

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
August 10, 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; Charles MacLeod, 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 Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of August 3, 2021, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Noise Ordinance

Sheriff Scott Adams and Major George Stanko discussed the proposed noise ordinance. Sheriff Adams stated that this ordinance is another tool that law enforcement can use to enforce residential noise problems. He stated that the fine can be used as a deterrent to violators. He stated that other counties have a similar noise ordinance, but agreed that the proposal gives the law officer discretion in enforcement. He stated that law enforcement agencies no longer use decibel meters to measure noise levels. He stated that this ordinance exempts business, government operations, farm equipment, and emergency services. He also agreed that the standard for nighttime should be less than the standard for daytime noise levels. Council questions and comments ensued.

Sheriff Adams also commented on the proposal to install school bus cameras to deter vehicles overtaking buses when they are stopped for children to enter and exit. He stated that the number of violations in other counties show the serious safety problem. He stated that it would be a civil fine that would not include points. He stated that his current staff would be able to handle the processing for sending tickets. He stated that the fine of \$250 would be a strong deterrent for drivers.

Sand, Gravel, and Stone Superfund Site Update

Katherine Page, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, and Katie Mishkin, project manager, provided an update of the project to clean up the 150 acre Sand, Gravel, and Stone Superfund site near Elkton. They summarized the background of the project, which was once a sand and gravel quarry and chemical waste disposal site that has contaminated the soil and groundwater. They described the past treatments of removing contaminated water and soil. They described the next steps that will inject microorganism to break down contaminants. They stated that it

was EPA's goal to clean up the site for future industrial or commercial development. They invited Council Members to take a tour of the site in the fall after their cleanup and construction are completed. Council questions and comments ensued.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey updated the Council on the Cecil Grown Harvest Dinner, Annual Wade-In at Foot Log Park, Critical Area Commission, and the Cecil County Delegation meeting.

Council Member Items

Councilman Patchell had no comments.

Councilman Miller thanked the volunteers who assisted with the cleanup after the Cecil County Fair. He commended plans for the Harvest Dinner being sponsored by the Farm Bureau on October 7. He encouraged the public to attend the chicken barbecue at Ebenezer United Methodist Church on Saturday.

Councilman Coutz attended the retirement dinner for Major General Kilgo at Aberdeen Proving Ground and the change of command ceremony. He stated that MG Edmunson, the new commander, went to Frostburg State University when he was attending. Councilman Coutz attended First Fridays in Elkton and commended Ken Wiggins for donating the sales from his exhibition to the Cecil County Public Library. He attended a meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers plans for repair on the C & D Canal Bridge in Chesapeake City. He reported on the Sheriff's Office Intel meeting and expressed his concern about the increase in overdoses for the week, which included 6 fatalities and 22 non-fatalities.

Vice President Gregory attended a meeting of the Maryland Department of Housing about grants available for retail and commercial redevelopment. She encouraged parents to connect to an online workshop, Morning Madness by Abilities Network to be held on August 26 at 6pm. She shared a letter from Senator Gallion that urged Harford County Public Schools to oppose any mask mandate. She suggested that the Cecil County Council should submit a letter of support. Council Members discussed this issue and determined that they would have further discussion at the next session.

Council President Meffley attended General Kilgo's retirement and met the new commander. He invited General Edmunson to Cecil County and briefly discussed Conowingo Dam spoils that could be brought to Aberdeen Proving Ground to stabilize their shoreline. He attended the Chesapeake City Town Council and discussed their proposal to ban outside dining that blocks town sidewalks. He also described the Town's sewer system dilemma. He announced that the blessing of the new Chesapeake City Elementary School will be held on September 22. He will be participating in the 9/11 remembrance service in Chesapeake City. He also mentioned the Library's North East Pub Crawl and Paws for Life fundraisers.

Adjournment

Council President Meffley asked for a motion to recess the work session in order to go into a closed session.

CLOSED SESSION

5:58 P.M.

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

Roll Call Vote

Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y

Motion was approved unanimously.

Pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions § 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 work session was recessed at 5:58 pm.

OPEN SESSION

6:23 P.M.

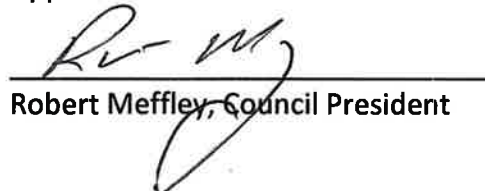
Council President Meffley reconvened the work session at 6:23 pm.

Councilman Coutz moved to adjourn the work session, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory. Council President Meffley adjourned the work session at 6:23 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, August 17, 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.


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Robert Meffley, Council President

