

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

February 21, 2023

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 Gregory 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 Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of February 14, 2023, as presented. The motion passed 5 to 0.

On a motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council closed session of February 14, 2023, as presented. The motion passed 5 to 0.

Closed Session

February 14, 2023

6:17 PM

Council Manager Culver announced that the County Council is entering a closed session pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions for §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; pr any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individual.

On a motion made by Councilwoman Hamilton, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to convene a close session, pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions §3-305 (b)(1).

Roll Call Vote

Hamilton - Y, Miller - Y, Culberson - Y, Meffley - Y, Gregory – Y

The motion was approved unanimously by a vote of 5 to 0.

PRESENT: Council Members: Robert Meffley, Rebecca Hamilton, Al Miller, Donna Culberson and Jackie Gregory; David Culver, Council Manager, Terry Hale, Council Assistant.

The Council reviewed the compensation for the Office of Sheriff for Cecil County and how it relates to the compensation in other counties. After review and discussion, Council came to a general consensus to request the County Executive to increase the compensation for the Office of Sheriff in the FY24 budget.

On a motion by Councilwoman Hamilton, which was seconded by Councilman Miller, President Gregory adjourned the closed session at 6:37 pm and reopened the Work Session.

Review of Legislative Agenda

a. Consideration of Resolutions

Resolution 04-2023 - Appointments—Charter Review Commission – Joe Zang, John T. Wilson, J. Lloyd Sanders, Derek Howell, Robert Carey, Robert Gorman and Barbara Cox to the Commission and Alice Crothers as alternate will be voted on at the February 21, 2023 Legislative Session.

Council had no further questions or comments.

Resolution 05-2023 - Appointment – Commission on Aging – Denise Hill, Julianne Graham, Lisa Beeman, Mark Hill, and Jamie McCloskey will be voted on at the February 21, 2023 Legislative Session

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that all candidates are excited about serving on this critical board. Council had no further questions or comments.

Resolution 06-2023 - Appointment—Adult Public Guardianship Review Board – Randall Schwandt will be voted on at the February 21, 2023 Legislative Session

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that Mr. Schwandt is a reappointment to this Board. Council had no further questions or comments.

Resolution 07-2023 - Reappointment—Local Management Board - John W. Donohue will be voted on at the February 21, 2023 Legislative Session

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that Mr. Donohue is a reappointment and outlined the duties of the Local Board. Councilman Miller noted Mr. Donohue is well respected on this Board. Council had no further questions or comments.

Resolution 08-2023 - Appointment—Planning Commission – Russell Johnson and Charles Hicks will be voted on at the February 21, 2023 Legislative Session.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Hicks are new members and will be filling vacant positions. Council had no further questions or comments.

Resolution 09-2023 – Appointment – Board of Parks and Recreation – Jennifer Callaghan and Kristen Lehr will be voted on at the February 21, 2023 Legislative Session.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that this will be a new appointment to fill out a membership term and a reappointment. Council had no further questions or comments.

Resolution 10–2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Roads Division – Department of Public Works – Asphalt Overlay will be voted on at the February 21, 2023 Legislative Session.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that as has been the practice for the past few years after the winter season has passed the Administration has sought to use unspent funds for repaving roads. Councilman Miller noted this was a good use of the funds but requested that stormwater management along the shoulders be reviewed as part of the overlay since the roads are getting wider in some cases and storm drainage becomes an issue. Council had no further questions or comments.

Resolution 11-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – Landfill Enterprise Fund Balance – Solid Waste Management Division – Department of Public Works – Budget Amendment will be voted on at the February 21, 2023 Legislative Session

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted this change reflects greater fuel usage and fuel costs. Councilman Miller verified this was for the landfill only and Director Overbay confirmed this was for the Landfill only. Council had no further questions or comments.

b. New Business

1. Cecil County Public Schools – Budget Amendment #107

President Gregory noted the Budget Amendment was for \$294,011 for January 2023. She also noted that she sent a link from the Board of Education Meeting of February 8 that explained the details of this Budget Amendment. This Budget Amendment will be on the February 21, 2023 Legislative Session.

Legislative Update

President Gregory noted the following:

HB0835 - Motor Vehicle Registration – Exception for Golf Carts – Town of Charlestown. After receiving additional information from the Town of Charlestown and the Delegation, Council consented to sending a letter of support.

SB-0396 Economic Development - Upper Shore Regional Council – Membership. President Gregory noted that the Hearing was held on this bill and it should be moving forward.

HB0842 Agricultural Land - Foreign Property Interests – Restrictions. Council to send letter of support with amendment.

HB0549/ SB0555 Fair Wage Act of 2023. Council to send letter of opposition.

HB 0035 – Elections – In Person Voting – Proof of Identity. President Gregory noted that we sent a letter of support and the bill has been cross filed in the Senate as SB567.

President Gregory also noted that numerous bills have been filed as it relates to childcare funding and availability. She also noted bills were filed for additional mental health availability in schools as well as expanding the free school meals program.

HB0521 - Income Tax- Subtraction Modification – Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services. Council to send letter of support with amendment.

President Gregory also noted the Mediation Center requested letters of support for the upcoming grant applications for the program. Council agreed to send letters of support.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Culver noted the updated Council Calendar is in the packets and that staff would be working on a central e-mail system and calendar to attempt to get all invitations and meeting invites to one system.

Council Member Items

Vice President Meffley noted he attended the Arts Council Foundation fundraiser at the Wellwood on February 18. He also attended the Upper Shore Regional Council Meeting and noted that they will be hiring a grant manager in the near future. He also met with SHA officials and the owners of State Line Liquors to discuss the turning movements on Route 279. He also attended the Fire Chiefs Meeting and noted 80% of the calls are EMS related. He also attended the County Executives Budget Address and noted the Board of Education will be the majority of the budget cost. He also noted several speakers requested an indoor track and pool.

Councilman Miller recognized the fire companies that responded to a recent barn fire near Rising Sun. He also attended the Farm Bureau meeting on February 21, and they also reviewed pending legislation that would affect farmers. He encouraged everyone to attend the March 4 Rooted in our Community Meeting at Cecil College that will discuss agricultural issues.

Councilwoman Culberson gave the intel report for the previous week. She attended the Board of Education Citizen Advisory Committee meeting and also attend the County Executives Budget Address. She also noted the multi-sport complex that was mentioned at the address. She also attended the Library Meeting at the North East Library that discussed funding and programs. On February 18 she attended the Sip and Stroll event in Chesapeake City.

Councilwoman Hamilton noted she attended the MACo Legislative Committee call last Wednesday. She also attended the County Executives Budget Address. She announced the Blue-Ribbon Committee report is supposed to be in by March 28. On February 17 she met with Mary Bolt at the Community College and reported that the College reported it had over 6,000 students last year and had a 100% pass rate in the health program. She encouraged people to attend the Cecil College Gala on April 29. She also announced the Ice Splash is February 25 in Charlestown and the Chamber of Commerce Cecil Night in Annapolis is February 27.

President Gregory noted the Upper Shore Regional Council Meeting last week as well as the bill to address the membership is being processed in Annapolis. She also attended the County Executives Budget Address. She attended the Eastern Shore Delegation Meeting and Maryland Secretary of Veteran Affairs Tony Woods was the guest speaker and Choptank Cooperative also gave a presentation. She also attended the conference call for the Chesapeake National Recreation Area with the Maryland US Senators. She also noted the Ice Splash in Charlestown is this weekend and that she will be attending.

President Gregory announced that no further items are on the February 21, 2023 Work Session agenda.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley. Council President Gregory adjourned the work session at 5:21 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, 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