

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

September 24, 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: Rebecca Hamilton, Donna Culberson and Jackie Gregory; David Culver, Council Manager; Christine Palmer, 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 three Council Members present which constitute a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of September 17, 2024, as presented. The motion passed 3 to 0 with 2 absent.

Presentations

1. FY24 4th Quarter Financial Review

Director of Finance Shon McCollum noted revenue came in \$18,800,000 million higher than budget mostly due to income tax, investment earnings and an increase property taxes. He noted that revenue for recordation fees, licenses and permit underperformed by about \$1,700,000 than budgeted. Director McCollum noted that overall, every division of government underspend the allocated budget except Department of Emergency Management because of increased overtime. He also noted that the Law Enforcement was under budget by \$1,500,000, mostly due to attrition and open positions. Director McCollum noted that expenses did grow as projected by \$14,100,000 mostly due to COLA/Steps for employees, health care and small capital spending. He noted that the fund balance grew to \$151,700,000 from the previous year.

Councilwoman Culberson inquired on the number of vacancies in Law Enforcement and Director McCollum noted he would need to inquire with Human Resources on the exact number and report back to Council. Councilwoman Culberson also inquired on permits revenue and if it is improving in FY25. Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that the backlog of permits has decreased and the Department of Land Use is working on permits for the various ARPA and school projects as well as fast track projects. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired on the actual personal property taxes revenue coming in lower in the year over year actuals and Director McCollum noted that is based on assessments and that they did expect the minor year over year decrease and adjusted the budget to reflect that trend, but it still exceeded the budgeted amount.

2. Monthly Review of County Contracts

Director of Finance Shon McCollum noted 11 contracts over \$100,000 were executed in August and 6 of these were renewal of annual contracts. Director McCollum reviewed each contract and if it was a renewal or a new service. Councilwoman Culberson inquired if the \$2,078,100 PrimeCare medical contract for the detention center included the opioid program. Director McCollum noted that the opioid program contract is separate and is the \$400,000 contract that is listed on the report. Councilwoman Culberson also inquired if this contract was to have full time medical personnel at the Detention Center, or if was an on-call service and Director McCollum noted he would check with the Sheriff's Office on the type of service provided. Councilwoman Culberson also inquired on the services offered under the Youth Empowerment Services contract for \$115,392 to provide children with incarcerated parents and what age group that would entail and Director McCollum noted it was his understanding this funding was to provide training to providers of this service to children.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Culver noted the updated Council Manager report is in the packet. Manager Culver noted the upcoming Harvest Dinner, MACO President Visit and MDOT Tour dates.

Council Member Items

Councilwoman Hamilton noted she attended the Cecil College Foundation Breakfast on September 11 and that she was impressed by the student's accomplishments. She also attended the Bright Blooms ribbon cutting on September 12 and noted this organization moved to Cecil County to help children. She noted that Cecil Care Days will be on October 5 and 11 this year and hopes everyone signs up to participate in this event. She also noted the Arts Council is accepting submission for its 25th Annual Juried Show.

Councilwoman Culberson noted the intel numbers for the previous week and that Cecil County did not have any overdose deaths but that physical domestic violence calls were again high.

President Gregory noted that she attended the Cecil Foundation Black Dress event on September 19. She also attended Drug Court Gradation and a Ribbon Cutting at Cinnamon Woods on September 12. She attended the Cecil's 350th Anniversary Firework display on September 21 in Chesapeake City and noted the event was well done. She also noted CHEPS upcoming warrior weekend on October 4 to 6 to assist veterans.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson. Council President Gregory adjourned the work session at 4:58 pm.

The next County Council Work Session will be held on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 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.

Approved:


Jackie Gregory, Council President



David M. Culver
Council Manager