

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY

WORK SESSION MINUTES

June 17, 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 10, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentations

Voices of Hope Update – Mr. Aaron Wright and Ms. Erin Wright

Mr. Aaron Wright, General Programs Manager, and Ms. Erin Wright, Chief Operations Officer, provided a Power Point Presentation of services and programs offered by Voices of Hope, a copy of which was placed in the record of the minutes.

Mr. Wright stated Voices of Hope offers support services 24 hours per day / 365 days per year, including treatment, peer/family support, housing and transportation.

Ms. Wright stated the Cecil County Sheriff's Office purchased a telephone which was placed at the Cecil County Detention Center for newly released persons to contact Voices of Hope directly to arrange transportation, support, etc., adding that Voices of Hope will also arrange transportation for a person to return to their home state if requested.

Ms. Wright stated that Voices of Hope will offer mental health support beginning July 1st.

Ms. Wright noted that the Voice of Hope Overdose Awareness Vigil will take place at the North East Park on August 31st from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Vice President Meffley queried if transportation expenses are included in Voices of Hope's grant applications. Mr. Wright answered in the affirmative, stating all grant applications include requests for emergency funds, which include transportation, clothing, obtaining new license / identification, etc. Mr. Wright stated Voices of Hope strives to remove every barrier to recovery.

Vice President Meffley queried if Voices of Hope has professional staff to address mental health issues. Ms. Wright stated they are advertising for a mental health peer / recovery specialist.

Councilwoman Branch commended Voices of Hope, stating their efforts have saved lives of drug users as well as their families.

Councilwoman Culberson expressed appreciation for the efforts of Voices of Hope and queried if donations are needed for the recovery house.

Ms. Wright stated that staff from the Office of the Public Defender donated most of the basic household items needed at the recovery house, adding that she will develop a list of needed items, adding that children's supplies are always welcomed.

Councilwoman Culberson queried if there is an age limit for children at the Mommy and Me house.

Ms. Wright stated Voices of Hope does not want to implement an age restriction for children, reiterating the group's goal of eliminating any barriers to providing treatment services.

Councilwoman Culberson queried if assistance was offered to children of users. Mr. Wright stated Voices of Hope's goal of coordinating with all levels of service providers in Cecil County to assist families of users.

Review of Legislative Agenda, as amended

President Miller requested approval to amend the agenda by moving item d. New Business Cecil County Public School Budget Amendments #135 and #136 to the beginning of the Review of Legislative Agenda and by amending item b. Introduction of Resolutions by adding Mr. Mark Freese to the appointees identified in Resolution No. 43-2025.

On a motion made by Councilwoman Hamilton, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, the Council moved to amend the Review of Legislative Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

d. Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #135

Cecil County Public Schools (CCPS) Chief Financial Officer Denise M. Sopha stated the presentation of Budget Amendment #135 was delayed due to County FY26 Budget Hearings.

Ms. Sopha reviewed restricted and unrestricted revenue which included donations from Mitsubishi, the American Legion, Great Wolf Lodge, and grant funds from the Cecil County Health Department. She noted that, upon guidance from the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), vehicle and equipment leases are now recorded at the beginning of the term as revenue and expense for the full value of the leased item.

Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #136

Ms. Sopha reviewed restricted and unrestricted revenue which included donations from York Building Products, Chesapeake City Elementary PTO, Business and Education Partnership Advisory Council (BEPAC) and the Cecil County Office of Economic Development.

Ms. Sopha reviewed expenditures which included increased costs for healthcare and wages for staff who receive salaries over the summer months.

President Miller noted that York Building Products have supported CCPS in the past.

Councilwoman Hamilton, referring to a donation from Great Wolf Lodge, queried if there was a culinary program at Perryville High School. CCPS Superintendent Lawson stated Perryville High offers a culinary program, noting it is not on the scale of that offered by Cecil County School of Technology.

- a. Public Hearing – Resolution No. 43-2025 – Annexation – Town of Elkton – 812 and 814 East Pulaski Highway (Tax Map 033C, Parcel 0607 and 0608) and 344 Maloney Road (Tax Map 033C, Parcel 077). Council Manager Henson noted the applicant will request Expedited Legislation.

Administrator Schneckenburger stated that he would defer comments until the Public Hearing.

- b. Introduction of Resolutions

- 1) Resolution No. 43-2025 – Appointment – Cecil County Plumbing Board – Ronald Dixon, Jesse Foster and Mark Freese.

Administrator Schneckenburger stated that the Administration is repopulating the Plumbing Board, and the receipt of Mr. Freese's application had been delayed, hence the late addition.

- 2) Resolution No. 44-2025 – Appointment – Board of License Commissioners – Bernard Chiominto

Administrator Schneckenburger stated Mr. Chiominto is being appointed to replace Mr. Russ Johnson, whose term is expiring.

- c. Consideration of Resolutions

- 1) Resolution No. 43-2025 – Annexation – Town of Elkton – 812 and 814 East Pulaski Highway (Tax Map 033C, Parcel 0607 and 0608) and 344 Maloney Road (Tax Map 033C, Parcel 077).

Council Manager Henson noted the applicant will request Expedited Legislation.

- 2) Resolution No. 42-2025 – Appointment – Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board – Wayne Tome, Sr.

Administrator Schneckenburger stated the Water Witch Fire Company, Port Deposit, requested the appointment of Mr. Wayne Tome, Sr. to replace outgoing board member Jeffrey Hennemuth.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Henson stated the report was included in the Council's meeting packet.

Council Member Items

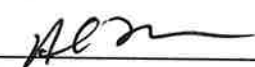
Council Member items were deferred to the Legislative Session at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch. President Miller adjourned the work session at 5:24 pm.

The next County Council Work Session will be held on Tuesday, June 24, 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