

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
April 7, 2015

PRESENT: Council Members: President Hodge, Vice President McCarthy, Joyce Bowsbey, Dan Schneckeburger, and George Patchell; Al Wein, Director of Administration; Jason Allison, County Attorney; Eric Sennstrom, Director of Planning and Zoning; Tony DiGiacomo, Principal Planner; Steve O'Connor, MALF Administrator; Lisa Webb, Director of Economic Development; Winston Robinson, Director of Finance; Rebecca Anderson, Accounting Manager; 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. –President Hodge called the meeting to order.

NOTE: Audio recording of this meeting is available on the County website www.ccgov.org.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of March 24, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation – Drug Enforcement

The Honorable Keith Baynes, Judge of the Circuit Court of Cecil County, addressed the Council on his perspective of the drug problem in Cecil County and how Cecil County's adult drug court functions. He introduced Sherry Lazarus, Drug Court Coordinator, who provided additional details about the adult drug court. Judge Baynes discussed the challenges of the courts, prosecutors and law enforcement in dealing with drug problems. Judge Baynes requested that the Council make the delegation aware of the need to address bail bonds regarding the need to increase the percentage paid by the person being charged.

Presentation - Upper Shore Regional Council

Doris Mason, Executive Director, Upper Shore Regional Council, provided an update of actions and plans of the Council. She highlighted the Harvest Director, Chesapeake Wine Country, and Youth Engagement Survey programs. Ms. Mason recognized Vice President McCarthy as the chairman of the Council and Councilwoman Bowsbey for her participation.

Discussion - FY 2016 Transportation Priorities

Mr. DiGiacomo made a presentation to request the Council's agreement with the FY 2016 Transportation Priorities as proposed by the administration. Four broad categories of actions included: Public transportation improvements, US 40 corridor and intersection improvements, I-95 corridor access and mobility enhancement improvements, and US 301 toll diversion coordination actions. Based upon those categories, the top five priorities are: Route 222/I-91 interchange; MARC service extended to Elkton, Newark and Wilmington; I-95 and US 40 toll

discounts for residents; MD 213/US 40 intersection; and mid-county transportation hub in North East.

After questions and discussion, Council President polled Council Members who agreed by consensus to support the priorities as presented.

Discussion - Rural Legacy Prioritization

Mr. O'Connor presented a letter requesting the Council's agreement to prioritize the Sassafras Rural Legacy Area as Cecil County's priority this year. Mr. O'Connor explained that the Sassafras River Legacy Area will receive additional funding from the US Army that will enable them to purchase easements in the county.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bowsbey, seconded by Councilman Schneckenburger, to approve the Sassafras Rural Legacy Area as Cecil County's top priority.

Presentation - FY 2015 Budget - Review of Budget - Organization and Changes

Mr. Robinson discussed the organization and changes in this year's budget book. Ms. Anderson gave further details of the budget book organization.

Review of Legislative Agenda

The Council reviewed the agenda for the evening legislative session.

Council President Hodge requested that the administration make a more detailed presentation at a future Council work session regarding the bills and resolutions related to the budget.

Mr. Wein and Ms. Webb explained the administration's request that Resolution No. 20-2015 be introduced as emergency legislation because of the state deadline for submission of enterprise zone application.

Council President Hodge stated that he owned two mobile home parks in Cecil County and would be recusing himself from voting on Bill No. 2015-08 Rental Tax - Manufactured Home Parks.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey reminded Council Members of the Tourism Partnership Appreciation Breakfast, Senior Center Volunteer Luncheon, and Hatem Bridge Work Group meeting. He also reviewed the schedule for the High School Senior Awards Ceremonies.

Council Member Items

Councilman Schneckenburger commented that he was looking forward to reviewing the budget.

Councilwoman Bowsbey and Councilman Patchell had no comments.


Vice President McCarthy attended the Economic Development Commission in Bainbridge and commented on the lack of infrastructure. He also attended the MACo Legislative Committee and commented on their agreement that counties should set their own drone policies instead of state legislation.

President Hodge stated that he received a notice from the Maryland Department of the Environment that approved one section of the county's submitted Master Water and Sewer Plan regarding Pearce Creek. He also stated that MDE reserved the right to make additional comments on the rest of the plan at a later date.

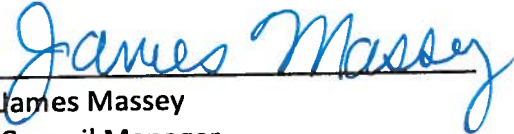
ADJOURNMENT

The Council President adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Approved:


Robert J. Hodge, President
County Council of Cecil County

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager

