

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

September 12, 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: Bob Meffley, Rebecca Hamilton, Al Miller, Donna Culberson, Jackie Gregory; David Culver, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant, members of the administration and members of the public.

Call to Order

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

Special Announcement

County Executive Danielle Hornberger addressed Council and announced that Cecil County received its highest ever bond rating, Aa1. Executive Hornberger noted this rating would help Cecil County receive lower interest rates on future bond sales and this rating is just below the top rating.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilwoman Hamilton, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of September 5, 2023, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentations

a. 4th Quarter Financial Review

Director of Finance Shon McCollum reviewed the 4th Quarter unaudited financial report. Director McCollum reported that revenue was up 10% over the budgeted amount and expenditures came in 1% under the budgeted amount. This resulted in an additional 19 million dollars being added to the fund balance. Councilman Miller inquired on the large increase in investment earnings from FY22 to FY23 and Director McCollum noted it is because interest rates have increased dramatically over the past year. President Gregory inquired on the 6.1 million dollars in transfers and intergovernmental costs between FY22 and FY23 and Director McCollum explained the transfer of funds for various projects. President Gregory inquired on the bond rating and the actual rate we may achieve and Director McCollum noted that would be determined at the time of sale of the bonds. Vice President Meffley inquired on the percentage difference we may expect with the higher rating and Director McCollum reviewed the bidding procedures when bonds are sold. Councilman Miller requested Director McCollum review the major budget revenue and expenditures variances and Director McCollum explained the zero-budgeting philosophy and noted the budget numbers are conservative and based on economic trends. Councilman Miller noted he hopes better forecasting on revenue is utilized in the next budget based on actual numbers and

Director McCollum noted they are always reviewing the economic trends in forecasting. Councilman Miller also inquired on the Economic Development Budget and special purpose fund spending and Director McCollum discussed the various projects such as the 5 Star Event. Vice President Meffley noted he appreciated the update and looked forward to timely financial reporting updates.

b. Monthly Review of County Contracts

Director of Finance Shon McCollum reviewed the County contracts for June and July in excess of \$100,000. He noted that for June three contracts were awarded including one for the new armored vehicle for the Sheriff's Office. Councilman Miller inquired if this was a new vehicle and Director McCollum noted it was new. Director McCollum noted July had nineteen contracts since many of these were for services in the new fiscal year, such as the software agreements. Vice President Meffley inquired about the Winding Brook trash contract and Director McCollum noted that the residents are changed for this service. Councilwoman Culberson inquired about the environmental compliance services contract and the terms and Director McCollum noted that was to assist in MDE reporting and that the contracts can be renewed annually for 3 to 4 years. Vice President Meffley inquired about the lagoon and sewer projects at Triumph Industrial Park and asked if the same was needed for the Cherry Hill sewer lagoons. Director of Administration Steve Overbay noted he would verify what needed to be done at Cherry Hill with Public Works.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Culver noted the updated Council Manager report is in the packet. He noted that numerous event invitations are being reviewed and please respond as soon as possible so we can respond on attendance. He noted that the Community Fire Company of Perryville is having its 100-year anniversary this weekend. He also noted the Secretary of Transportation will be doing the annual visit on October 31 and the meeting with the municipalities would follow.

Council Member Items

Councilwoman Hamilton noted the turf field ribbon cutting at Elkton High School was held on September 8 and with the Rising Sun turf field, all Cecil County High Schools have this amenity. She also noted that she attended the FOP Crab Feast with President Gregory and Councilman Miller, and the event was excellent. She also attended the Army Alliance Dinner in Bel Camp and noted that State Secretary of Commerce Kevin Anderson was one of the speakers.

Vice President Meffley also attended the Elkton High School ribbon cutting. He noted that now that Elkton and Rising Sun High Schools have turf fields all schools are on equal footing. He also noted he and President Gregory attend the Youth Crises Event at the Wellwood. He also attended the annual farmers dinner and noted they are concerned about weed control and grass being cut along county roads.

Councilman Miller noted the Weed Control Board will be meeting again and will discuss the issues raised by the farmers. He also attended the Farm Bureau Meeting to discuss various policies. He also congratulated the Town of Rising Sun and the Rising Sun Little League on the recent parade to celebrate the 9 teams that made it to the playoffs and the 2 teams that won the state

championship. He also noted he attend the ribbon cutting for the turf field at Elkton High School. He also stated he attended the FOP Crab Feast and that it was a great event.

Councilwoman Culberson gave the weekly intel report. She also noted she will be attending the Community Fire Company of Perryville event this weekend and encouraged everybody to come help them celebrate. She also noted she will be attending Bainbridge Day this weekend and also hopes for people to attended.

President Gregory noted she attended the Economic Development Commission meeting on September 6 and they received an update on the Bainbridge projects. She also attended the Lincoln Day Dinner on September 7 and Congressman Andy Harris was the guest speaker. She also attended the Youth Crises Center event at the Wellwood. She noted that next week she would be on the conference call with the Upper Shore and Mid Shore Regional Councils on the future of the Whitsitt Center. She also congratulated Elkton and Rising Sun High Schools on the new turf fields and noted both ribbon cuttings were fantastic events. She also noted local historian George Reynolds turned 101 years old and on September 9 he spoke about local history and his time in World War II and Korea. On September 11 she participated in the flag waving event on Route 40 as well as the memorial service at the Chesapeake City VFW presented by the Chesapeake City Ecumenical Association. She also noted that the Elkton Fall Fest is the weekend of September 16 and encouraged everybody to attend.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted to Council that the tire recycling day was on September 10 and they collected over 3,350 tires. President Gregory inquired when the next event would take place and Director Overbay noted he would let Council know. Councilwoman Culberson inquired what happens to the tires and Director Overbay noted that MDE takes the tires and will recycle or dispose of them in the proper manner.

President Gregory announced that no further items are on the September 12, 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 5:14 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 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