

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
August 23, 2022**

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, Jackie Gregory (online), 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 4:30 pm and announced that there were four Council Members present and one member connected online, which constitutes a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of August 16, 2022, as presented. The motion approved unanimously.

On a motion made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council closed session of August 16, 2022, as presented. The motion approved unanimously.

Paris Foundation Community Center

Mike Brandon, Executive Director, The Paris Foundation, introduced Bob Imperatrice, Board President. Mr. Brandon described the proposal to build a community center of 10,000 SF in Hollingsworth Manor, adjacent to the Family Education Center in this disadvantaged community. He described the history of the organization and the current operation of providing meals to the homeless and others who are struggling in the community. He stated that medical services are offered on a free basis with the cooperation of county agencies.

The proposed facility will offer job training for food service, job placement, and training in a commercial kitchen. He stated that area restaurants have pledged to assist with the design of a commercial kitchen. Classes will also be offered in literacy, life skills, family finance, job interviews, and computer skills. He stated that the facility will include a dining area, auditorium, food pantry, clothes closet, and conference rooms. He stated that volunteers have offered to assist with classes in art, music and early childhood advocacy.

Mr. Brandon clarified that the organization presently supports a monthly operating cost of \$4,000, which includes rent and utilities at their present location. The new facility operation

cost will eliminate \$3,000 rental cost. He clarified that operation costs will be supported by private donations, grants, savings, and fundraising.

Mr. Imperatrice stated that the proposed community center will cost \$1.5-\$1.7M and that they have raised \$250,000 as of today. He stated that they have verbal pledges that are promised as the project is advanced.

Mr. Brandon emphasized that there are over 700 volunteers who are currently supporting their programs. He clarified that the larger facility will enable them to accept local produce and food for use in the dining room as well as the food pantry. He described past success stories in helping unemployed and unskilled individuals and families to become independent and self-sufficient.

Vice President Gregory clarified that the Upper Shore Regional Council was the recipient of \$10M in state funding, which was reallocated to each of three counties in the amount of \$2.9M for use to stimulate jobs for economic development. She stated that \$150,000 will be provided to the Cecil County Farm Museum, \$900,000 to The Paris Foundation, and \$2M to the Belvidere Road interchange project.

Mr. Brandon clarified that certification in safe food service, culinary art, and computer software will be offered. He stated that the community center will have a high impact on the unskilled and unemployed in Cecil County by providing training and job opportunities.

Legislative Initiatives

Council Manager Massey reviewed several legislative initiatives that had been discussed or requested. He explained that the current Council term's last legislative session is October 18 and that September 6 is the last legislative session to introduce bills that require public hearings.

He discussed updating the rezoning procedure in the Policies and Procedures of the Council to reflect changes in the process. Council Members agreed by consensus to introduce this proposal.

He led discussion on authorizing the Council Attorney to represent the Council at the suggestion of the Attorney General Assistant at the State Board of Elections. Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, advised that this would require a charter amendment. After Council discussion, they agreed by consensus to take no action.

He led discussion on specifying that the 30 days for Council to take action on an appointment should begin on the date that the resolution is introduced. Mr. Scott stated that he would have to research to verify that this change would require a charter amendment. Council Members agreed by consensus to request an opinion from Mr. MacLeod, Council Attorney.

He stated that the Town of Port Deposit had requested that the Council confirm the reappointment of David Rudolph to the Bainbridge Development Corporation as one of the

Town's appointments. Mr. Scott stated that he would like to research if the Council can reappoint before his term expires.

Cecil County Health Officer, Lauren Levy and members of the Core Service Agency Advisory Council and Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council requested that these boards be merged into the Behavior Health Advisory Board. He explained that they have currently been meeting together for a year and that other counties have also merged their boards. Council Members agreed by consensus to introduce this initiative.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey reminded Council Members that a community update meeting about the North East Middle/High School construction project will be held on August 30 at 4pm at the North East High School.

Council Member Items

Vice President Gregory attended the MACo summer conference and stated it was a great opportunity to learn and network. She will be attending the North East Middle/High School construction project meeting next week.

Councilwoman Culberson thanked the audience for attending. She attended her first MACo summer conference and stated that she enjoyed the sessions and networking with other officials. She will be attending the North East Middle/High School construction project meeting next week.

Councilman Coutz attended the MACo summer conference and stated that the sessions were productive. He reported on statistics from the Sheriff's Office Intel Meeting. He stated that there have been 13 non-fatal overdoses this week and one fatal overdose.

Councilman Miller thanked the audience for attending. He attended the MACo summer conference and stated that Lauren Levy, Cecil County Health Officer, and Jennifer Tuerke, Executive Director of Voices of Hope, gave an outstanding presentation about how the Health Department and Voices of Hope work together. He also complemented Tom Larken from the Federal Bank and Dr. Irani from Towson University for the presentation on inflation.

Council President Meffley attended the MACo summer conference and stated that Cecil County was well represented. He commented that there will be a large turnover in elected officials who lost their Primary Election contest. He praised Governor Hogan and Lt. Governor Rutherford for their leadership and integrity.

Adjournment

Councilman Coutz made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, in order to go into a closed session. The motion was approved unanimously.

Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Culberson-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y
The motion was approved unanimously.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

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.

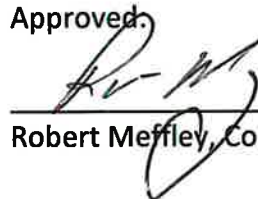
Council President Meffley stated that the Council will be going into closed session and will adjourn the session without returning to an open session.

CLOSED SESSION

6:00 P.M.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 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