

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
April 23, 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](http://www.ccgov.org).

**CLOSED SESSION**

**April 16, 2019**

**10:10 a.m.**

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to convene in closed session pursuant to the Annotated Code of Maryland General Provisions Article, Section 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.

Role Call Vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y.  
The motion was carried by a vote of 5 to 0.

The Council discussed the appointment of an official. The Council agreed to request legal advice from the Council Attorney.

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to conclude the closed session at 10:58 a.m.

The motion was carried by a vote of 5 to 0.

Roll Call Vote: Meffley - Y, Gregory-Y, Patchell - Y, Coutz - Y and Miller - Y.

**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 April 16, 2019, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously.

On a motion made by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Coutz, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council closed session of April 16, 2019, as presented. Motion was approved unanimously

### **Elkton Resource Center**

Mike Brandon, Executive Director of the Paris Foundation, explained the history of the Elkton Resource Clinic event, which was held at the Family Education Center in Hollingsworth Manor on April 6, 2019.

He stated that the Cecil County Department of Community Services and the Local Management Board worked with the Maryland Rural Development Corporation, which manages the Family Education Center building, on a project to revitalize the Hollingsworth Manor community.

Mr. Brandon stated that citizen focus groups were organized to identify the problems, needs and possible solutions. He stated that a resident leadership team was developed over the winter. The group's efforts brought other organizations together, including the Voices of Hope, a grass roots recovery organization. Local pastors contacted Unsheltered International, a faith based national effort focused on the homeless, which agreed to bring their resources to the one-day clinic. He said that the Paris Foundation agreed to be the host of Elkton Resource Clinic.

Mr. Brandon stated that Unsheltered International provided a manual that included guidelines for services to be provided, including haircuts, resume writing, birth certificate assistance, eyeglasses, health care, food and many giveaways. He stated that the Hollingsworth Manor residents have organized themselves and have produced a newsletter. He stated that Unsheltered International agreed to come back on April 25, 2020 and conduct a similar event.

Mr. Brandon stated that similar strategies could be used to revitalize other neighborhoods here. He stated that the success of this revitalization efforts can be attributed to empowering the residents to organize and let them keep going.

Council questions and comments ensued.

### **Council Manager Report**

Mr. Massey updated Council Members about upcoming meetings and events.

### **Council Member Items**

Councilman Patchell commented on the beautiful Easter weekend and the number of residents who were out enjoying activities with their families.

Councilman Miller is working with the Soil Conservation District and Cecilton Volunteer Fire Company to address the need for dry hydrants. He stated that he enjoyed entertaining his mother and father outside on Easter.

Councilman Coutz thanked the audience for attending and expressed his hope that everyone enjoyed their Easter holiday. He attended the Fair Hill Races board meeting and commented that there will be amateur racing and craft beer tasting on Friday afternoon, a gala and dinner on Friday night, and horse racing on Saturday, May 25. He attended the legislative wrap-up with the Delegation. He also attended a meeting with the Delegation in Warwick regarding the high volume of traffic being diverted from US 301. He attended the Sheriff's Office intel meeting and

commented that overdoses are up while fatal overdoses are down because of Narcon. He voiced concern regarding the recent gun shootings at Winding Brook. He attended the ribbon cutting for the Zartler stream restoration project that was sponsored by the Cecil Land Trust.

Vice President Gregory thanked the Cecil County Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring the legislative wrap-up and recognized Chris Ann Szep for her moderation of the meeting. She stated that the event helped to keep Council Members informed about state issues. She hoped that everyone had a nice Easter holiday.

Council President Meffley attended the legislative wrap-up and commented that the legislators were concerned about some of the bills that were approved. He attended the meeting with the county delegation at Warwick where they observed tractor trailers struggling to make a turn at the intersection. He stated that the delegation suggested the involvement of Congressman Harris in order to negotiate with Delaware over traffic being diverted on country roads in Warwick, Cecilton and Galena. He thanked the audience for attending and commented on spending Easter with his family.

**9:32 A.M.**

**CLOSED SESSION**

Council President Meffley asked for a motion to go into closed session, which was made by Councilman Coutz and seconded by Councilwoman Gregory.

Role Call Vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y.

The motion was carried by a vote of 5 to 0. Council President Meffley, Vice President Gregory, Councilman Coutz, Councilman Miller and Councilman Patchell voted in favor of the motion. There was no opposition.

Council Manager Massey read into the record:

The Council is going into closed session as authorized by the General Provisions Article, §3-305 (b)(1) of Annotated Code of Maryland 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;

The open session was reconvened at 10:02 a.m.

**Adjournment**


Councilman Coutz moved for adjournment, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory, and approved by consensus. Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 10:02 am.

The next Council work session is scheduled on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 9am in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building.

Attest:

  
James Massey  
Council Manager

Approved:

  
Robert Meffley  
Council President