

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
April 26, 2022

OPEN SESSION – Elk Room

7:00 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, Jackie Gregory, William Coutz, Al Miller, and Donna Culberson; 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 7:00 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 Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of April 12, 2022, as presented. The motion approved unanimously.

Land Use and Development Services 2021 Annual Report

Steve O'Connor, Director of Land Use and Development Services, presented the department's 2021 Annual Report. He stated that the Planning Commission approved this report on April 18, 2022. He reviewed the sections of the report.

Council questions and comments ensued. Mr. O'Connor clarified that anyone interested in serving on a committee may submit an application through the administration. He stated that there is one vacancy on the Planning Commission. He verified that there were five solar generation site plan permits during 2021.

Replacement of Chesapeake Bay Bridge

Council President Meffley stated that Queen Anne's County Commissioners have requested a letter of support for the replacement of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge to be located at the same site as the current bridge.

After discussion, Councilman Coutz made a motion, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory, to send a letter of support for the Chesapeake Bay Bridge to be replaced at the present location along the US 50/301 corridor. The Council approved the motion unanimously.

The Council Manager will send a letter of support to the Queen Anne's Commissioners with copies to the Cecil County Delegation.

Port of Deposit State Historical Park

Council Manager Massey stated that SB 541 Natural Resources – Maryland Park Service and State Parks – Alterations, also known as the Maryland Outdoor Act, addresses infrastructure, capacity, and accessibility needs within the Maryland Park Service and State Parks. He stated that an amendment includes provisions for the Department of Natural Resources to establish the Port of Deposit State Historical Park, approximately 120-150 acres of the former Bainbridge Naval Training site, which will include the historic Tome School, Snow Hill archaeological site, and adjacent wooded conservation area. The Snow Hill site, which was a free black community, will be established as a Freedman's State Park to preserve and interpret the lives and experiences of black Americans.

He stated that DNR must submit a report to the General Assembly by January 1, 2023, on the property suitable for inclusion and what funding is needed to establish and promote the park. He also stated that the legislation states that the Bainbridge Development Corporation must transfer the property to DNR by June 1, 2023.

He also stated that the Town of Port Deposit is opposed to the creation of the park because of the potential loss of revenue and the work that has already been done with the Bainbridge Development Corporation and the State.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey reported that the annual recognition of Scouts, who have achieved the First Class rank, will be recognized at the next legislative session. He also stated that Troop 302, which meets at the Fair Hill Nature Center, will have a Court of Honor on May 7 for eight Eagle Scouts, which is an outstanding achievement.

Council Member Items

Councilman Coutz stated that there was no Sheriff's Office intel meeting this week. He attended the Cecil County Teacher of the Year event and commended Nadeline Fleischer-Pile from Perryville Elementary School for her award. He participated in the River Sweep at Charlestown and commented on the large number of participants.

Vice President Gregory served as Principal for the Day at North East Elementary School and commented on shadowing Karen Adair. She said that she enjoyed the interaction between teachers and students. She attended the Aberdeen Proving Ground's State of APG program, which included the grand opening of the Fusion Directorate, one of six in the nation, where people can go who have been victims of sexual harassment and assault.

Councilwoman Culberson attended the MACo dinner hosted by Michael Sanderson, Executive Director, and Laurie Price, incoming MACo President. They discussed MACo's accomplishments during the recent session of the General Assembly, their goals for the new year and what MACo could provide to the counties.

Councilman Miller served as Principal for the Day at the School of Technology. He commended the school for the opening of three sections of the new manual machining program. He attended the Teacher of the Year event and commented that students expressed their appreciation for teachers who took time to listen to them. He attended the Cycle for Cecil, sponsored by the Cecil Land Trust on the Patsy Dupont farm, the 5K run at Calvert Park, a fundraiser for Friends of Parks and Recreation; the Singerly Fire Company's Sportsman's Bash, a fundraiser for the fire company; Cecil College's Athletes Hall of Fame induction ceremony that recognized seven individuals; and the MACo dinner hosted by Mr. Sanderson and Ms. Price.

Council President Meffley attended a prayer service at Elkton Presbyterian Church. He met with library officials to propose a fundraiser for the south end of Cecil County, including Cecilton and Chesapeake City library branches. He attended the Upper Shore Regional Council meeting and discussed their proposal for funding regional projects that will benefit each county. He attended the Teacher of the Year event and MACo dinner. He attended the official opening of Bohemia River State Park and commented on preserving this park for the public, instead of more housing. He plans to attend Build a Burger at Bethlehem Farm, a fundraiser for Youth Empowerment Source.

Adjournment

Before adjournment, Councilman Coutz led a moment of silence in memory of Trevor McNabb, a member of the Singerly Fire Company who dedicated his life to public service as a top responder, EMT, IV Technician, Field Trainer, and EMS Assistant Chief.

Councilman Coutz made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory. Council President Meffley adjourned the session at 7:32 pm.


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Robert Meffley Council President