

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
WORK SESSION MINUTES
April 14, 2015

PRESENT: Council Members: President Hodge, Vice President McCarthy, Joyce Bowlsbey, and Dan Schneckenburger; Al Wein, Director of Administration; Jason Allison, County Attorney; Winston Robinson, Director of Finance; Scott Flanagan, Director of Public Works; Pat Conway, Director of Permits and Inspection; Lisa Saxton, Deputy Director of Finance; Craig Whiteford, Budget Manager; James Massey, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant; members of the press; and members of the public.

Councilman Patchell was absent.

OPEN SESSION – Elk Room

9:00 a.m. – President Hodge called the meeting to order and explained that Councilman Patchell had an emergency at his job but will be present for this afternoon's budget hearing.

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 Bowlsbey, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of April 7, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation - Drug Enforcement

The Honorable Edward D.E. Rollins, III, State's Attorney of Cecil County, addressed the Council on the drug problem in Cecil County from his perspective. He stated that his office aggressively prosecutes drug dealers. State's Attorney Rollins stated that all levels of government must work together to address the drug epidemic. He credited the Drug Task Force for taking a multi-agencies approach in combating drug related crimes. He suggested that the Drug Task Force should make a presentation to the Council.

Presentation - Proposed Fees regarding Cecil County Detention Center

Major Barry Janney, Major Randy Rudy and Captain Mary Allen provided additional information regarding Resolution Nos. 21-2015, 22-2015, and 23-2015 to the Council. They explained that inmates must pay these fees to participate in Community Corrections programs, which include community service, inmate weekend housing and inmate housing for the gainfully employed.

Presentation - Update on Basell Property

Perry Willis, Executive Director of Support Services, and Dr. Jeffrey Lawson, Executive Director of High School Education, Cecil County Public Schools, provided a status report on the new School of Technology High School at the former Basell property. They described new programs being offered at this facility, which will open in the fall of 2015.

Presentation - Proposed Fees -

Mr. Wein led a presentation on the administration's proposed changes in fees. Bill No. 2015-05 Discount- Property Tax Payment - July will eliminate the discount for taxpayers who pay their property tax bill in July.

Bill No. 2015-06 Fees - Transfer of Interest in Land was presented by Mr. Wein. The Council requested that the administration provide a comparison of the recordation taxes for other Maryland counties.

Council President Hodge requested that the fiscal notes include a mathematical calculation of revenue raised by each proposal.

Mr. Flanigan gave a presentation on Bill No. 2015-07 Disposal Fees - Central Landfill. He provided a history of disposal fees and factors that caused operating losses at the landfill. The Council requested the consultant's efficiency study that was done on the landfill, the efficiencies that have been implemented, and a breakdown of professional services including facilities maintenance.

Mr. Schneckenburger left at 11:50 a.m.

Mr. Wein presented Bill No. 2015-08 Rental Tax - Manufactured Home Parks.

Council President Hodge relinquished the chair and stated that he was recusing himself from discussion because of his ownership in two mobile home parks. Vice President McCarthy assumed the Chair.

After the presentation, Vice President McCarthy relinquished the Chair back to Council President Hodge who presided for the rest of the meeting.

Mr. Wein presented Resolution No. 24-2015 License Fees- Amusement Machines, Jukeboxes, or Mechanical Devices. Mr. Conway provided details on the impact of this legislation.

Mr. Wein presented Resolution No. 25-2015 Fees - Mosquito Control. Ms. Saxton provided additional clarification that the increase in fees will cover the increase in costs for this contracted service.

Mr. Wein presented Resolution No. 26-2015 Permit Fees - Road Utility Permit. The Council Members had no comments.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Massey asked the Council to consider changing the location of the public hearing on the budget bills in order to accommodate a larger attendance. The Council agreed by consensus to relocate the public hearing to the Elkton High School auditorium. Council Members requested that the hearing should be recorded and that Council Members should be

seated on stage at a skirted table. Mr. Massey also explained that there had been some technical difficulties with the audio recording on April 7, but this problem has been remedied. He also asked that Council Members to sign the rezoning map related to the recent rezoning case.

Council Member Items


Councilwoman Bowsbey and Vice President McCarthy had not comments.

Council President Hodge asked the administration to provide an update on the impact of the state's final budget and its effects on Cecil County.

ADJOURNMENT

President Hodge adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m. by general consensus.

Approved:



Robert J. Hodge, President
County Council of Cecil County

Attest:



James Massey
Council Manager

