

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
August 17, 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, 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.

Absent: Council Member Miller

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilman Patchell, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of August 10, 2021, as presented. The motion was approved by voice vote.

On a motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilman Patchell, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council closed session of August 10, 2021, as presented. The motion was approved by voice vote.

COVID Update

Lauren Levy, Health Officer, made a presentation to update the Council on current COVID conditions in Cecil County. She explained the rationale for her recommendation to the Cecil County Public Schools. She stated that the current rates of COVID infections were significantly increasing since June because of the Delta variant. She stated that the Center for Disease Control has identified Cecil County as a high transmission county, based on case rate and percent positivity. She presented several charts that tracked the rates of infection comparing county statistics with the state and nation. She stated that the Health Department recommended wearing masks indoors on July 23, 2021 and recommended students wear masks at school on July 27, 2021, regardless of vaccination status. She also stated that Governor Hogan has deferred the decision over students wearing masks to the local school systems. She stated that the recommendation for students to wear masks in Cecil County was recommended by five organizations, including the Cecil County Health Department, Maryland Department of Health, Maryland Department of Education, Center for Disease Control, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Ms. Levy stated that the goal of face covering is to reduce the transmission of the virus in the school setting and to prevent the disruption of in person instruction. She also stated that scientific research has shown that wearing masks are effective in reducing the transmission of the virus. Council questions and comments ensued. Vice President Gregory stated her

opposition to the mask mandate and stated that parents should have the option of making the decision for their children. Ms. Levy clarified that vaccinations for children, ages 5 to 12, will be available very soon. She clarified that of the 167 active COVID cases in Cecil County, about 25% were children under 19 years of age. She stated that only 42.7% of Cecil County residents have been fully vaccinated, which includes 27.7% of young people ages 12 to 17.

Dr. Jeff Lawson, School Superintendent, Cecil County Public Schools, clarified that the school system will provide instructions online for some students who are not attending school in person.

Review of Legislative Agenda

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

Bill No. 2021-12 Residential Noise Ordinance will be introduced at tonight's session. Council Manager Massey provided introductory comments. Councilman Coutz stated that he supported the legislation because of longstanding complaints in neighborhoods where a resident will continue making noise after law enforcement had made visits.

Resolution No. 50-2021 Approval – IT Protection Services – Multiple Year Contract, will be introduced at tonight's session. Dan Schneckenburger, Director of Administration, and Dave Warnick, IT Director, provided comments. Council questions and comments ensued.

Resolution No. 51-2021 Appointment – Ethics Commission – Francis Peterson, Jr., will be introduced at tonight's session. Dan Schneckenburger, Director of Administration, provided comments. Council questions and comments ensued.

Resolution No. 52-2021 Appointment – Redistricting Commission, will not be introduced at tonight's session. Council President Meffley stated that this legislation is not ready for introduction.

Resolution No. 44-2021 Appointment—Commission on Aging- Carol King and Julianne Graham, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 45-2021 Appointment—Planning Commission- Patrick Ulrich, Christopher Bannon, II, and James Perry, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

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

Resolution No. 48-2021 Agreements – Mutual Aid Law Enforcement – Eastern Shore Counties, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, provided comments. Councilman Coutz asked Mr. Scott to summarize the legislation.

Resolution No. 49-2021 Approval – Agreement – Corrections Association, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. Lawrence Scott, provided comments. The Council clarified that this agreement does not include law enforcement union.

Under New Business, Cecil County Public Schools budget amendment #89, in the amount of \$1,022,707 for June 2021, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey updated the Council on the Harm Reduction training and the MACo conference.

Council Member Items

Councilman Patchell, Councilman Coutz, and Council President Meffley will save their comments for the legislative session. Councilman Miller was absent.

Vice President Gregory stated her concern for the mask mandate and pointed out that those who support the mask mandates should be setting an example by wearing a mask in public.

Adjournment

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

CLOSED SESSION

5:36 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-Absent, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y

Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0. Councilman Miller was absent.

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 5:36 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, September 7, 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