

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

July 2, 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, Al Miller, Donna Culberson and Jackie Gregory; David Culver, Council Manager; Terry Hale and Christine Palmer, Council Assistants, 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 June 25, 2024, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of Legislative Agenda

a. Public Hearings

1. Bill 2024-13 - Establishment of the Little Elk Creek Sanitary Subdistrict

Director of Administration Steven Overbay reviewed the establishment of the Little Elk Creek Sanitary Subdistrict and noted that this had been an ongoing project to provide County sewer to Triumph Industrial Park. Director Overbay noted that Triumph Industrial Park has operated its own wastewater treatment plant and collection system, but under this agreement, the plant would be discontinued and a pump station would take the wastewater to the North East Plant. The current and future users of the wastewater system in Triumph would pay a Benefit Assessment on any cost not covered by the Maryland Department of the Environment grant over 30 years.

2. Resolution 20-2024 - Charter Amendment – Term of Office – County Council

President Gregory noted this amendment would limit council members from serving more than 3 consecutive terms starting in 2028.

3. Resolution 21-2024 - Charter Amendment – Compensation – County Council

President Gregory noted this amendment would increase the compensation of Council starting in December of 2028 to \$35,000 from \$25,000. Vice President Meffley noted that, if passed, it would not become effective until 2028.

4. Resolution 22-2024 - Charter Amendment – Vacancies – County Council

President Gregory noted this amendment would clarify how vacancies on County Council would be filled based on the party affiliation of the person vacating the office at the time of election.

5. Resolution 23-2024 – Charter Amendment - Term of the County Executive – Executive

President Gregory noted this amendment would also place a three consecutive term limit of the County Executive.

6. Resolution 24-2024 - Charter Amendment – Compensation – Executive

President Gregory noted this amendment would increase the compensation of the County Executive starting in December of 2028 from \$98,000 to \$130,000 and to clarify benefits.

7. Resolution 25-2024 - Charter Amendment – Vacancy in the Office of County Executive – Executive

President Gregory noted this amendment would clarify how a vacancy in the Office of the County Executive would be filled based on the party affiliation of the person vacating the office at the time of election.

8. Resolution 26-2024 - Charter Amendment – Appointment and Removal of Department Heads and Others – Executive

President Gregory noted this amendment would clarify the time for Council to confirm appointments based on Legislative Sessions not number of days.

9. Resolution 27-2024 - Charter Amendment – Council review of contracts – Budget and Finance

President Gregory noted this amendment would correct an error in the Charter on the Council review of contracts based on other changes made to the previous amendment.

b. Introduction of Resolutions

1. Resolution 29-2024 – Resolution 29-2024 - Approval – Schneider Electric Multi-Year Contract

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted this is being funded as part of the Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) Grant. The approved three-year VLT program set aside funds for facility enhancements to help comply with the State's Climate Solution Law that mandate local governments reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by 60%. The County has used some funds for tinting the windows and changing light fixtures, but this two-year program will replace the Administrative Building HVAC and assist in the reporting on the emissions reduction. Councilwoman Culberson inquired if this is the first contract with Schneider and Director Overbay noted it was, but they have assisted in the preliminary emission reduction study. Vice President Meffley inquired if they were involved with the solar panels at the Administrative Building and Director Overbay noted they were not, however, in the future if we need to change the solar contract, they also perform that service. Councilman Miller inquired on the 20-million-dollar number and Director Overbay noted that would be the total cost of all projects that need to be completed by 2031 to meet the zero-emission mandate. Vice President Meffley noted he still has concerns on the electric vehicles and infrastructure needed to service these vehicles if the County needs to go to all EV's to meet the State goals and Director Overbay noted that is a concern that has been addressed with the State.

2. Resolution 30-2024 - Appointment—Police Accountability Board – John Gainey

County Attorney Scott noted that Stephen Miller is resigning as Chairman of the Police Accountability Board and Mr. Gainey will be the new chair. He noted that Mr. Gainey will undergo the required training in September. Councilman Miller inquired if Mr. Gainey would also serve on the ACC and Attorney Scott noted he would. Councilman Miller thanked Mr. Miller for his service.

3. Resolution 31-2024 - Appointment—Planning Commission – Chad Johnston and Bryan Dugger

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted Mr. Johnston is a reappointment and Mr. Dugger is a new appointment and both are well qualified candidates.

4. Resolution 32-2024 - Appointment—Board of License Commissioners – Kristin Ortt

County Attorney Lawrence Scott noted Ms. Ortt is a reappointment and has been an excellent Board member.

c. Consideration of Resolutions

1. Resolution 28-2024 - Appointment – Board of Library Trustees – Erin Dymowski and Jennifer Adams

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that both candidates were excellent choices.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Culver noted the updated Council Manager report is in the packet. He also noted that the July 9, 2024 Work Session was cancelled.

Council Member Items

Councilmembers deferred comments to the Legislative Session of July 2.

Adjournment

Vice President Meffley made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson. Council President Gregory adjourned the work session at 4:53 pm.

The next County Council Work Session will be held on Tuesday, July 16 at 4:30 pm in the Elk Room of the County Administrative Building. The session will be livestreamed on the County Council's webpage at www.ccgove.org/council.

Approved:



David M. Culver
Council Manager



Jackie Gregory, Council President