

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
February 23, 2016

PRESENT: Council Members: Council President Hodge, Vice President McCarthy, Joyce Bowsbey, Dan Schneckenburger and George Patchell; Al Wein, Director of Administration; Jason Allison, County Attorney; Joanne Young, Agriculture Coordinator; 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. –Council 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 Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of February 16, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Maryland Rural Development Corporation - Letter of Support

Council President Hodge led a discussion of the grant application by the Maryland Rural Development Corporation for the Eastern Shore TechHire Partnership program. The MRDC has requested a letter of support. Council Members agreed by consensus to send a letter of support for this application to the United States Department of Labor.

Compensation Review Commission

The Council discussed the procedure to establish the Compensation Review Commission. Council Members agreed to send two nominees for the Commission to the Council Manager by March 1, 2016. The Council will rank the list of names and select the top five.

Cecil County Sheriff's Salary - HB 816

Council President Hodge led a discussion of HB 816 and setting the salary for the Sheriff. Council comments and questions ensued regarding the amount of the salary. Councilwoman Bowsbey suggested an amendment to set the Sheriff's salary at \$100,000 annually and allow the Council to determine the annual salary at the beginning of the Sheriff's term. After discussion, the following text was drafted:

Amendment No. 1 to HB 816

On page 2, delete lines 3 to 6 in its entirety and insert the following:

For the term of office beginning in Fiscal Year 2019, the salary of the Sheriff of Cecil County will be not less than \$100,000 annually, as determined by the County Council".

The Council Manager will send this text to Council Members for their confirmation. The Council agreed to support HB 816 with amendment. The Council Manager will send the

revised amendment to all Council Members to ensure agreement. A letter of support will be prepared for HB 816 and the administration will be asked to cosign.

State Legislation Update

Council President Hodge led discussion on proposed state legislation of interest to Cecil County.

The Council agreed to send a letter of support for HB 526/SB747 Community Colleges - Small Community Colleges - Funding, which proposes to increase the state's allocation to Cecil College and others. The administration will be asked to cosign.

The Council discussed HB 1256 National Resources - Cecil County - Elk, which proposes to conduct a study on introducing elk into Cecil County. Joanne Young, Agriculture Coordinator, Economic Development Department, was asked to comment on this legislation. On motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council agreed to oppose the legislation and send a letter of opposition.

The Council agreed to send a letter of support for HB 1455 Transportation - Highway User Revenue - Restoration, which proposes to restore highway user revenue to counties and municipalities. Councilman Schneckenburger requested a copy of the letter should be sent to the Maryland Rural County Coalition.

SB 908/HB 1013 Maryland Open Transportation Investment Decision Act of 2016 was reviewed by Council Members. This legislation provides that the Transportation Department would score requested capital projects based on department goals and removes county authority to prioritize projects. The Council agreed to oppose SB 908/HB1013 and will ask the administration to cosign a letter of opposition.

The Council reviewed HB 958/HB 1071 Cecil County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class 9 Limited Distillery Licenses and Class 7 Micro-Brewery Licenses, which the Council agreed to support last week. Al Wein, Director of Administration, explained Amendment No. 1, which corrects text that was omitted by the state's rewrite of the Article.

Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee Update

Dr. Carl Roberts, chair of the Cecil County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee, made a presentation regarding the committee's charge of taking positions on state legislation. He provided a list of bills that the committee is taking positions on. Council comments and questions ensued.

Council Manager Report

Mr. Massey reminded Council Members that a public meeting regarding the proposal for Harford Memorial Hospital in Havre de Grace will be held on February 24. Representatives from Upper Chesapeake Health will make a presentation at the Council work session on March 22. Representatives from Chesapeake Bay Foundation will make a presentation on March 15 about the Healthy Waters Initiative.

Council Member Comments

Councilman Patchell commented on the Upper Chesapeake Health presentation and requested that Richard Brooks, Director of Emergency Services, address the Council about emergency-related concerns for the opening of the new medical center and closing of Harford Memorial Hospital. Mr. Wein was asked to make arrangements for Mr. Brooks to speak.

Vice President McCarthy and Councilman Schneckenburger had no comments.


Councilwoman Bowsbey commented that the Local Management Board is addressing new priorities established by the Governor's Office on Children. She also reported that the Planning Commission has denied a special exception for a proposed woodworking business in a residence on Chestnut Road. Ms. Bowsbey reported on the Early Childhood Advisory Council's meeting and commented on the Safetyville, Power of Play, and Strengthening Families programs. She also stated that the advisory council is anticipating a grant for a new program for family engagement. She requested that Council Members receive a copy of the Community Resource Guild from the Cecil County Public Schools.

Council President Hodge encouraged Council Members to participate in the Cecil Leadership Academy if they have not done so.


Adjournment

Council President Hodge adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Robert J. Hodge, President
County Council of Cecil County

