

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
June 14, 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, William Coutz, Al Miller, Donna Culberson, and Jackie Gregory (by remote); James Massey, Council Manager; 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 four Council Members present, and Vice President Gregory connected remotely, which constitute a quorum.

Council President Meffley asked for a moment of silence in honor of DPF Glenn Hilliard of the Wicomico County Sheriff's Officer, who was killed in the line of duty on Sunday.

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 June 7, 2022, as presented. The motion approved unanimously.

Bainbridge Development Corporation Update

Dr. Carl Roberts, board chairman of the Bainbridge Development Corporation, introduced Toni Sprenkle, BDC executive director; Vicky Rinkerman, Port Deposit Town Administrator; and Mayor Robert Kuhs.

Dr. Roberts presented a brief history of the Bainbridge Development Corporation, the board's structure and government and private partnerships. Ms. Sprenkle summarized phase 1 and phase 2 of the project. She stated that phase 2 includes an environmental services agreement, which will analyze the property and propose engineering regarding wetlands and stream buffers. Dr. Roberts stated that the BDC owns the property including the former Tome School and Snow Hill site since 1999. He clarified that most of the Bainbridge site is limited to light industrial uses because of the environmental issues; which was specified in a memo of understanding between the BDC, Maryland Department of the Environment, and United States Navy. He stated that Tome School and Snow Hill sites were outside of the zoning restriction. He clarified that most of the Bainbridge site is within the Town of Port Deposit with the exception of 34 acres. Dr. Roberts stated that the Maryland Historical Trust has identified the headmaster's house and three other buildings to be stabilized and restored. He stated that the other buildings cannot be stabilized but the materials can be reused. He explained the BDC has a study for the redevelopment of the former Italian Gardens.

Dr. Roberts stated that the General Assembly passed the SB 541: Great Outdoors of Maryland Act in this year's session. An amendment was added to make a state park out of 120-150 acres, which included 50 acres of the Tome School and 8.3 acres associated with the Snow Hill site. He explained that the Snow Hill site was a community of free black citizens that existed prior the opening of Tome School. The site of Snow Hill is considered a potential archeology site. The state legislation created a task force to develop a feasibility study, including the Tome School property. He stated that the Department of Natural Resources is in charge of the project and that the BDC will provide information. He stated that DNR will make recommendations to the General Assembly to implement the legislation.

Mayor Kuhs expressed his concern over the loss of revenue if the State creates a park. He is opposed to allowing the State to take 150 acres for the State park. He stated that Delegate Hornberger met with the Town Council about the State park proposal, but expressed their opposition.

Police Accountability Board Legislation – Bill No. 2022-08

Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, and Scott Adams, Cecil County Sheriff, provided a review of the State's adopted police accountability regulations and the proposed Cecil County legislation.

Mr. Scott explained that the State requires counties to establish a civilian board to review the handling of complaints from the public against an officer of a local law enforcement agency. He reviewed the State's original language and the county's proposed legislation. He stated that this police accountability process must be implemented by July 1, 2022. He also indicated that the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission must develop and implement a training plan for members of the administrative charging committee, and provided a model uniform disciplinary matrix for use by each law enforcement agency. He reviewed the membership, functions and responsibilities of the Police Accountability Board and the Administrative Charging Committee.

In reviewing the proposed legislation, the administration suggested several amendments. These included:

- a. Section 82.4, on page 6, line 121, insert the following:
"D. Membership to the PAB and ACC will be restricted to County Residents who have met residency requirements of at least 6 months and successfully pass a background check, including a criminal record check, before a nomination is forwarded to the County Council."
- b. Section 82.4, on page 6, line 122, insert the following:
"E. Employees of Cecil County Government and Cecil County Municipalities are prohibited from serving on the PAB or ACC."
- c. Section 82.8, on page 12, line 303-304, delete in its entirety and insert the following:
"2. The Office of the County Attorney shall provide legal support and administrative oversight to the PAB and ACC, and will be the as record legal advisory to each."

Councilman Coutz suggested that “administratively charged” and “non-administratively charged” be defined in Section 82.1.

There was agreement to add amendment, on page 6, line 126, to insert “at least 21 years of age”.

There was agreement to add amendment, on page 6, lines 149-150, delete, “appointment” and insert “introduction at legislative session”

There was agreement to add amendment, on page 7, lines 178, delete, “appointment” and insert “introduction at legislative session”

There was a suggestion to define “non-closure agreement”.

Sheriff Adams clarified that there have been fifteen incidents of public complaints and investigations over the last five years. He stated that the State statute is unclear if the police accountability process is required for a complaint from another law enforcement officer. He also stated that the Chief and Officers Association informed the General Assembly that this legislation could not be implemented by July 1 because of the issues of the State’s responsibility to provide training to ACC members, the lack of a model officers matrix, and the need to clarify the schedule for the tracking system for criminal and administrative investigations.

Mr. Scott stated that the county will be ready to take public complaints on the county’s website by July 1, 2022.

Council Manager Report

The Council Manager Report was postponed until the following session.

Council Member Items

Council Members Items were postponed until the following session.

Adjournment

Councilman Coutz made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson. Council President Meffley adjourned the session at 8:02 pm.


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Robert Meffley, Council President