

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
December 6, 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, Rebecca Hamilton, Al Miller, Donna Culberson, and Jackie Gregory; David Culver, 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 five Council Members present, which constitute 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 October 25, 2022, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of President

Council President Meffley turned the meeting over to David Culver, Council Manager, for consideration of the Council President position. Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to nominate Councilwoman Gregory to be President of Council for the upcoming term and was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton. Councilman Miller made a motion to nominate Councilman Meffley to be President of Council for the upcoming term and was seconded by Councilman Meffley. With no further nominations, Council voted to close the nominations.

Councilman Miller noted that he believes it is critical to have experience leadership for the role of Council President and both Councilman Meffley and Councilwoman Gregory has that experience.

Roll Call Vote on motion to elect Councilwoman Gregory as President of Council for the next term: Hamilton – Y, Miller – N, Culberson – Y, Gregory – Y, Meffley – N

The motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 2 to elect Councilwoman Gregory as President of Council for the next term.

By rule, with the election of Councilwoman Gregory on the first motion, no action could be taken on the second motion.

Appointment of Vice President

Council Manager Culver asked for considerations for the Council Vice President position. Councilwoman Gregory made a motion to nominate Councilwoman Culberson to be Vice President of Council for the upcoming term, but the motion died for lack of a second. Councilman Miller made a motion to nominate Councilman Meffley to be Vice President of Council for the upcoming term and was seconded by Councilman Meffley. With no further nominations, Council voted to close the nominations.

Roll Call Vote on motion to elect Councilman Meffley as Vice President of Council for the next term: Hamilton – Y, Miller – Y, Culberson – Y, Gregory – Y, Meffley – Y

The motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0 to elect Councilman Meffley as Vice President of Council for the next term.

Council Manager Culver turned the meeting back over to President Gregory.

Council Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Other Liaisons

Council President Gregory reviewed the Council Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Other Liaisons for the 2022 to 2024 term. Council Manager Culver will revise the list and send to Council.

2023 Council Legislative Calendar

Council Manager Culver reviewed the proposed 2023 Council Legislative Calendar that was presented at the October 25, 2022 work session. Council Members had no objections to the calendar as presented.

Review of 2023 Council Departmental Budget FY24

Council Manager Culver reviewed the FY24 Council Budget request and noted that it is going to remaining basically the same as FY23 except for advertising costs that will need to be increased. Council Members had no objections to the budget as presented.

Review of Legislative Agenda

Resolution No. 61-2022 Approval – Maryland Economic Development Assistance and Authority Fund – Loan for Northrop Grumman Innovation Systems, Inc. will be introduced at the December 6, 2022 Legislative Session. Director of Administration, Steven Overbay and Economic Development Director William Sorenson provided comments on behalf of the administration. Vice President Meffley requested clarification on the date of the loan, the expenditure of the loan at the current location and number of new employees.

Resolution No. 62-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Emergency Services – Laptops for Protocols will be introduced at the December 6, 2022 Legislative Session. Director of Administration, Steven Overbay and Emergency Services John Donohue provided comments on behalf of the administration.

Resolution No. 63-2022 Supplemental Appropriation- Grant Funds- Detention Center – Medication Supported Recovery will be introduced at the December 6, 2022 Legislative Session. Director of Administration, Steven Overbay and Cecil County Sheriff Scott Adams provided comments on behalf of the administration. Council President Gregory requested clarification on the overall cost of the program. Sheriff Adams responded it is mandated and the total cost are unknown since it will be based on the number of people that participates but this grant will cover the personnel costs and the initial required medication. Vice President Meffley requested how the program would be implemented with the Detention Center and Health Department. Councilman Miller requested clarification on the funds as part of the settlement agreement. Councilwoman Culberson clarified that this is for the medical personnel and medication and does it not go to other rehab programs. She also noted that the Health Department is also receiving funds as part of the opioid settlement.

Resolution No. 64-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Tourism – Winter Lights Cecil Nights will be introduced at the December 6, 2022 Legislative Session. Director of Administration, Steven Overbay and Economic Development Director William Sorenson provided comments on behalf of the administration. President Gregory commented on the event and encourage everyone to participate.

Resolution No. 65-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Human Services Division – Food and Supplies will be introduced at the December 6, 2022 Legislative Session. Director of Administration, Steven Overbay and Community Services Director David Trolio provided comments on behalf of the administration. Councilwoman Culberson commented that this is a great program and is pleased we are getting this grant. Vice President Meffley requested clarification on who was on the Board that review this grant. Director Trolio noted the members and parameters of the grant.

Appointment of William Sorenson as Economic Development Director will be considered at the December 6, 2022 Legislative Session. Director of Administration, Steven Overbay outlined Mr. Sorenson qualifications and read a letter from County Executive Danielle Hornberger. Vice President Meffley noted he hopes Mr. Sorenson can attract business in from other local jurisdictions. Councilwoman Hamilton asked Mr. Sorenson of his initial prospective of Cecil County. Mr. Sorenson noted the skilled staff and the ease of gaining approvals for projects. Mr. Sorenson also addressed Council on his goals for this position. Councilwoman Culberson asked Mr. Sorenson on why he thinks Cecil County is the easiest jurisdiction he has dealt with to get approval for projects. Mr. Sorenson noted the quick turnaround of permits and plans.

Cecil County Public Schools – Budget Amendment #104 will be considered at the December 6, 2022 Legislative Session. Director of Administration, Steven Overbay did not have any comment on behalf of the County Executive Office Council President Gregory requested the school board send a representative to Council for these amendments. Council reviewed the budget request and did not have any questions.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Culver reported on the MACo Winter Conference and MACo immersion training for new Council members. Mr. Culver noted that a meeting with the local Delegation is being requested for the upcoming legislative year. Mr. Culver discussed Section 601 of the Charter that requires a Charter Review Commission every 10 years. Mr. Culver discussed IT initiative to replace Council laptops every 4 years with the election cycle. Mr. Culver also announced that arrangements for Council pictures are being made and any update that a Councilmember would like for the bio on the website should be sent to him.

Council Member Items

Council Vice President Meffley requested that the administration provide an update on the potential transfer of the old library to the Arts Council, the status of the Blue-Ribbon Commission for Police Compensation and the status of the Police Accountability Board. He also requested the quarterly budget update at the next work session.

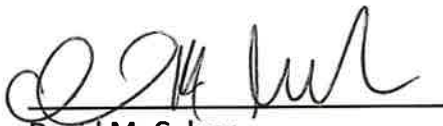
President Gregory, Councilwoman Hamilton, Councilman Miller and Councilwoman Culberson deferred comments and update for the December 6, 2022 Legislative Session.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley. Council President Gregory adjourned the session at 5:28 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 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.

Approved:


Jackie Gregory, Council President
David M. Culver
Council Manager