

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

September 19, 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.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council Work Session of September 12, 2023, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation

Director of Economic Development William Sorenson noted that the Economic Development Commission, by Code, consists of 23 to 33 members. These members include representatives from various businesses and industries as well as representatives from the municipalities. Vice President Meffley inquired if staff participates in regional meetings and Director Sorenson noted they have in the past and plan to attend more this year. Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted Economic Development staff participation in the Greater Baltimore Committee, which is merging with the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore, as well as groups from the Philadelphia area. Vice President Meffley also inquired about cooperation with other Maryland counties and Director Sorenson noted they do work closely with other counties, especially Harford and Baltimore County. Councilman Miller inquired why they only spent 88% of his FY23 budget and Director Sorenson was not sure of the final budget numbers. Councilman Miller also inquired on the hiring of the agricultural coordinator and participation by the Farm Bureau in the interviewing process and Director Sorenson noted that the search is ongoing and the Farm Bureau is assisting. Councilwoman Hamilton asked how many members the Committee actually has and Director Sorenson noted 23 members but usually another 10 to 15 people will attend the meetings. Councilwoman Hamilton also inquired if they are searching for members to represent all industries like agriculture and small business and Director Sorenson noted they are always looking for a diverse membership. Councilwoman Hamilton also asked about the cooperation between the municipalities and the Commission and Director Sorenson noted they cooperate with the Towns on development opportunities and they also attend the municipal meetings. President Gregory noted that departments should be fiscally responsible and should spend the budget funds to gain the best value for the County.

Review of Legislative Agenda

a. Introduction of Bills

- 1. 2023-09 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds to Capital Projects – Construct Elkton West Sanitary Sewer Subdistrict**

Director of Public Works Scott Flanigan noted that this is a multi-year project to extend wastewater services along Route 40 between North East and Elkton. This project is listed as Phase 3C and is to construct a pump station and force main for the Triumph Industrial Park and to close the existing lagoons at the park. This bill will allow the Capital Improvement Program budget to be amended to reflect the \$3,550,101 grant from the Maryland Department of the Environment for the project. Director Flanigan noted that the remainder of the project cost will be paid for by Triumph through a benefit assessment recoupment formula. Councilwoman Culberson inquired to the final cost of Phase 3C and Director Flanigan noted he would get the final cost to Council once known. Councilman Miller inquired if the total cost also reflects the lagoon closure and Director Flanigan noted that it does. Councilwoman Culberson inquired if the CIP reflected the total cost and Director Flanigan noted it did not because they were not able to reflect the grants from MDE since they were not awarded until after the budget was completed. He noted that if this project did not receive the grant they would have needed to modify the project.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted to Council that Director Flanigan was also going to address the Cherry Hill lagoon closure and tire recycling day that was discussed previously. Director Flanigan noted that the two lagoons at Cherry Hill are not owned by Cecil County and the County was unable to secure grant funding to have them decommissioned. The County was able to get grant funds to connect Manchester Park to the sewer system, but a private utility still owns the lagoons. Vice President Meffley inquired who owned the land and Director Flanigan noted it is still the private utility. Director Flanigan also noted that the tire recycling day was sponsored by MDE and the tires from the event were being taken by Auston Contracting in Harford County to be recycled. Councilwoman Culberson inquired if they pay for the tires or do we pay them to remove and Director Flanigan noted they are paid to remove the tires and we typically are only able to sell scrap metal and some other recycled products. Director Overbay noted MDE will be paying for the tire removal from this event. Councilman Miller noted the value of this program for agriculture and residents and Director Flanigan noted over 3,500 tires were brought to the event.

b. Introduction of Resolutions

- 1. 52-2023 – Appointment – Economic Development Commission – Carl Roberts**

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted Carl Roberts has been on this Commission, as well as the Bainbridge Development Corporation, for several years and has been a great asset to the Commission.

