

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

February 4, 2025

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 Dawn Branch; David Culver, Council Manager; Christine Palmer, Council Assistant, members of the administration and members of the public.

Call to Order

President Miller 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 Vice President Meffley, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of January 28, 2025, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation

a. Dr. Mary Bolt – Cecil Community College

Dr. Bolt gave an overview of the projects and programs at Cecil College. She noted that the new facilities building was about 65% complete and on schedule. She also noted that the new road was going to be named Mary Maloney Boulevard and the new entrance from Route 272 was cleared and the stone subbase installed. Dr. Bolt reviewed the current budget constraints and noted that a recent study indicated that Cecil College has an economic impact over \$198,000,000 annually to the Cecil County community. She also reviewed the Cade Funding Formula for the State and noted that since FY98 the State only fully funded this formula in 3 fiscal years. She also noted that the County only gave two increases to Cecil College over the last 5 fiscal years. Dr. Bolt noted that the funding for the college mostly comes from the State, County and tuition, but they also apply for grants. Dr. Bolt reviewed the many programs offered, including the summer camps. She also reviewed the new programs that included Emergency Medicine Technician, LDC Hospitality Management, LDC Data Science, AAS Skilled Trades, Basic Electrical, Manufacturing Technician, Equine Studies, Utility Training and Solar Technician Program. She also noted the workforce programs Automotive Repair, Basic Construction Skills, Basic Electrical, Diesel Technology, Heavy Equipment Operations, HVAC/R, Marine Service Technology, Pest Management, Utility Training, Welding and CDL. Dr. Bolt also reviewed the Amazon Career Choice Program, Delmarva Power Training Program, Accelerated Nursing Program and Cybersecurity Program. She reviewed the new service for students including mental health service, transit, emergency grants, laptop program and new student spaces. Dr. Bolt also reviewed the partnership with the Cecil County Public School and the Susquehanna Workforce for job training. She also reviewed the Early College Academy for high school students and the success of that program. She also noted the annual Collegium de Vinum Gala is on April 12 and that it is a major fundraiser for the Cecil College Foundation and hopes the Council will attend.

President Miller noted the Cecil Foundation does a fantastic job in awarding scholarships and Dr. Bolt noted it was one of the highest foundations in the State for awarding scholarships. Councilwoman Culberson inquired on pending State legislation that affects the College funding and if Council could support any bills to help the college and Dr. Bolt noted the reconciliation bills often will cut funding at the end of the session and that she will send bills to Council for review that affect the College. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired on how the Cade funding is allocated and Cecil College Director of Finance Craig Whiteford reviewed the formula and how it is allocated to the 2- and 4-year colleges. Councilwoman Hamilton also inquired on State legislation and its impact on the College and Dr. Bolt noted that many of the bills that have mandates on business will affect the college and she will send those bills of interest to Council for review. Director Whiteford also noted pending state legislation and its impact. Councilwoman Culberson inquired on the early College option for high school students and how they are admitted into the program and Dr. Bolt noted that it is available to all high schools and the students who apply are reviewed by a selection committee. Vice President Meffley inquired if the new facilities building was LEEDS certified, and Dr. Bolt noted that it will receive a LEEDS certification upon completion, and this is a State

requirement. Councilwoman Hamilton noted that Cecil College is a great resource, keeps pace with the changing business needs and offers relevant programs like cybersecurity.

Review of Legislative Agenda

a. Introduction of Resolutions

1. Resolution No. 10-2025 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Human Services Division – Rape Crisis Funding

Director for Community Services David Trolie noted this grant comes from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy and is for \$50,000 to provide service to the rape crisis center. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if this is a recurring grant and can it be added to the budget and Director Trolie noted that it is and that they are working with Finance on the mechanism to include grants into the budget, but grants do vary from year to year. Councilwoman Culberson noted that Community Services does a great job in getting these grants and providing these services.

2. Resolution No. 11-2025 - Appointment – Public Safety Pension Plan Board of Trustees – Tyler Adams

Director of Administrator Dan Schneckenburger noted Mr. Adams is a new appointment to the Pension Board and this will fill all vacancies on this Boards. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if this position is mandated by Code and Director Schneckenburger noted it is and Mr. Adams is the required community member. Councilwoman Culberson requested his application be forwarded to Council and Director Schneckenburger noted it would be sent.

3. Resolution No. 12-2025 - Appointment—Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board – Patrick Campbell

Director of Administrator Dan Schneckenburger noted Mr. Campbell is required to be appointed based on his new position with Cecil County.

b. Consideration of Resolutions

1. Resolution No. 03-2025 - Supplemental Appropriation - Grant Funds - Emergency Services - Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted this grant is from Christiana Care and it will fund a paramedic position that would visit homes that had multiple calls for service to assist the family in providing the needed care to reduce calls.

2. Resolution No. 04-2025 - Appointment – Board of Parks and Recreation – Megan Coleman, Donald Harmer, Kristen Lehr and Bernard Brown

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted all of these individuals are being reappointed and are excellent board members.

