

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
July 6, 2021**

OPEN SESSION – Elk Room

4:30 P.M.

NOTE: Recording and transcription of this meeting are available on the County website at www.ccgov.org.

PRESENT: Council Members: Robert Meffley, William Coutz, Al Miller, George Patchell and Jackie Gregory; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant; members of the administration, and members of the public.

Call to Order

Council President Meffley called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm and announced that there were five Council Members present, which constitute a quorum.

CLOSED SESSION

3:01 P.M.

Vice President Gregory made a motion to go into closed session, which was seconded by Councilman Coutz.

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y.
Motion was approved unanimously by a vote of 5 to 0.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions § 3-305 (b)(13) to comply with specific constitutional, statutory, or judicial imposed requirements that prevents public disclosure about a particular proceeding or matter; AND § 3-305 (b)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

The closed session began at 3:10 p.m.

The closed session was concluded at 4:27 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

4:30 P.M.

Council President Meffley reconvened the open session at 4:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of June 15, 2021, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Bainbridge Development Corporation Update

Dr. Carl Roberts, Chair, introduced Steve Cassard, Executive Director, and Toni Sprenkle, Project Manager of the Bainbridge Development Corporation. Dr. Roberts stated that the Council will be introducing a Resolution to confirm the appointment of Ms. Sprenkle as the new Executive Director. He also stated that Mr. Cassard will continue to work as a contractual employee of BDC. Dr. Roberts gave a history of the BDC and explained their mission.

Mr. Cassard stated that the Maryland Transparency and Accountability Commission had recognized the BDC for their structure and organization.

Ms. Sprenkle stated that the project has benefited from the State's solution oriented policies. She said that the US Navy and Maryland Department of the Environment have worked together and Phase 1 of environmental service cooperative agreement was completed on June 18, 2021. The number of disposal areas was able to be reduced to one because of less amount of asbestos found. The USN continues to clear the area and monitor the air as they go into Phase 2 of the project.

Mr. Cassard stated that MTPM is the organization of investors proposing the mixed use project that will include only commercial and industrial uses. In December 2020, MRP Industrial purchased four development lots. He stated that MRP plans to build 2 buildings for fulfillment centers, which will result in 1,500 jobs and provide \$1.4M in real estate taxes. He stated that groundbreaking for their project will be in the fall of 2021.

Mr. Cassard summarized plans for water and sewer service for Bainbridge. The County is building a new sewer treatment plant at the top of the hill, which will replace the current sewer treatment plant at the bottom of the hill in Port Deposit. He stated that state and county funds will cover the cost of lines to be constructed from Port Deposit to the new plant. A water service agreement has been worked out with Artesian Water. He said that the State Highway Administration will be conducting a traffic study of the intersections at 275 and 276 to determine needs for traffic lights and turning lanes.

Ms. Sprenkle stated the Tome School buildings, about 50 acre site, are being assessed individually for historic preservation.

Council questions and comments ensued. Councilman Patchell clarified that improved surveillance measures have been implemented to reduce vandalism on the Tome School site.

Council Intern

Councilman Coutz proposed to appoint Jackson Leith as the Council intern. He summarized Mr. Leith's achievements from previous year and asked for Council's agreement. Council Members agreed to hire Mr. Leith as an intern for the summer.

Review of Legislative Agenda

Council President Meffley led the review of the legislative agenda.

Resolution No. 35-2021 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation – Application Finalists – FY 2022, will be introduced at tonight's session. Devyn King, Planner, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 36-2021 Appointment—Bainbridge Development Corporation – Toni Sprenkle will be introduced at tonight’s session. Dan Schneckenburger, Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 37-2021 Appointments—Commission on Aging - Joyce Bowlsbey, Julianne Graham and Carol King, was withdrawn by the administration.

Resolution No. 38-2021 Appointment - Historic District Commission – Karl Fockler, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Dan Schneckenburger, Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 39-2021 Supplemental Appropriation – Debt Service Fund – Public Library, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Dan Schneckenburger, Director of Administration, and Rebecca Anderson, Deputy Finance Director, provided comments. Council questions and comments ensued. Councilman Coutz asked for clarification of debt service fund, which Ms. Anderson stated was a special fund to track different bonds under Debt Service Fund; stating that the funding goes from the General Fund to Debt Service Fund, since the bonds are being refinanced, which will provide savings. Council President Meffley clarified that the funds would not come out of the fund balance. Councilman Miller clarified that the county estimates a savings of \$580,000 from refinancing bonds. Vice President Gregory clarified that the refinancing bond process will take until September to finalize.

Resolution No. 40-2021 Approval – Public Safety Radio System Maintenance – Multiple Year Contract, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Mr. Schneckenburger introduced John Donahue, Deputy Director, and Dylan Griffith, Senior Captain, of the Emergency Services Department, to provide additional details. Council questions and comments ensued.

Resolution No. 41-2021 Amendment – Water and Sewer – Sewer Use – Connection Fee, will be introduced at tonight’s session. Mr. Schneckenburger provided comments. Steve O’Connor, Director of Land Use and Development Services, provided additional details. Council questions and comments ensued. Council President Meffley clarified that the connection rate discount of \$6,000 will be expiring on July 31, 2021, which will return to \$12,000 connection fee.

Resolution No. 31-2021 Supplemental Appropriation-Grant Funds-Animal Services-Officer Certification Training, will be considered for final approval at tonight’s session. Mr. Schneckenburger provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 33-2021 Supplemental Appropriation-Grant Funds-Prevention and Overdose Response and Trauma Support, will be considered for final approval at tonight’s session. Mr. Schneckenburger provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 34-2021 Supplemental Appropriation-Grant Funds-Broadband Expansion, will be considered for final approval at tonight’s session. Mr. Schneckenburger provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey stated that his written report was included in the Council packet.

Council Member Items

Council Members agreed to hold their comments for the legislative session.

Councilman Coutz requested a moment of silence at the legislative session in memory of Clifford England, a longtime Cecil County public servant.

Adjournment

Council President Meffley asked for a motion to adjourn the work session and cancel the reconvening of the closed session.

Vice President Gregory moved to adjourn the work session and cancel the reconvening of the closed session, which was seconded by Councilman Miller. Council President Meffley adjourned the work session at 5:59 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 4:30 pm in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building. The session will be livestreamed on the County Council's webpage at www.ccgov.org/council. Members of the public who do not have broadband access should contact the Council Office for instructions to be connected via telephone.

Approved:



Robert Meffley, Council President


James Massey
Council Manager