

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
November 16, 2021**

OPEN SESSION – Elk Room

4:30 P.M.

NOTE: The recording and transcription of this meeting are available on the County website at www.ccgov.org/council.

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

Absent: Jackie Gregory

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 was absent. The office of Council Member from the 4th Councilmanic District is currently vacant.

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 November 9, 2021, as presented. The motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 0. Vice President Gregory was absent and the 4th district Council seat is vacant.

On a motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilman Miller, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council closed session of November 9, 2021, as presented. The motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 0. Vice President Gregory was absent and the 4th district Council seat is vacant.

Residential Noise Committee

Council President Meffley led discussion on creating a Residential Noise Committee to consider a proposal for a residential noise ordinance. He asked Council Members for their suggestions of committee members. Council President Meffley suggested Ron McNeill, Garrett Preisch, John Bragg, and John Marco. Councilman Coutz suggested Sam Goldwater. Councilman Miller suggested Bill Meehan. Council Members agreed with the names suggested.

Council President Meffley asked Council Manager Massey to contact the suggested citizens and assist with forming the committee.

2022 Council Calendar

Council Manager Massey provided a preliminary 2022 Council calendar for review. He indicated that 2022 is an election year and that the Council and Election Office may have conflicts in the use of the Elk Room. He stated that this issue was brought to the administration for their assistance in resolving the conflict. He also stated that the Charter prohibits Council for legislative action during November of an election year. The new term of Council will begin on Monday, December 5, 2022.

Review of Legislative Agenda

Council President Meffley led a review of the legislative agenda.

Under Special Presentations, Dr. Carl Roberts, Chair of the Redistricting Commission, will be presenting their proposed councilmanic redistricting plan at tonight's session. Dr. Roberts briefed Council Members on their proposal and the process used to determine the plan. Council questions and comments ensued. Councilman Coutz clarified that the proposed plan makes minimal changes to District 1 and 2 to achieve totals of substantially equal population in districts. Councilman Miller thanked Dr. Roberts for his efforts in arriving at a plan that will minimize changes to voters and the administration of the election.

Council President Meffley explained that Vice President Gregory was postponing the introduction of Bill No. 2021-16 Amendment – Zoning Ordinance – Backyard Chickens, in order to revise the legislation to consider the Planning Commission suggestions. This legislative will be introduced at a later date.

Resolution No. 55-2021 Supplemental Appropriation – Grants – Sheriff's Office- Crime Control and Prevention, is scheduled for consideration at tonight's session. James Appel, Finance Director, provided comments. Councilman Coutz clarified that these grant funds will be used to reimburse officers for uniform cleaning and provide \$1,000 bonus for service retainage.

Resolution No. 56-2021 Supplemental Appropriation – Grants- Economic Development - Online Sales and Teleworking, is scheduled for consideration at tonight's session. Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 57-2021 Supplemental Appropriation-Fund Balance-Volunteer Fire Service- Vehicle Replacement Program, is scheduled for consideration at tonight's session. James Appel, Finance Director, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Resolution No. 58-2021 Approval-MRI Software-Multiple Year Agreement, is scheduled for consideration at tonight's session. James Appel, Finance Director, provided comments. Councilman Coutz clarified that the multiple year contract will save \$3,800.

Under Old Business, Council President Meffley stated that the Council will be voting on filling the vacant seat of the Council Member from District 4.

Under New Business, Cecil County Public Schools budget amendment #92, in the amount of \$14,884,457 for October 2021, will be considered for approval at tonight's session. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council Manager Report

There was no report from the Council Manager.

Council Member Items

Councilman Miller stated that the highlight of his week was attending the cutting of a tree in Elkton that will be this year's Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree. He commended Devon and Julie Price for their unselfish donation of their tree. He participated in the CASA Christmas Tree celebration. He spoke to the ~~Cecil County~~ ^{Rising Sun} Historical Society about agriculture in the county.

Councilman Coutz asked the administration about the use of Care Act funds, authorization for funding of projects and a list of projects. He stated his concern that Council was unaware of the funding that was allocated to the Sheriff's Office. He asked for clarification on federal funds being allocated under the American Rescue Plan Act. He asked about a \$1M grant to Parks and Recreation.

Council President Meffley asked Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, for a presentation on the use of ARPA funds at the next work session.

Council President Meffley discussed an inspection issue at the Maryland Rural Development Corporation's Aberdeen facility. He participated in a recognition of Veterans at Cecilton Elementary School and Chesapeake City Elementary School. Council President Meffley also clarified that the administration's hiring of an additional attorney that will be assigned to procurement and contract management.

Adjournment

Councilman Coutz made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilman Miller. Council President Meffley adjourned the session at 5:19pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 4:30 pm in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building. The session will also 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