

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
January 12, 2016

PRESENT: Council Members: President Robert Hodge, Vice President McCarthy, Joyce Bowsbey, Dan Schneckenburger and George Patchell; Al Wein, Director of Administration; Jason Allison, County Attorney; Winston Robinson, Finance Director; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant; members of the press; and members of the public.

OPEN SESSION – Elk Room

9:00 a.m. – President Hodge called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and determined a quorum.

NOTE: Audio recording of this meeting is available on the County website www.ccgov.org.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilman Schneckenburger, seconded by Vice President McCarthy, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of January 5, 2016. Motion was carried unanimously.

Appointment - Animal Care and Control Advisory Board

Council President Hodge led a discussion of the Council's responsibility to appoint a citizen to the Animal Care and Control Advisory Board. Al Wein, Director of Administration, stated that an application was received from Bill DeFreitas, which he will forward to the Council for consideration.

After discussion, the Council determined that interested citizens will be encouraged to apply and a press release will be submitted to the news media. The deadline for submission is January 25 and the Council will review applications on January 26 at the work session.

The Council also agreed to schedule introduction of a resolution to approve the appointment of a citizen by the Council and a citizen by the Executive, will be introduced on February 2, 2016.

Strategic Plan Review

Councilwoman Bowsbey led a discussion of the strategic plan review as stated in the Charter. The Council is required to review the strategic plan in open session annually with the County Executive.

Mr. Wein stated that the administration preferred to review the strategic plan during the budget presentation. The County Executive provided written adherence to strategic plan that detailed what was previously provided in the "Budget in Brief" of the FY 2016 budget.

The Council requested that the County Executive be invited to meet with the Council in open session to review the strategic plan. The Council Manager was asked to make this request to the Executive and schedule this review before the budget hearings begin.

Resolution No. 01-2016 Supplemental Appropriation - Fund Balance - Animal Control

Council President Hodge led discussion of Resolution No. 01-2016, which proposed to transfer \$24,000 from the fund balance to Animal Control.

Mr. Wein stated that there had been additional discussion with A Buddy for Life. The County determined that the required financial audit could be waived in the existing contract so that the transfer amount could be reduced from \$24,000 to \$12,338.

Council comments and questions ensued. The Council voiced concern that approval of this Resolution would be before the Animal Control fourth quarter report was received and reviewed.

The Council requested that the administration review their request and continue to negotiate with A Buddy for Life. The Council discussed the possibility of tabling further action on Resolution No. 01-2016 until the fourth quarter report was received and reviewed.

Council Manager Report

Mr. Massey reviewed scheduled meetings and events for the coming week. He advised the Council that the Cecil County Chamber of Commerce has invited them to attend a press conference to announce a new positive community initiative, which includes a slogan and logo that the Chamber hopes will be used by businesses and government.

Mr. Massey also stated that he will prepare a preliminary FY 2017 Council departmental budget for review at the next work session. The Council agreed by consensus to review the budget on January 26 and plan to approve on February 2, 2016. Council President Hodge requested that the previous year's budget and expenses be provided.

Council Member Comments

Councilman Schneckenburger attended the Economic Development Commission and Perryville Fire Company banquet. He will be attending the School of Technology graduation, Cecil Night in Annapolis, Soil Conservation banquet, Dr. Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast, and Cecil County Firemen's Association meeting. He also stated that he is hopeful of the business incubator plan moving forward.

Councilwoman Bowsbey will be attending the Town Hall budget meeting and School of Technology graduation. She stated that she would be absent on January 19. Councilwoman Bowsbey also stated that she has spoken with Tom Kappra, Chief Financial Officer, Cecil County Public Schools, regarding her questions in the School Budget Transfer #24. Mr. Kappra provided an explanation to her questions and expressed his concern that the Council had failed to take action on this budget transfer.

Council President Hodge stated that he had spoken with Dr. Devine, School Superintendent, about asking that Mr. Kappra be present at Council meetings to address any questions. He also stated that the Council should not approve school budget transfers if there are questions or a need for information.

Councilman Patchell will be attending the School of Technology graduation, Cecil Night in Annapolis and Dr. Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast.

Vice President McCarthy attended the Perryville Fire Company banquet and commented on attending an event in Baltimore at Marketplace regarding job creation and economic opportunities.

Council President Hodge stated that he received a copy of the study of the All Electronic Tolling, which was commissioned by the Maryland Transportation Authority as a result of legislation by the General Assembly. He reviewed the county's role in asking MDTA to delay their implementation of All Electronic Tolling at Hatem Bridge. The study emphasized that there was a federal mandate for all states to have an interchangeable system by June 2016. MDTA has a current contract with EZPass until 2019 so there will be no changes until after that time. He also expressed concern that the administrative charge for non-users could be high. Copies of the study will be sent to all Council Members for their review.

CLOSED SESSION

9:48 A.M.

On motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to convene in closed session pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government, 10-508(a)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. The motion was carried unanimously.

Roll Call Vote: McCarthy - Y, Bowsbey - Y, Schneckenburger - Y, Patchell - Y, Hodge - Y.

OPEN SESSION

10:29 A.M.

Council President Hodge reconvened the meeting at 10:29 a.m.


Adjournment

President Hodge adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Robert J. Hodge, President
County Council of Cecil County