

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY

WORK SESSION MINUTES

June 10, 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; L. Michelle Henson, 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 Councilwoman Branch, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council Work Session of June 3, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentations

a. IT Broadband Update – Information Technology – Director Dave Warnick

Information Technology (IT) Director Dave Warnick and GIS Manager David Black provided an update regarding the extension of Broadband Internet services to approximately 1800 homes and businesses that were previously unserved. GIS Manager Black provided a Power Point presentation of the project, a copy of which was placed in the record of the minutes.

GIS Manager Black stated the \$27 million project, initiated in 2014, has been funded via grants from a variety of sources.

Vice President Meffley commended the success of the project, stating residents and businesses in District 1 are well served.

President Miller, referring to the Fair Hill Nature Center, queried if the area south of Telegraph Road will receive service. GIS Manager Black stated the area has received service and requested a specific location to determine if service is lacking, adding that he will provide “as-built” drawings to illustrate where fiber has been placed throughout the area.

Councilwoman Branch thanked Director Warnick and GIS Manager Black for their efforts and success of the project.

b. Elk and North East Rivers Watershed Association Update – Mr. Mark Dobbins

Mr. Mark Dobbins, representing the Elk and North East Rivers Watershed Association (ENERWA), provided an update regarding the group’s Water Quality Report for 2024. Mr. Dobbins provided an overview of ENERWA goals, event participation, community education and water sampling programs via Power Point presentation, a copy of which was placed in the record of the minutes.

Mr. Dobbins stated ENERWA is an all-volunteer organization that conducts water quality testing at specific sites throughout the county.

Mr. Dobbins expressed appreciation for Cecil County’s donation of \$4,500, which was utilized for preparation and mailing expenses associated with water quality report cards.

President Miller recessed the Work Session at 5:14 p.m. to conduct the Board of Health meeting.

President Miller reconvened the Work Session upon adjournment of the Board of Health meeting at 6:06 p.m. and resumed the Work Session agenda.

Council Manager Report

The Council Manager Report was included in the Council’s meeting packet.

Council Member Items

Councilwoman Branch, referring to a request from the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) for a list of Cecil County’s legislative priorities, asked Council to provide input.

The Council identified the following priorities: 1. Retention of local zoning authority, particularly with respect to housing and solar projects; 2. Addressing of unfunded mandates associated with Blueprint and unrealistic timeframes for implementation of Blueprint goals; 3. Retention of local authority

regarding permitting of solar facilities on agricultural land; 4. Addressing the passing of costs to Counties in order to balance the State budget.

Council Manager Henson was directed to forward the information to MACo.

Closed Session

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

Council Manager Henson announced that the Council was entering a Closed Session pursuant to Statutory Authority to Close Session, General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland §3-305(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.

President Miller requested a motion to recess the Work Session to conduct a Closed Session.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to go into 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 – 0

President Miller recessed the Work Session at 6:10 p.m.

PRESENT: Vice President Meffley, Councilwoman Hamilton, Councilwoman Culberson, President Miller, Councilwoman Branch, Council Manager Henson, Council Assistant Palmer.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to adjourn the Closed Session at 7:23 p.m., which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The motion was approved 5 – 0

President Miller adjourned the Closed Session at 7:23 p.m.

President Miller reconvened the Work Session at 7:24 p.m.

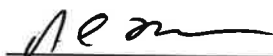
President Miller announced there were no additional items on the June 10, 2025 Work Session agenda.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch. President Miller adjourned the work session at 7:25 pm.

The next County Council Work Session will be held on Tuesday, June 17, 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.ccgove.org/council.

Approved:



Al Miller, Council President



L. Michelle Henson
Council Manager