

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

March 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, 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 four Council Members present and one absent 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 February 25, 2025, as presented. The motion passed 4 to 0 with 1 absent.

Presentation

Enterprise Zones

Director of Economic Development Sandra Edwards gave a presentation on Enterprise Zones. She noted that the State's budget is proposing a phase out of the Enterprise Zones and a recent amendment was proposed to allow them to remain but phase out the State's contributions. Director Edwards noted that Enterprise Zones were first approved in 1982 to encourage growth and development in areas that were economically depressed and had to meet one of the four criteria to qualify. She noted that the State currently has 36 designated zones. Director Edwards noted that the Cecil County Enterprise Zone contains 8,148 acres across the County and the entire zone is connected through roads right of way. She also noted that the Cecil County Enterprise Zone was just reapproved by Council for another 10 years in 2023. She also noted that businesses that would like to participate have to meet the criteria that include being a new or expansion of an existing business, be in good standing with State and County and add additional full-time employees. She also noted that the businesses could also qualify for other programs such as tax credits. Director Edwards reviewed how the ten-year tax credits worked and that the State would reimburse the County 50% of the property tax credit. Director Edwards noted that over the past ten years the Enterprise Zone created \$41,072,580.78 in taxes, created over 5,000 new jobs and over one and a half billion dollars in investments. She also noted that the last 6 projects have brought in approximately \$33,000,000 in tax revenue over the past several years. She also noted that Cecil County was one of the top five counties in Enterprise Zones investments. Director Edwards noted the accomplishments at Bainbridge, Elkton Commerce Center, Principio Industrial Park, North East Commerce and Northrup Grumman. Director Edwards noted that the Enterprise Zones are the most valuable tool for attracting business.

Councilwoman Culberson inquired if the amendment to the legislation would phase out the State's reimbursement and Director Edwards noted it would. Vice President Meffley inquired what would be the County's plan if the Enterprise Zone are phased out and Director of Administration Dan Schneckeburger noted the County is lobbying to keep the Enterprise Zones but would look for new options to encourage economic development. President Miller and Councilwoman Branch both noted this is a good program and hopes the State will allow this to continue. County Executive Adam Streight agreed with Council and noted they are continuing to provide data to the State on the value of this program and the job creation it has enabled. He also encouraged everybody to reach out to the State officials to reinforce the value of the Enterprise Zones.

Review of Legislative Agenda

a. Introduction of Resolutions

- 1. Resolution 17-2025 – Supplemental Appropriation – Donation – Department of Park and Recreation – Facilities Maintenance Account**

Director of Administration Dan Schneckeburger noted this is a \$10,000 donation from W.L Gore to allow the purchase of playground equipment.

2. Resolution 18-2025 - Appointment—Adult Public Guardianship Review Board - Lisa Beeman, E. Sean Poltrack, Erin Bird, Stacy Kortas and Mary Falkenstein

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted these appointments are well qualified and that this Board is critical for assistance in guardianship cases. Vice President Meffley inquired if this will fill this Board and Director Schneckenburger noted it will.

3. Resolution 19-2025 - Appointments—Department of Social Services Board – Glenn Jensen, Berkeley Orr, and Abigail Hooper

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted this, along with Resolution 16-2025 will fill this Board and these individuals are also well qualified, President Miller noted that his father, Grove Miller, served on this Board for a long time and always spoke highly of the great things they accomplished.

b. Consideration of Resolutions

1. Resolution 13-2025 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – ENOUGH Act Local Management Board Capacity Building Grant

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted that Community Services David Trolie did a presentation to Council on the ENOUGH Act initiative (Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households) and the overarching goal of this program is eradicating childhood poverty.

2. Resolution 14-2025 - Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance – Roads Division – Department of Public Works – Asphalt Overlay

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted that Director of Public Works Scott Flanigan created a map showing the proposed 14 miles of road segments scheduled for asphalt overlay. President Miller noted that the map was well done and Director Flanigan noted that David Black assisted in creating the map.

3. Resolution 15-2025 - Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund – Department of Parks and Recreation – Program Open Space – County Matching

Acting Director of Finance Andrew Ondish noted this resolution is the County's match portion of the State Program Open Space funding and will be used to repave the parking lot at Brantwood and for new turf and new HVAC system at Cecil Arena. Vice President Meffley inquired in the equipment replacement at Brantwood that was damaged was underway and Director of Parks and Recreation Clyde Van Dyke noted it was ongoing. He also noted the State may defer future Open Space funding from FY 26 to FY29. President Miller noted the State is also proposing the same deferment for ag preservation and hopes they will reconsider and fund these programs.

4. Resolution 16-2025 - Appointments - Department of Social Services Board

Director of Administrator Dan Schneckenburger noted these three appointments will fill the board along with resolution 19-2025. Vice President Meffley inquired on if they were appointments or reappointments and Director Schneckenburger noted 2 were new appointments. Councilwoman Culberson requested that the language in the resolution as it relates to the appointments and reappointments be confirmed prior to the Legislative Meeting.

c. New Business

Appointment – Director of Finance

County Executive Adam Streight reviewed the resume of Raymond Hamm. He noted that Mr. Hamm has 47 years of experience in the banking industry and served on numerous boards and commissions and is highly qualified. Vice President Meffley noted Mr. Hamm is well qualified and is well known and respected in the community and will be a great addition to the Finance Department. Mr. Hamm thanked Council for the opportunity and noted the Acting Director Andrew Ondish is a valuable asset to the County and has done a remarkable job in the brief time he has been here. Mr. Hamm noted he looks forward to working with the county executive and the

entire staff. President Miller thanked Mr. Hamm for his many years of service and Mr. Hamm noted the many challenges coming and pledged he will work with Council to ensure transparency.

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 new concerns on any bills they would like to discuss and Council noted no new issues.

Council Member Items

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

Adjournment

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley. President Miller adjourned the work session at 5:12 pm.

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