

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY**  
**WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**June 2, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Council Members: President Hodge, Vice President McCarthy, Joyce Bowlsbey, George Patchell and Dan Schneckenburger; Al Wein, Director of Administration; Jason Allison, County Attorney; Winston Robinson, Director of Finance; Craig Whiteford, Budget Manager; Steve O'Connell, Land Preservation Administrator; 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 at 9:00 a.m. and determined a quorum.

**NOTE:** Audio recording of this meeting is available on the County website [www.ccgov.org](http://www.ccgov.org).

**Approval of Minutes**

On a motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilman Schneckenburger, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council work session of May 26, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

The Council agreed by consensus to suspend the rules to allow staff from Planning and Zoning to discuss legislation on the agenda. Steve O'Connor, Land Preservation Administrator, provided information on Bill No. 2015-11 Approval - Agricultural Preservation District - Flying Plow Farm. Discussion and questions ensued.

The Council returned to the agenda.

**FY 2016 Budget Deliberation**

Council President Hodge led a discussion of proposed budget reductions in the operating and capital budgets.

Mr. Whiteford and Mr. Robinson provided a summary of Council changes to the proposed budget, which verified the Council's reductions in the operating budget of \$2,459,412.

The Council agreed that amendments to the budget can be voted on as a whole, unless a Council Member requests a separate vote on a specific amendment.

The Council agreed to eliminate funding of Efficiency and Comp study in Human Resources, which had previously been reduced from \$60,000 to \$30,000.

Councilwoman Bowlsbey discussed Amendment No. 1 to Bill No. 2015-06 Fees - Transfer of Interest in Land; which permits properties under contract by June 30, which have final settlement by August 31 to be assessed at the current rate of \$10 per transaction. After discussion, the Council agreed to revise the contract date to June 1, instead of June 30.

According to the administration, this action will require the Council to reduce the operating budget by \$300,000, which is their estimated loss of revenue.

The Council agreed to reduce the Sheriff's Office budget by \$150,000 in addition to a previous reduction of \$35,000 for riot gear.

Mr. Robinson requested that the Council take action on Bill No. 2015-10 Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance FY 2016 and Bill No. 2015-09 Capital Improvement Program-FY 2016-2020 before the companion legislation. Mr. Allison and Mr. Wein agreed that this was a requirement of the Charter. After discussion, the Council agreed to this change in the order of actions at tonight's legislative session. Council President Hodge asked that this issue be discussed at a later date for a possible Charter amendment. