - Suspensions and Revocations crossed over and President Gregory noted that it did not and did not have any other update on the bill.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Culver noted the updated Council Manager report is in the packet. He also reminded Councilmembers to respond to invitations to the office as soon as possible to events so we can reply to the event organizers. He also noted that at the MACo Administrators Meeting it was noted that the SDAT correction bill was moving through the general assembly and should be passed shortly.

Council Member Items

Councilmembers deferred comments to the Legislative Session of March 19, 2024.

President Gregory announced that no further items are on the March 19, 2024 Work Session agenda.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilman Miller. Council President Gregory adjourned the work session at 5:31 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 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