- 2. 53-2023 – Approval - Master Water and Sewer Plan - Amendment**

Director of Land Use and Development Services Stephen O'Connor noted the amendment was heard by the Planning Board and received a positive recommendation. He noted that this will amend Table 6 and 16 of the plan to reflect changes in the Port Deposit service area. Under this change, Artesian Water Company will be seeking the ability through the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and Maryland Department of the Environment to withdraw additional water to supply

development in the Port Deposit area. Vice President Meffley inquired if this would be for the Bainbridge development and Director O'Connor indicated it would serve that area.

c. Consideration of Resolutions

1. 43-2023 - Appointment—Economic Development Commission - Mary Way Bolt, JoAnn Dawson, Bernard DeMarinis, Woody Jackson, Robert Palsgrove, Michael Ratchford, Michael Travers, II, Joseph DiNunzio, Vincent Fiorelli, Jeff Lawson, Morgan Miller, Charles Jones, Jr, and Amy Dipietro

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted the function of the Economic Development Commission and stated most members are being reappointed. Councilwoman Culberson inquired how many members will be on the Commission after the appointments and Director Overbay noted 23 including the 8 municipalities. He also noted that 30 to 35 people typically attend a meeting of the Commission.

2. 44-2023 – Appointment– Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council - Aaron Wright and James W. Ziccardi

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that both individuals are highly qualified and represent organizations that serve individuals that have drug and alcohol abuse issues. Councilwoman Culberson noted that Aaron Wright is a great advocate for the drug prevention programs.

3. 45-2023 – Appointment—Cecil County Mental Health Core Service Agency Advisory Board – Heather Baginski, Kathryn Farinholt, Sheryl White, Elizabeth Murphy, and Suanne Blumberg

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted this board assists with mental health issues in Cecil County and the members being appointed are highly qualified.

4. 46-2023 - Appointment— Public Safety Pension Plan Board of Trustees – Paul Camponelli

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that this board oversees the pensions for public safety employees and that Paul Camponelli, recently appointed as the Director of Human Resources, will need to be appointed to the board as per County Code.

5. 47-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Community Development Block Grant – Holloway Beach Sewer Project – Habitat for Humanity Home Rehabilitation Project

Director of Administration Steven Overbay thanked Community Services Director David Trolie on his work on getting this grant that will assist low to moderate income families with the connection fees for the Holloway Beach Sewer projects and also help Habitat for Humanity assist low to moderate income families with rehabilitation of homes. Vice President Meffley inquired how many houses will be rehabilitated and Director Trolie noted it will depend on the scope of work and that all homes need to meet the HUD standards.

6. 48-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Aging and Disabilities Division – State Senior Care Waitlist Grant

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted this grant will assist in reducing the waitlist of seniors for nursing home care. Currently, the County has 23 seniors on the waitlist and this grant should allow the County to assist in the placement of all of these individuals. The grant will help cover the cost of staffing and supplies.

7. 49-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – Program Revenue – Community Services – Cecil Transit Division – Great Wolf Lodge Transportation Contract

Director of Community Services David Trolio noted this grant will assist in the transportation of employees to and from the Great Wolf Lodge. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if this is just for Great Wolf employees or will the vans be used for other transportation needs. Director Trolio noted the vans will not be used for any other routes but will connect to other fixed stops. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired as to the benefits of this agreement and Director Trolio noted it will help transport J1 students get transportation to the Great Wolf and connect to other routes they may need for services. He also noted that other agencies also put in offers with Great Wolf to provide this service but Cecil Transit offered the most value. Councilwoman Culberson inquired who will drive the vans and Director Trolio noted they will be hiring six contract employees to drive and since these are vans they do not need CDL licenses.

8. 50-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Human Services Division – Domestic Violence Rape Crisis Program/The Bridge

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted this grant is from ARPA funds and will be divided between sexual assault and domestic violence programs. He anticipates about \$100,000 for the sexual assault programs and \$178,196 for the domestic violence programs. He also noted this will help offset cost of staffing and supplies for these programs.

9. 51-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Cecil County Public Schools Small Capital Projects

Director of Finance Shon McCollum noted that these are carry over funds from FY23 to FY24 to complete various projects with the Board of Education including several of the safe and secure entrance projects. Councilman Miller inquired if this was only for the projects as Bainbridge, Charlestown and North East Elementary Schools and Director McCollum indicated that is correct.

New Business

1. Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #114 and #115

President Gregory noted the Board of Education Budget Amendment 114 is \$3,431,201 and Budget Amendment 115 is for \$7,588,676 and was discussed at the last Board meeting. Councilman Miller noted that the budget amendment contained donations from the community.

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 also noted the Secretary of Transportation will be doing the annual visit on October 31.

Council Member Items

Councilmembers deferred comments to the Legislative Session of September 19, 2023.

President Gregory announced that no further items are on the September 19, 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 5:21 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, September 26, 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