

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

December 5, 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 Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council Work Session of November 28, 2023, as presented. The motion passed 5 to 0.

Presentation – CDBG Update

Director of Community Services David Trolie gave an update on 4 CDBG grants as required by the State regulations. He noted that public comments are welcome at the Legislative Session on December 5, 2023 as it relates to these grants. Director Trolie noted the 4 CDBG grants including:

Warwick Mushrooms, awarded 11-20-18 for \$514,579.32
Homeless Initiative, awarded 10-28-19 for \$376,656
Covid Impact Round 1, awarded 7-1-20 for \$273,300
Covid Impact Round 2, awarded 12-16-20 for \$475,000.61

Director Trolie noted that the Warwick Mushroom CDBG grant was an older grant for economic development and they created 28 new jobs. He noted the homeless initiative was for two projects, one at Meeting Ground for \$376,000 and one with the Health Department for \$100,000 to assist the homeless. The Covid Round 1 grant had 6 projects that included funds for Emergency Rental Assistance, Senior Food Program, Domestic Violence Shelter and Homeless Service, Food Programs for low- and moderate-income families, Housing Counseling and Domestic Violence Rapid Rehousing. The Covid Round 2 grant included 4 projects that included Emergency Rental Assistance, Staffing Support Services, Cecil Housing Assistance Response Team (CHART) Program and Project Administration. Councilwoman Hamilton requested additional information on the Warwick Mushroom funding and job creation tracking and Director Trolie noted that this was proceeds from an old economic development grant and jobs were created on a permanent basis for low- and moderate-income people and that they project exceeded the requirement. Vice President Meffley inquired if the funds could also assist in the construction of affordable housing for the employees and Director Trolie noted other programs were available for that need and this

grant was for constitution and equipment purchases. Vice President Meffley also inquired if the construction jobs were subject to the Davis Bacon Act and Director Trolio noted they were. Councilman Miller commented on the need to provide affordable housing and inquired on the CHART Program. Director Trolio noted that the CHART program assisted people with housing and how to succeed once they are no longer part of the housing programs. Councilman Miller also inquired if the revolving shelter program would resume and Director Trolio noted this was done by non-profit organizations and that they have had staffing and coordination issues and was not sure on the resumption of this service. President Gregory noted the need for the emergency rental assistance and if grants funds could assist in helping people find housing and employment and Director Trolio noted they do have programs to assist, such as CHART, but the funds for CDBG do need to follow very strict State guidelines.

Review of Legislative Agenda

a. Introduction of Resolutions

1. Resolution 64-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund - State’s Attorney Office – Fund Vacant Positions and to provide Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

Director of Finance Shon McCollum noted that this funding is for the State’s Attorney Office to fill three vacant positions and to cover a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for these positions. Councilman Miller inquired if the COLA was in the budget for the other positions and Director McCollum noted it was in the FY24 Budget. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if the COLA increase for these vacant positions will be based on the existing salary or the salary after the \$10,000 adjustment was made for the Public Safety employees and Director McCollum noted the COLA will be calculated after the increase. Vice President Meffley inquired if the salaries would be in line with other counties and Director McCollum noted the SAGE Study that was done, and it would be similar to other counties. Councilwoman Hamilton asked if all the other existing State’s Attorneys employees received the COLA and Director McCollum noted they did because it was part of the FY24 budget. Councilwoman Culberson asked if these were new positions and Director McCollum noted they were existing but vacant and not funded in the FY24 Budget. Vice President Meffley noted that some Public Safety positions did not receive the \$10,000 adjustment and Director McCollum confirmed it depended on the classification of the position. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if the salaries were in previous fiscal years and Director McCollum noted they were but because they were vacant at the time of the budget the salaries were not carried over. Councilman Miller noted the positions are needed to help with the backlog of cases.

b. Consideration of Resolutions

1. Resolution 63-2023 - Appointment—Police Accountability Board –Robert F. McKnight

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that the Police Accountability Board required staggered terms and Mr. McKnight was appointed to a one-year term, but this would appoint him to a three-year term. He also noted Mr. McKnight is a valuable member of the PAB and is very active in the Board proceedings.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Culver noted the updated Council Manager report is in the packet. He noted that numerous event invitations are being received and please respond to them as soon as possible so

we can send notice on attendance. He noted that the MACo Winter Conference is from December 6 to 8.

Council Member Items

Councilmembers deferred comments to the Legislative Session of December 5, 2023.

President Gregory announced that no further items are on the December 5, 2023 Work Session agenda. She also announced that Council will not be holding a Work Session on December 12 or 26 2023.

Adjournment

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

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, December 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