

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
August 3, 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, Jackie Gregory and George Patchell; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant; Andy Meehan, Council Attorney, members of the administration, and members of the public.

Call to Order

Council President Meffley called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm and announced that there were five Council Members present, which constitute a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Miller, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of July 20, 2021, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Council President Meffley asked to suspend the rules to allow Lawrence Scott, Council Attorney, to review two Resolutions for introduction because of a conflict in his schedule.

Resolution No. 48-2021 Agreement – Mutual Aid Law Enforcement – Eastern Shore Counties, will be introduced at tonight's session. Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, provided introductory comments. Councilman Miller clarified that this was a formality in order to specify liabilities. Council President Meffley clarified that there have been incidents where county law enforcement assisted other counties and vice versa without a formal agreement. Councilman Coutz clarified that it would not change the county's liability.

Resolution No. 49-2021 Approval – Agreement – Corrections Association, will be introduced at tonight's session. Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, provided introductory comments. Councilman Coutz clarified that this is a four-year contract.

After Mr. Scott completed his review of the two Resolutions, the Council continued with the agenda.

School Bus Cameras

Dr. Jeff Lawson, School Superintendent, and Perry Willis, Support Services Executive Director, made a presentation about their request for legislation to authorize enforcement and civil fine for motorists who ignore school vehicles that are stopped on a roadway and operating flashing red lights. Dr. Lawson stated that school system has an agreement with Bus Patrol to install cameras on buses at no cost. Mr. Willis stated that exterior cameras will capture the license plate of vehicles, process the information and send tickets. He said that the revenue will be split

between the vendor, Sheriff's Office, municipality or county, and school system. He also stated that cameras will be installed inside the buses that can be monitored in real time and allow school staff to make announcements. The vendor will provide the Council with specific information that should be included in legislation in order to authorize the enforcement and fine.

Council questions and comments ensued. Mr. Willis explained that the school purchase of this system is a sole source because there are no other vendors with this system. He stated that each bus will have three inside cameras and two exterior cameras on each side of the bus. He explained the Bus Patrol will process all the ticketing and send to the Sheriff's Office electronically. He stated that the school system has already spoken with James Dellmyer, State's Attorney, and Sheriff Scott Adams. He stated that Bus Patrol expects 95% of the tickets to be paid.

Review of Legislation

Council President Meffley led a review of legislation for tonight's agenda.

Resolution No. 44-2021 Appointment—Commission on Aging- Carol King and Julianne Graham, will be introduced at tonight's session. Dan Schneckenburger, Director of Administration, provided comments. Council questions and comments ensued. Council President Meffley asked about the third member, Joyce Bowlsbey, who had previously been included in Resolution No. 37-2021, which was withdrawn. A discussion ensued on the process of appointments of board or committee members. Council Members agreed that letters of appreciation should be sent to outgoing board members to thank them for their service.

Resolution No. 45-2021 Appointment—Planning Commission- Patrick Ulrich, Christopher Bannon, II, and James Perry, will be introduced at tonight's session. Dan Schneckenburger, Director of Administration, provided comments. Council questions and comments ensued. Council President Meffley suggested that the alternate member be informed that he should attend all meetings in case one of the other members was absent. Councilman Coutz clarified that the three appointees were replacing current members. Councilman Miller clarified that Mr. Perry was interested in serving on the Planning Commission and he is not a member of the Board of Appeals. Councilman Miller stated that the outgoing members should be recognized for their service to the Commission. Council President Meffley suggested that a two consecutive term limit should be considered on county boards and commissions.

Resolution No. 46-2021 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Cecil College Small Capital Projects, will be introduced at tonight's session. James Appel, Finance Director, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 47-2021 Approval – Annexation – Town of Elkton – Belle Hill Road et al – Zoning Designation, will be introduced at tonight's session. Dan Schneckenburger, Director of Administration, and Steve O'Connor, Director of Land Use and Development Services, provided additional comments. He stated that the legislation is the same as was requested in December 2020, but noted that the Town of Elkton stated that they have a verbal commitment from the State Highways Administration for a break of access on MD 279, also known as Elkton Road.

Evan Rollins, representing the property owners, Preston and Laetitia Ayers, stated that the previous issued raised by the Council had been resolved. He stated that the developer would be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep on Belle Hill Road. He stated that State Highways Administration had given a verbal approval for a break in access onto MD 279.

Jeanne Minner, Planning Director, Town of Elkton, stated that the Town Commissioners supported the annexation legislation. She explained that the Town could annex this property without County approval, but requests the approval to allow substantially different zoning to be changed from the County's High Density Residential (RM) to the Town's Highway Interchange Commercial (C-3) zoning classification. Otherwise, the property zoning classification could not be changed for five years after annexation.

Council questions and comments ensued. Council President Meffley clarified that the Town does not have adequate sewer system for a high density residential use. He also clarified the current permitted uses. Councilman Coutz clarified that the Town has jurisdiction over a portion of Belle Hill Road and there was discussion on whether the property line goes to the center of the road. Mr. O'Connor stated that the road was originally a State road that became a County road in the sixties. Ms. Minner stated that Northpoint, which was originally interested in the property, is no longer interested in the property. Councilman Miller expressed concern on the impact of developing the property on State Highways, Cecil County and the Town of Elkton. Mr. O'Connor stated that since Northpoint was no longer interested in the property, the use of the property is unknown.

Resolution Nos. 48-2021 and 49-2021 were reviewed earlier in the agenda.

Resolution No. 42-2021 Appointment – Council Attorneys – Charles MacLeod and Victor Jackson, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 43-2021 Appointment – Historic District Commission – Nancy Simpers, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey updated the Council on the County's comprehensive plan review, strategic highway safety plan, Aberdeen Proving Ground's command changes, and the date for the Consolidated Transportation Plan meeting.

Council Member Items

Council Members agreed to hold their comments until tonight's legislative session.

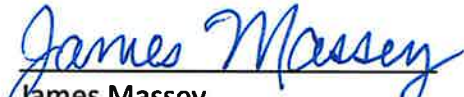
Adjournment

Council President Meffley asked for a motion to adjourn the work session.

Councilman Coutz moved to adjourn the work session, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory. Council President Meffley adjourned the work session at 5:18 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, August 10, 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:


James Massey
Council Manager


Robert Meffley, Council President