

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
March 9, 2021**

The County Council of Cecil County met in work session in an online virtual meeting because of the current health crisis and based on the Governor's orders to avoid public meetings. Council Members and presenters participated in this meeting; the public observed the meeting by connecting online at www.ccgov.org/council and selecting "livestream".

The following members of the Council were present:

Robert Meffley, Council President
Al Miller, Council Member
Jackie Gregory, Vice President
William H. Coutz, Council Member
George Patchell, Council Member

NOTE: The video and audio recording with transcription of this meeting is available on the County website at www.ccgov.org.

Call to Order

The meeting of the County Council of Cecil County of March 9, 2021 was called to order by Council President Meffley at 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call of Council Members

Council President Meffley asked for a roll call of attending Council Members. The Council Manager called the roll and recorded the following Council Members in attendance:

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-Present, Miller-Present, Patchell-Present, Gregory-Present, Meffley-Present.

Council President Meffley announced that there were five Council Members present, which constitute a quorum.

Suspension of Rules

Councilman Coutz made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Council Members who are connected to participate and vote in this work session, because of the current health crisis and orders by the Governor to avoid public meetings. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell- Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y
The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilman Miller, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of March 2, 2021, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

Aberdeen Proving Ground

Major General Mitchell L. Kilgo, Commanding General, Aberdeen Proving Ground, provided an update on the military installation. He stated that 13% of their employees are Cecil County residents. He stated that the focus in 2021 was on "Modernization" as the base moves from the industrial age to the information age. He stated that during the pandemic, one-third of base employees teleworked. He reviewed APG's programs offered in the community that encourage students' interest in STEM. He stated that APG has recruited 600 new employees in 2020 through job fairs. He also stated that there were several public events planned for 2021.

Council questions and comments ensued.

State Legislation Review

Vice President Jackie Gregory, Council representative on the MACo Legislative Committee, reviewed the status of legislation that the Council had taken a position.

She then provided a review of HB 175 Public Safety – Ammunition – Sales and Transfers. After discussion, the Council agreed to send a letter of opposition.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey reviewed the budget hearing schedule and suggested that the Council work sessions on April 13, April 27 and May 11 begin at 7pm to allow a break after the budget hearings. The Council agreed to this change in the schedule. He also updated the Council on several virtual meetings and public notices received.

Council Member Items

Councilman Patchell had no comments.

Vice President Gregory visited the COVID vaccination clinic and commended the well run operation and the increased number of dosages.

Councilman Miller attended the Weed Control Advisory Committee and commented on the importance of controlling noxious weeds in Cecil County. He attended a virtual program, "Rooted in our Community, Farming up close and personal" sponsored by the Agriculture Office of the Economic Development Department. He commended the staff and participants for an outstanding and informative program. He commented on Cecil County's number of COVID cases of having the second lowest number of COVID virus cases of any Maryland county. He attended the Local Management Board and praised their outreach to youth and people with disabilities. He also congratulated the Health Department for reaching their goal of vaccinating everyone over 65 years of age.

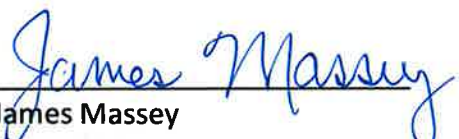
Council Coutz attended the Health Department's vaccination clinic in Rising Sun and congratulated them for giving out 300 dosages. He stated that Lt. Governor Rutherford visited the site and enjoyed a day in Rising Sun. He attended the program, "Rooted in our Community, Farming up close and personal" and commended the Economic Development staff for their efforts. He reported on the Sheriff's Office Intel meeting on the statistics. He expressed his concern on the continual rise of drug overdoses and fatalities. He thanked the administration for their sponsorship of the drug summit.

Council President Meffley stated that he had participated in many of the activities that were mentioned. He expressed his appreciation to law enforcement and first responders for their continued dedication to responding to emergencies and thanked them for all that they do.

Adjournment

Council President Meffley asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Coutz made a motion for adjournment, which was seconded by Councilman Miller. Motion was approved unanimously. Council President Meffley adjourned the work session at 5:17 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 4:30pm, which is planned as a virtual meeting because of the current health crisis. The session will be livestreamed on the County Council's webpage. Members of the public who do not have broadband access should contact the Council Office for instructions to be connected via telephone.


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Robert Meffley
Council President