

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

October 8, 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; Christine Palmer, 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 four Council Members present which constitute a quorum. Councilwoman Culberson arrived at 4:37 pm.

Amended Agenda

President Gregory requested that Council amend the Work Session Agenda to move the 5 Star Presentation ahead of the Board of Health Meeting to accommodate the 5 Star meeting schedule. On a motion by Councilman Miller, seconded by Vice President Meffley the Council moved to approve the agenda change. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation

a. 5-Star Multi-Year Contract

President Gregory introduced Terry Hasseltine, President of Sport & Entertainment Corporation of Maryland (S&E), who attended the meeting virtually. President Hasseltine noted how S&E was created as a non-profit and how they interact with the other State Agencies. He reviewed the terms of the five-year agreement for the 5 Star and the potential to bring back the Fair Hill Races. He noted they own the rights to the 5 Star Event and will seek partners for the Fair Hill Races if an agreement is reached. He noted they have been in conversations with DNR and they hope to have the Fair Hill Races in 2025 depending on the availability of race dates.

Councilman Miller inquired if they have been working with any other committees or organizations on the Fair Hill Races such as the Fair Hill Foundation. President Hasseltine noted they do not have a committee and will seek to form partnerships for the Fair Hill Races. Councilman Miller inquired if the Fair Hill Foundation would be part of any committee or partnership and President Hasseltine noted they will reach out to all organizations who may be interested in the event to form the committee or partnership. Councilman Miller reviewed the history of the Fair Hill Races until they ceased several years ago and the issues with the track surface. He noted that Cecil County does have local experts who could assist with the surface issues. President Hasseltine noted they would like to engage with any local expert that could assist with the track and hopes they would be part of any committee for the Fair Hill Races. Vice President Meffley inquired on the funding for the 5 Star and the Fair Hill Races and President Hasseltine noted this is the seed money they use for the event. He also noted S&E would match the Fair Hill seed funding. Vice President Meffley inquired on DNR participation thus far and President Hasseltine noted they have been in discussions with DNR and noted DNR will need to be a partner in the Fair Hill Races. Councilman Miller inquired on the purse money for the Fair Hill Races and noted they would only have about eight to ten months to get the event together for 2025. President Hasseltine noted how the purse money is done and the need to resolve who controls the race dates. He also noted he hopes to have the race dates resolved by the first of the year. Councilman Miller inquired who would be in charge of the agreements and President Hasseltine noted S&E would create and be part of any agreement to run the event. President Gregory thanked S&E for the presentation and trying to bring back the Fair Hill Races as well as continuing the 5 Star.

Board of Health Meeting

President Gregory recessed the Work Session at 4:40 pm for the Board of Health Meeting.

President Gregory resumed the Work Session upon adjourned of the Board of Health Meeting at 5:36 pm and resumed the Work Session agenda.

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 October 1, 2024, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Culver noted the updated Council Manager report is in the packet. He also noted the upcoming MACO visit and conferences.

Council Member Items

Councilwoman Culberson noted that intel numbers were not available for the week. She also noted the MDOT CTP Tour from October 8 and that she was pleased the sidewalks for Perryville High School are finally going to be completed.

Councilman Miller also noted the MDOT CTP Tour and hopes that progress will be made on a safe crossing at Fair Hill. He also noted he attended the Harvest Dinner on October 2 and that the event is a great showcase of the local agricultural community.

Vice President Meffley noted he attended the Coffee with a Cop Event last week and that it was well attended. He also attended the Harvest Dinner and noted it is a great event to attend because of the local agriculture products that are used. He also attended First Friday in Elkton on October 4 and as well as participated in Cecil Cares event. He also attended the Taste of Chesapeake City Event on October 5 and noted it had a great turnout. He also noted the MDOT CTP Tour and the need for road improvements between Route 40 and Chesapeake City.

Councilwoman Hamilton noted she also attended the Harvest Dinner. She also participated in the Cecil Cares Event and volunteered at Brantwood Park and Deep Roots. She also attended the MDOT CTP Tour virtually and thanked our local delegation, especially Senator Hershey, on bringing up the issues with electric vehicles fees and how the weight of these vehicles is having an adverse impact on roads and bridges.

President Gregory noted that the Cecil Cares Event is also this upcoming Friday and that volunteer opportunities still exists. She also noted she attended a seminar with MACO on solar sites and that the State may override local zoning protections to promote solar fields. She noted this may have an adverse impact on protecting valuable farmland. She also noted she attended the Harvest Dinner and that it is amazing that all the food at the event was locally grown raised. She also noted she attended the Port Deposit State Park Meeting on October 7 and they discussed preservation of the Snow Hill and Tome School area. She noted that DNR is drafting the report that should be sent to the State by early 2025.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton. Council President Gregory adjourned the work session at 5:49 pm.

The next County Council Work Session will be held on Tuesday, October 15 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.



David M. Culver
Council Manager

Approved:

Jackie Gregory, Council President