

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

March 12, 2024

**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, Rebecca Hamilton, 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 and one absent 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 March 5, 2024, as presented. The motion passed 4 to 0 with 1 absent.

Presentations

a. Police Accountability Board Annual Report

County Attorney Lawrence Scott introduced Stephen Miller, Chair of Police Accountability Board (PAB). Attorney Scott noted he is presenting the required Annual Report that has been sent to the State. He noted that the PAB received 55 complaints in 2023. He noted that the Cecil County Sheriff Office had 28 complaints, Elkton Police Department had 9 complaints, North East Police Department had 5 complaints, Perryville Police Department had 7 complaints and Rising Sun Police Department had 6 complaints. Attorney Scott noted of the 55 complaints received the PAB only had jurisdiction on 35 of them. He noted jurisdictional issues could be a myriad of reasons including the officer not being named in the complaint, the complaint did not involve a member of the public, the incident predated the PAB, the complaint was against a Chief, the law enforcement agency is not under the PAB jurisdiction, such as the MTA Police or Maryland State Police, or no allegation of misconduct was listed. Attorney Scott noted the Administrative Charging Committee (ACC) adjudicated 19 cases and exonerated the officers on 13 charges, found no jurisdiction on 3 charges and charged officers 3 times. Attorney Scott also noted that the report recommended that the local law enforcement agencies send all complaints to the PAB within 72 hours and the various departments agreed to this timeline, when possible.

President Gregory inquired if the 72-hour requirement is in State Code and Attorney Scott noted it was not but has been brought to the States attention. She inquired if any bills are being introduced on changes for the PAB in the 2024 State Legislative Session and Attorney Scott noted not at this time. Chairman Miller noted that at the recent conference of PAB's this issue was discussed as well as other changes that may be needed for the PABs to function better. Attorney Scott noted that the PAB function basically changed the way police complaints are handled from a Grand Jury review to PAB and ACC review and then to a Court Trial Board. He also noted that any discipline notices that are issued by the ACC cannot be lowered by the local law enforcement agencies but

may be increased. Vice President Meffley inquired on the cost of the PAB and ACC so far and Attorney Scott noted this would be discussed during his budget session with Council. Councilwoman Culberson noted that a cost breakdown during the budget review should be presented and Attorney Scott noted it would. Councilwoman Hamiton inquired on the total number of police calls and what percentage of these calls resulted in a PAB complaints and Attorney Scott noted he would investigate these statistics. Vice President Meffley inquired if the PAB and ACC system results in a longer time to adjudicate complaints and Attorney Scott noted that any action on the officer is not acted upon until all appeals have been finished and this could take over a year. Councilwoman Hamiton noted that based on the numbers in the report it appears 16 cases are still under investigation and Attorney Scott noted that is his understanding. Chairman Miller thanked the County Executive and Council for its support and noted that the law enforcement agencies want to make sure that all officers uphold the high standards they set.

State Legislative Update

Councilman Culberson noted HB 0065 - Public Schools - Medical and Psychological Treatment in School-Based Health Centers and Public Schools - Parental Notice and that this would require parent consent to all medical treatment of children in school. Council agreed to send a letter of support.

President Gregory noted Council did send a letter of opposition to HB 1515, which would have added taxes to most services in Maryland. She also noted the MACo did not have any new bills for Council to consider.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Culver noted the updated Council Manager report is in the packet. He also noted that the budget sessions schedule was sent and is being revised to accommodate the schedule of three departments.

Council Member Items

Councilwoman Hamiton attended the virtual meeting with MACo and MML on the cannabis regulations and noted that Cecil County will be receiving two more licenses in this round for DEI recipients. She also noted that some participants raised concerns on the zoning regulations in Cecil County. She also noted that on March 9 she attended the NRA Banquet in Rising Sun.

Vice President Meffley noted he attended the virtual MRDC meeting, and that the State has been working with the various programs to allow them to hire people who are working on teaching certificates to teach the 3 to 4 years olds. He also attended the Mount Aviat Academy dinner and noted the annul pie auction for the oversize apple pie raised over \$3,000. He also attended the VFW breakfast in Chesapeake City on March 10, as well as the American Legion Shrimp Feast in Rising Sun. He noted the shrimp feast occurs on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month and encouraged people to attend. He also noted the Elkton Rotary Club Rod and Reel Fest is coming in April and over 150 prizes will be awarded. He said all participants will be given a rod to use if they do not have one. He also noted the Elkton Rotary Club on March 11 awarded \$10,000 in grants and this included a commitment to give the libraires \$20,000 over the next four years. He also urged everyone to attend the St. Patty's Day parade celebration in Chesapeake City on March 16. Vice President Meffley noted it is with great sadness that Grove Miller, Councilman Al Miller's father, passed away on March 11.

Councilwoman Culberson noted the intel numbers for the previous two weeks.

President Gregory noted she attended the virtual meeting of the Economic Development Commission. She also noted she visited Bay View Elementary School on March 9 and thanked Jordan Seguin for the invitation and the opportunity to see how Ms. Seguin works with the special needs children. She also attended the Elkton Community Kitchen lunch on March 9.

President Gregory announced that no further items are on the March 12, 2024 Work Session agenda.

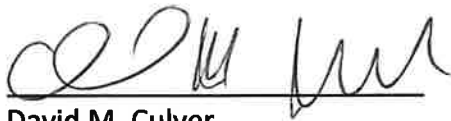
Adjournment

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton. Council President Gregory adjourned the work session at 5:19 pm.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 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