

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

June 4, 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: Robert Meffley, Rebecca Hamilton, Al Miller, Donna Culberson and Jackie Gregory; David Culver, Council Manager; Terry Hale and Christine Palmer, Council Assistants, 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.

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 May 28, 2024, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of Legislative Agenda

- a. Introduction of Bills
 1. Bill 2024-13 - Establishment of the Little Elk Creek Sanitary Subdistrict

Director of Public Works Scott Flanigan outlined the establishment of the Little Elk Creek Sanitary Subdistrict and noted that this had been an ongoing project for 10 years to provide County sewer to Triumph Industrial Park. Director Flanigan noted that Triumph Industrial Park has operated its own wastewater treatment plant and collection system, but under the terms of the agreement, the plant would be discontinued and a pump station that is currently being constructed would take the wastewater to the North East Plant. He noted the collection system would also be turned over to the County after repairs are made and the County would receive the nutrient credits associated with the wastewater plant to apply to future expansions of the North East Plant. The current and future users of the wastewater system in Triumph would pay a Benefit Assessment on any cost not covered by the Maryland Department of the Environment grant over 30 years. Triumph would continue to provide the water service.

Vice President Meffley inquired on the number of users and Director Flanigan noted it is all the current users, including Northup Grumman, and capacity exists to serve future customers in the park and district. Vice President Meffley inquired on the condition of the collection system and Director Flanigan noted that all lines were reviewed, and repairs will be made prior to the lines being accepted by the County. Councilman Miller asked for confirmation that Triumph purchased water from Elkton and Director Flanigan noted that is the current arrangement. Councilwoman Culberson inquired on the construction of the pump station and force main and Director Flanigan noted that the main is completed and the pump station is operational but still needs some minor items to be completed prior to acceptance. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired on the terms of the benefit assessment and Director Flanigan noted it is over 30 years with interest and is based on the water usage of each business. Councilwoman Culberson inquired on the capacity of the pump

station and wastewater lines and Director Flanigan noted that it will have significant capacity to accommodate current businesses and further growth projections.

b. Introduction of Resolutions

1. Resolution 19-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance – Motor Vehicle Internal Service Fund – Budget Amendment

Director of Finance Shon McCollum noted that this budget amendment was to cover the repair cost for two grinders at the landfill and several dump trucks. He also noted that several dump trucks are scheduled to be replaced in FY25. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if supply chain issues would impact the delivery of the trucks and Director McCollum noted that they should be delivered on time. Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that the replacement of the trucks would be determined based on usage, condition and milage. Councilman Miller asked for confirmation that \$160,000 is for the landfill equipment and \$90,000 is for the dump trucks and Director McCollum noted that is the correct breakdown. Vice President Meffley inquired if the new trucks would be leased or purchased and Director McCollum noted they will be purchased. Councilman Miller inquired if this was being done through Enterprise and Director McCollum noted that it is because of the discount the County received from them.

2. Resolution 20-2024 - Charter Amendment – Term of Office – County Council

President Gregory thanked the Charter Review Commission on the effort they put into the review and recommendations and noted the next several proposed amendments reflect these suggestions. This amendment would limit council members from serving more than 3 consecutive terms starting in 2028.

3. Resolution 21-2024 - Charter Amendment – Compensation – County Council

President Gregory noted this amendment would increase the compensation of Council starting in December of 2028 to \$35,000 from \$25,000. Councilwoman Culberson noted she disagreed with this increase but thought it should be put to the voters.

4. Resolution 22-2024 - Charter Amendment – Vacancies – County Council

President Gregory noted this amendment would clarify how vacancies on County Council would be filled based on the party affiliation of the person vacating the office at the time of filing for office.

5. Resolution 23-2024 – Charter Amendment - Term of the County Executive – Executive

President Gregory noted this amendment would also place a three consecutive term limit of the County Executive. Vice President Meffley noted that it is his opinion that this should be set at two consecutive terms to be consistent with how terms limits are set generally for executives, such as the President, Governor and the executives in most of the other Maryland Counties. Councilman Miller noted that the Charter Review Commission recommended two terms for the County Executive as well as the other items that were being introduced this evening. Councilwoman Hamilton opined that it is her opinion that it should be consistent with Council limits and President Gregory agreed.

