

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

February 28, 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 (by video conference), 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 four Council Members present in Chambers and one Council member by video conference, which constitute a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of February 21, 2023, as presented. The motion passed 4 to 0.

Presentations

a. Fire/Rescue Legislation Update

Cecil County Firemen's Association President Dale DeWeese and Vice President Robert Muller presented an update on the rescue billing legislation. Vice President Muller indicates that the legislation was adopted to allow member fire companies to bill insurance carriers for services provided in response to, and mitigation of, transportation incidents and other type or rescues. This legislation primarily focused on billing insurance carriers to provide additional revenue to volunteer fire companies. As of now 3 fire companies, Singerly, Rising Sun and Cecilton, are billing for this service and the other 6 companies are in various stages of adopting or studying the billing procedures. Vice President Muller noted that Singerly has had all but one bill paid by the insurance companies, and that bill is still being resolved. Vice President Muller hopes that Maryland would adopt this billing for all fire companies.

Councilwoman Culberson inquired if the other two companies had any non-payments and Vice President Muller indicated he did not think so but would verify if they have had any issues. Councilman Miller inquired if this was in house billing or third-party billing and Vice President Muller indicated it was both, depending on the fire company. President Gregory indicated Council's appreciation for the volunteer companies and noted Council would work with them on any State legislation that may be necessary in the future to expand this program.

b. Monthly Review of County Contracts (Section 516)

Director of Administration Steven Overbay reviewed Section 516 of the County Charter and the four contracts that have been over this threshold for December and January. Director Overbay

indicated that these contracts would be presented at the last Council Work Session of each month, but the majority of these types of contrast would be at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Councilman Miller inquired if the Microsoft contract amount was monthly or annually and Director Overbay indicated he would verify the contract terms. Councilman Miller also inquired on the state bids used and Director Overbay indicated they examine all applicable state and federal bid packages to get the best price available. Vice President Meffley inquired on the price of the dump truck and if it had any upgrades since the base model for this type of truck is usually less than the listed contract price. Director Overbay indicated he would review the contract and truck accessory that may have been part of the contract. Councilman Miller inquired if the bridge engineering for Mechanic Valley Road was for the bridge over the rail line near Route 40 and Director Overbay indicated that it was his understanding that it was for that bridge. Councilwoman Culberson inquired if the purchases over \$500 were up to date on the website and Director Overbay indicated that the list is up to date.

Legislative Update

President Gregory noted that MACo did not have any positions or new bills to review. She also noted that Council had no other outstanding legislation that would need immediate action. President Gregory noted that most bills have been or are scheduled for hearings and cross filed in both Chambers. She will continue to monitor the bills as they go through the process and notify Council when action is needed in either written form or testimony.

Councilman Miller discussed SB 0690 which is an agriculture bill that addressed the confinement of egg-laying hens in a commercial egg production and noted this was being opposed by farmers and other groups, but did not need immediate Council action.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Culver noted the updated Council Manager Report is in the packet. He also noted they are working on changes on the website to make it easier for organizations to notify Council of meetings and events. He also noted the ACFR is on the March 7 Work Session and Council may forward questions to him in advance so the Finance Department has time to prepare answers. He also noted that we are in the process of setting up the budget hearings with the various Departments and will keep May 2 open.

Council Member Items

Councilman Miller noted that Franklin Graham would be in Fair Hill on May 2nd for a revival meeting. He noted he attended the Chamber of Commerce Cecil Night in Annapolis on February 27 and that the event was well attended by legislators and Chamber members. He also participated in the Chamber's legislative call on pending legislation last week.

Vice President Meffley noted he was ill and not able to attend the meeting in person. He noted several companies that sold dump trucks that Public Works should contact for pricing in the future.

Councilwoman Culberson indicated that she would give the intel report for the last two weeks at the next Legislative Meeting. She also noted she attended the Blueprint for Growth update from MACo on February 25.

Councilwoman Hamilton noted she attended the Elkton High School African American History Festival on February 25. The event was excellent and had vendors and notable speakers including Tom Wesley, a teacher who shared stories, songs and poems. She noted she attended the Ice Splash with President Gregory on February 25 in Charlestown as well as the Chamber of Commerce Cecil Night in Annapolis. She also noted a new restaurant, Villa Corona, recently opened in Elkton and the owners made a nice investment in Cecil County in renovating the space.

President Gregory announced she attended the North East VFW Volunteer Banquet on February 25 as well as the Ice Splash in Charlestown. She also attended the Chamber of Commerce Cecil Night in Annapolis. She also noted that space was still available for the "Rooted in our Community" program at Cecil College on March 4.

President Gregory announced that no further items are on the February 28, 2023 Work Session agenda.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilman Miller. Council President Gregory adjourned the work session at 5:05 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 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