

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

June 20, 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: 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. Vice President Meffley arrived at 4:33 P.M.

Call to Order

Council President Gregory called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm and announced that there were four Council Members present, which constitute a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilman Miller, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of June 13, 2023, as presented. The motion passed 4 to 0.

Review of Legislative Agenda

- a. Introduction of Resolutions
 - 1. 35-2023 Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance – Board of Education – Safe and Secure School Entrances Projects - Rising Sun and Conowingo Elementary Schools

President Gregory announced that Cecil County School Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Lawson was invited to the meeting to present the projects on behalf of the school but declined to appear.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay outlined the projects for Council and noted that funding has previously been approved by Council. Director Overbay further noted that the County Executive committed to the Board of Education that she would request additional funding from Council for any additional costs because the safety of the children is extremely important. Director Overbay also noted that the Board had the cost estimates since April 27, 2023 but only sent the new cost to the County Executive in mid-June. County Attorney Lawrence Scott also added that the commitment to the Board was made and that the school could have begun the two projects using the 20 million fund balance they currently had until the additional funding was secured. Attorney Scott also noted that it could be possible for the County to assume the project if the Board does not move forward in a timely manner. Vice President Meffley noted that because of the timing of the two projects they will run into the next school year and this will increase the cost of the two projects. Attorney Scott noted the delay was unfortunate but opined that the site prep work could have been done during this timeframe while waiting for the additional funding. Councilwoman Culberson inquired if an estimate on the increased cost have been done by the Board and Director Overbay noted he is unaware if any estimates for the additional costs were done by the Board. Attorney Scott noted that the Board did not want to award the bid until the funding was secured and Councilwoman Culberson noted that this will further delay the projects. Councilman Miller

asked if this was only for the two entrances and not for the Rising Sun Elementary parking lot project and Attorney Scott noted that was correct.

2. 36-2023 Appointment – Commission for Women – Abigail Bingham

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted Ms. Bingham is well qualified, has an excellent background and is excited about the appointment. Councilman Miller asked if this was a new appointment or reappointment and Director Overbay noted it was a new appointment.

b. Consideration of Resolutions

1. 34-2023 Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance – Law Enforcement Armored Rescue Vehicle and Crossover Utility Vehicle

Director of Administration Steven Overbay thanked Sherriff Scott Adams for working with the administration on this resolution and stressed the importance the Administration places on the safety of the public and our first responders.

c. Call for Final Reading of Bills

1. Bill No. 2023-08 Bond Authorization – General Obligation Project Bonds

Director of Finance Shon McCollum presented the bond numbers from the past bond issuances and discussed the projects in the upcoming Capital Improvement Program recently passed by Council. He noted the bill is for the authority to sell bonds, but other funding mechanism can also be used such as pay-go and grants. Councilman Miller asked if this would continue the funding for North East High School project and Director McCollum noted it would. President Gregory asked for a general breakdown of the CIP projects and timing of the bonds. Director McCollum outlined the larger projects including the Belvidere Road Bridge, new sewer lines and projects at the Community College and that we typically go to the bond market every two years or so. Councilman Miller noted we also go to the bond market when rates are lower to refinance existing debt. Vice President Meffley inquired on the total debt and Director McCollum noted about 300 million. Vice President Meffley also noted using grants and pay-go on some projects and Director McCollum noted we do so when possible.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Culver noted the updated Council Manager report is in the packet. Manager Culver also noted that Council has cancelled the Work Session for June 27, 2023 and that no workshop or Legislative Session would be held on July 4, 2023 so the next meetings would be on July 11, 2023.

Council Member Items

Councilmembers deferred comments to the Legislative Session of June 20, 2023.

President Gregory announced that no further items are on the June 20, 2023 Work Session agenda.

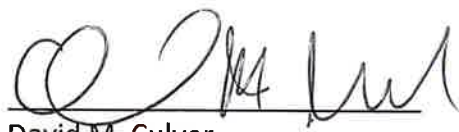
Adjournment

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley. Council President Gregory adjourned the work session at 5:01 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, July 11, 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