

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
February 26, 2019**

PRESENT: Council Members: Robert Meffley, William Coutz, Al Miller, George Patchell and Jackie Gregory; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant; members of the press; and members of the public.

OPEN SESSION – Elk Room

9:00 A.M. –Council President Meffley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and determined a quorum.

NOTE: Audio and video recording with transcription of this meeting are available on the County website www.ccgov.org.

Council President Meffley asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mary Jo Jablonski, whose funeral services will be held today.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of February 19, 2019, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

Drug and Alcohol Overdose Update

Laurie Humphries, Acting Health Officer, introduced the speakers who included Beth Creek, Executive Director of Youth Empowerment Source; Virgil Boysaw, Coordinator of the Cecil County Drug-Free Coalition; Ray Lynn, Heroin Coordinator of the Cecil County Sheriff's Office; and Sheriff Scott Adams. Ms. Humphries stated that Cecil County has been recognized statewide because of the partnerships with these organizations.

Mr. Lynn provided statistics and illustrations of the trends of overdose occurrences in Cecil County, which are more current than the statistics provided by the Maryland Department of Health. He provided a comparison of 2017 and 2018 and discussed the trends. In 2018, he reported that there were 656 overdose occurrences, which included 64 fatalities and 592 non-fatalities. He stated that the occurrences match population centers including Elkton, North East and the Route 40 corridor. He stated that these occurrences included 93% opioids, 7% prescription medication, and 22% polydrug use. He also stated that 68% of the occurrences received Narcan. He provided statistics about the average demographics of users. He reported that 88% of the fatalities was caused by Fentanyl use, 7% by heroin, 3% by prescription opiates, and 2% by amphetamines (Adderall). He stated that 50 children in Cecil County lost a parent in 2018 to substance abuse. In comparing the trends, overdose occurrences have increased by 14% while fatal overdoses have decreased by 17%. He suggested that fatal overdoses have decreased because of the increase in the availability of Naloxone, improved victim response and outreach by the Peer Recovery Specialists, increase in communications, expansion of treatment and recovery services, improved drug trafficking investigations, and increase in community and youth support services. He also stated that increase

in overdose occurrences may be the result of an increase in availability of Fentanyl, family history, the crackdown of prescription drugs, and an increase in use of Methamphetamine. He also stated that he was successful in receiving a \$2M grant to support county organizations for prevention, treatment, recovery and enforcement.

Beth Creek and Virgil Boysaw reported on collaborative efforts to reduce the use of drugs by youth. Mr. Boysaw discussed the Drug-Free Community Coalition, which has connected resources and organizations to leverage resources. Ms. Creek reported that the Youth Empowerment Source has worked to lobby for state legislation to educate alcohol servers to be certified. She also stated that a Youth Coalition on Substance Abuse has been established to bring high school representatives together on a monthly basis to discuss and propose solutions to substance abuse. She also announced that a countywide youth rally is planned on May 11, 2019 at Cecil College.

Sheriff Adams discussed his concern over the trend to legalize marijuana and the vaping products, which he stated are a gateway to other drugs. He is also concerned over the decriminalization of marijuana users may result in increased usage. He stated that law enforcement are facing impaired driving occurrences without an effective test for documentation.

Council questions and comments ensued.

Rising Sun Water Service Expansion

Town of Rising Sun officials, Mayor Travis Marion and Calvin Bonenberger, Town Administrator, addressed their proposal to expand water services. Mayor Marion discussed the importance of water and sewer for economic opportunities. He cited Calvert Regional Park and the designation of Fair Hill as a five star event venue as evidence of the county's support for these projects. He explained that the Town of Rising Sun is proposing to be a part of this economic opportunity. He stated that he had met with county officials to discuss their plans to obtain water from Chester Water Authority because of the Town's falling wells. He stated that the State had been supportive of the Town's proposal to obtain water up to 1M GPD. He stated that the County has set up road blocks for the Town's proposal. He hopes that this can be resolved so that the Town can establish a stable business environment.

Mr. Bonenberger provided a history of the Town's water and sewerage situation that resulted in a moratorium on growth in their service area. He explained that the Town negotiated with the Chester Water Authority to bring water to the Town by receiving a grant. He stated that the Town does not want to change the rural character of northern Cecil County, but cited several developments that will be occurring, which included the need for lodging for Calvert Regional Park, Fair Hill's designation as a five star event venue, and requests for services from residents and businesses. He illustrated the Town's proposal for three phases of growth. He also illustrated the Town's proposal for annexation of properties into the town limits. He cited that the Town's growth plan is not consistent with the County's Comprehensive Plan. He stated that the Town received requests to add water service to the east, including Southern States and Ramsey Ford dealership. He also stated that there was a need for water service to Plumpton Park Zoo, Calvert Elementary School, Rising Sun High School and Calvert Manor Nursing Home. He also stated that requests for

expansion to the south of the Town were received from Rising Sun Elementary School, West Nottingham Academy and Hunter's Sale Barn. He also illustrated the Town's plan for water and sewer expansion. He stated that the Rural Legacy Area was changed in 2017 and surrounds the Town's boundaries. He stated that he hopes that the County will agree to work out these issues so that the Town can grow in a consistent manner without changing the rural character of this area.

Council President Meffley stated that the County Council is not involved in this situation, and that the Town should be working this out with the County Executive and the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Council questions and comments ensued.

Review of State Legislation

Mr. Massey provided an update of the current status of state legislation that the Council had taken a position.

Vice President Gregory asked the Council to send a letter of support for SB 40 regarding modifying the requirements for prevailing wage for school construction projects, a letter of opposition to SB 285/HB 109 regarding a ban on polystyrene food service products, and a letter of opposition to HB 612 regarding a ban on Colt AF-15 rifles. The Council agreed by consensus to take these positions.

Adjournment

Due to funeral services scheduled for Mary Jo Jablonski, Council President Meffley asked for an adjournment. Councilman Coutz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Councilman Miller. Council President Meffley adjourned the Council work session at 11:03 a.m.

The next Council work session will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 9 am.

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:



Robert Meffley,
Council President