6. Resolution 24-2024 - Charter Amendment – Compensation – Executive

President Gregory noted this amendment would increase the compensation of the County Executive starting in December of 2028 from \$98,000 to \$130,000 and to clarify benefits. Council Manager Culver noted that the Charter Review Commission recommended this compensation for the County Executive, as well as Council, was based on the Consumer Price Index increases since 2012.

7. Resolution 25-2024 - Charter Amendment – Vacancy in the Office of County Executive – Executive

President Gregory noted this amendment would clarify how a vacancy in the Office of the County Executive would be filled based on the party affiliation of the person vacating the office at the time of filing.

8. Resolution 26-2024 - Charter Amendment – Appointment and Removal of Department Heads and Others – Executive

President Gregory noted this amendment would clarify the time for Council to confirm appointments based on Legislative Sessions not number of days.

9. Resolution 27-2024 - Charter Amendment – Council review of contracts – Budget and Finance

President Gregory noted this amendment would correct an error in the Charter on the Council review of contracts based on other changes made to the previous amendment.

c. Consideration of Resolutions

1. Resolution 17-2024 – Adoption – Real Property and Personal Tax Rates – Fiscal Year 2025

Director of Finance Shon McCollum noted that this resolution would set the real and personal property tax rates, the local income tax rate and the Winding Brook special assessment, which was decreased this year. Councilman Miller inquired on the amount of the Winding Brook decrease and Director McCollum noted it is set at \$371.96 per parcel and last year it was \$537.70.

d. Call for Final Reading of Bills

1. Bill 2024-10 – Capital Improvement Plan - FY2025-2029

Director of Finance Shon McCollum noted that this bill would set the Capital Improvement Projects for the next five fiscal years. He noted the amount of local funding that is anticipated as well as anticipated State funding and grants. President Gregory noted the Administration has sent over one amendment to the CIP for the North East Middle and High School project to reflect the revised State funding commitment. She noted this will change the State funding schedule for FY25-FY29 to decrease by \$17,447,000 from \$59,447,000 to \$42,000,000, increase the County funding for FY29 by \$3,000,000 from \$75,000,000 to \$78,000,000 and change the total CIP project cost for the project by \$3,000,000 from \$178,000,000 to \$181,000,000.

2. Bill 2024-11 – Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance FY2025

Director of Finance Shon McCollum noted that this bill sets the FY2025 Budget. President Gregory noted that the Administration sent over 2 budget amendments. The first was to correct the Emergency Shelter Grant Revenue and Expense changing Page 210 of the Proposed FY25 Budget Book to increase revenue in line item 11100000-394150-RT40 in Department 111-00000 from \$0 to \$500,000 in the Emergency Shelter Grant – Revenue, on Page 270 increase expense 11153400-507800-RT40 budget line item in Department 111-53400 from \$0 to \$500,000 in the Allocation – Regular – Expense and increased Fund 111 – Emergency Shelter Grant - Both Revenues and Expenses are increased \$500,000 from \$696,614 to \$1,196,614. This was being done based on VLT funding.

President Gregory also outlined the second budget amendment for LUDS Water and Sewer Planning by amending Page 31 of the Proposed FY25 Budget Book to increase revenue on line 00122500-394001 in Department 001-22500 - from \$0 to \$500,000 in the Inter-Operations Transfer, changing Page 1 of Section 3 to decrease revenue on line 00100000-312110 in the General Fund – Income Tax from \$81,266,624 to \$80,766,624 Revenue and finally increase Fund 001 – General Fund – Remains: \$240,615,109. Councilman Miller inquired if this was based on increase sewer revenue that was previously received by the Health Department and Director McCollum noted it was to account for that change.

3. Bill 2024-12 – Authorization of Lease Purchase Equipment Financing

Director of Finance Shon McCollum noted that this bill was the authorization for the lease or purchase of equipment in the FY25 Budget. Councilman Miller inquired if this was only for heavy equipment and not fleet cars and Director McCollum noted that is correct.

Council Manager Report

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


Council Member Items

Councilmembers deferred comments to the Legislative Session of June 4.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton. Council President Gregory adjourned the work session at 5:25 pm.

The next County Council Work Session will be held on Tuesday, June 11 at 4:30 pm in the Elk Room of the County Administrative Building. The session will be livestreamed on the County Council's webpage at www.ccgove.org/council.


David M. Culver
Council Manager

Approved: 
Jackie Gregory, Council President