3. Resolution No. 05-2025 - Appointment - Soil Conservation Board - Bruce Yerkes

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted Mr. Yerkes is a reappointment and he has also been an excellent board member. President Miller concurred with that statement.

4. Resolution No. 06-2025 - Appointment – Board of Library Trustees – Shirley McCrary-Simmons, Joanne Morton, Jonathan Stauffer

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted these individuals were recommended by the Board of Library Trustees and they serve staggered terms.

5. Resolution No. 07-2025 - Appointment - Local Government Justice Reinvestment Commission – Captain William Jolly

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted that Captain Jolly has been serving on this Commission, but no resolution was ever introduced.

6. Resolution No. 08-2025 - Appointment – Public Safety Pension Plan Board of Trustees – Dan Schneckenburger, Patrick Campbell, and Sally Dulin

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted these appointments are based on the Code language on who shall serve on the Pension Board. Councilwoman Culberson inquired on the number of people on this Board and Director Schneckenburger noted seven members. Councilwoman Hamilton noted these members are appointed because of the position they hold and Director Schneckenburger concurred.

7. Resolution No. 09-2025 - Supplemental Appropriation – FY25 - General Fund Balance – Cecil County Public Schools – Small Capital Investment Projects

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted these projects listed in the exhibit were based upon discussions with the Board of Education and reflect projects that have been deferred during the prior several budget cycles.

Councilwoman Culberson requested clarification on the paving projects and the status of parking lot at Rising Sun Elementary and Facilities Supervisor Brain Rimel reviewed the projects and noted Rising Sun Elementary was a temporary fix and a complete redesign of the parking is needed. Dr. Lawson reviewed the situation with the parking at that school and the stacking issues that occur. Councilwoman Culberson inquired if any bids have been put out for these projects and Facilities Supervisor Andrew Curran noted they do not go out to bid until funding is in place. Councilwoman Culberson inquired if the work would be done by the end of the summer and could they use the BOE Fund Balance and add this funding to the FY26 Budget. Dr. Lawson noted they would try to get the work done by the end of the summer and that they could not commit the BOE Fund Balance at this point in time because he is uncertain of how much would be needed to balance the FY 26 Budget. Councilwoman Branch reviewed the BOE small capital budget for the past several years and noted many of these projects were requested and not funded. Councilwoman Hamilton asked for confirmation that the funds may only go to these projects and the money is sent as a reimbursement and Acting Director of Finance Andrew Ondish noted that was correct. Councilwoman Hamilton also inquired on the paving repairs and Supervisor Curran noted it was cutting out bad spots and repaving them, not just filling potholes. Supervisor Rimel also noted they are piggybacking off the County contract for this work and that will help reduce costs. Councilwoman Culberson inquired if the unused funds on a project would be returned to the General Fund Balance and Acting Director Ondish noted they would but if one of the approved projects needed additional funds they may be able to move the funds around, but if more funds are needed than what his resolution allocated the Council would need to be approved. Councilwoman Hamilton requested an update on the projects at the end of the summer and Dr. Lawson noted they would provide a status update.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Culver noted the updated Council Manager report is in the packet.

Legislative Update

President Miller reviewed the legislative form he sent out on how Council should consider legislation. Councilwoman Culberson noted she does review the legislation before bringing it to Council and again asked for letters of support for the schools' safety bills, HB0137 - Public Schools - Children Charged With a Crime of Violence - Prohibition on In-Person Attendance (School Safety Act of 2025) and HB0068 Public Schools - Children Suspected of a Crime of Violence - Prohibition on In-Person Attendance, and a letter of opposing HB0282 Public Schools - Sexually Explicit Materials - Prohibited in Libraries and Media Centers that she brought up at the last Work Session. President Miller noted the fiscal impact on HB0068 was significant and Councilwoman Culberson noted it will provide for safer schools. President Miller also noted that it may not be permissible to give that information to the schools and Councilwoman Culberson indicated that it was her understanding in a discussion with Dr. Lawson that information could be disclosed. Councilwoman Branch noted that the school does not currently get that type of information and noted this could violate a person rights. Councilwoman Culberson noted that these bills would close a loophole and make schools safer for students. President Miller reminded councilmembers they could send letters on bills as long as they do so as an individual councilperson and not on behalf of the entire Council. President Miller also discussed SB0355 Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Delay of Implementation and noted this bill would help small business. Councilwoman Hamilton noted that this bill would delay the program two years but the program, once implement, will hurt small

businesses. Councilwoman Hamilton reported on the Legislative Session and the MACO Legislative Committee.

Council Member Items

Council members deferred comments to the Legislative Session of February 4, 2025.

Adjournment

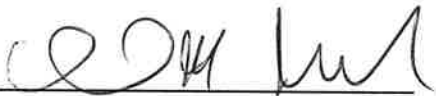
Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley. President Miller adjourned the work session at 5:38 pm.

The next County Council Work Session will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 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.ccgov.org/council.

Approved:



Al Miller
Council President



David M. Culver
Council Manager