

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

February 11, 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 two Council Members (Miller, Meffley) in the Chamber and three members were virtual (Hamilton, Culberson, Branch) 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 February 4, 2025, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation

a. 1st Quarter Fiscal Report for FY25

Acting Director of Finance Andrew Ondish gave an overview of the 1st Quarter Fiscal Report for FY25. Acting Director Ondish noted that the overall budget for both revenue and expenditures are on target for FY25. He noted that the property tax revenue is up and should exceed the budgeted amount. He also noted that expenses are mostly on target with the Department of Emergency Services showing the largest variance in the 1st Quarter. He also noted that the bond interest rates are higher because of the latest bond issuance. President Miller inquired why some of the departments are higher than 25% and Acting Director Ondish noted it is mostly because of timing on payments, such as insurance. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired on the higher Emergency Services cost and Acting Director Ondish noted salaries and equipment purchases that were made. Acting Director Ondish reviewed the revenues in more detail as well as the inter-governmental transfers. Councilwoman Hamilton comment that this report format is helpful and Acting Director Ondish noted that going forward this is what will be presented to Council at the end of each quarter. Councilwoman Culberson inquired on the Adult Daycare expense and Acting Director Ondish noted that the breakout for the Adult Daycare is new in the budget and that is why it does not show any history. Councilwoman Culberson also inquired on the changes in the funding for the Health Department and Acting Director Ondish noted that this is also a timing issue on grants. Acting Director Ondish also noted that income tax is received from the State on a different schedule and that is why it looks different in the report. Acting Director Ondish also reviewed the Video Lottery revenues. Vice President Meffley inquired on why Perryville received a portion of the funding and not the other municipalities and Acting Director Ondish noted that is the agreement since the casino is in the town limits of Perryville and they provide them services such as police. Councilwoman Culberson noted that the gaming proceeds are supposed to go to the schools and it was noted that this is just the local share and the rest of the funds go to the State who distributes the proceeds to the schools statewide. It was also noted that these funds were helping to fund the Blueprint for Education. Acting Director Ondish also reviewed the Enterprise Funds and noted they are also on target and the investment earnings are performing well at this point in the budget year. Vice President Meffley also commented on the permit fees and hopes that the process will get better. Acting Director Ondish noted they will continue to monitor the revenue from the permit fees, landfill and wastewater services and request necessary adjustments as needed from Council.

Council Manager Report

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

Legislative Update

President Miller inquired if Council had any State legislation to review with the rest of Council. Councilwoman Hamilton reported on the MACO Legislative Committee and that MACO is still testifying on the legislation that the Committee has taken a position on and that no new major issues have occurred since the last meeting.

Council Member Items

President Miller inquired if the Councilmembers had any updates and the Council deferred comments to next week.

CLOSED SESSION

President Miller announced that the Council is going into Closed Session and asked Council Manager Culver to read the announcement.

Council Manager Culver announced that County Council is entering a closed session pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions §3-305 (b)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

Council President Miller asked for a motion to recess the work session and to go into a closed session.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to go into closed session, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

Roll Call Vote

Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller - Y

The motion was approved 5 to 0

Council President Miller recessed the work session at 5:09 pm.

Council President called the Closed Meeting to Order at 5:16 pm.

PRESENT: Council Members: Robert Meffley, Rebecca Hamilton, Al Miller, and Dawn Branch; Sally Dulin, Director of Human Resources, David Culver, Council Manager; Christine Palmer, Council Assistant

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to open the closed session, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley.

Roll Call Vote

Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller - Y

The motion was approved 5 to 0

Council Manger Culver recused himself from the meeting at 5:19.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to adjourn the closed session, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll Call Vote

Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller - Y

The motion was approved 5 to 0

President Miller adjourned the closed session at 6:13 pm.

Councilwoman Branch made a motion to reconvene the work session, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll Call Vote

Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller - Y

The motion was approved 5 to 0

President Miller reconvened the work session at 6:14 pm

President Miller announced that no further items are on the February 11, 2025 Work Session agenda.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley. President Miller adjourned the work session at 6:14 pm.

The next County Council Work Session will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 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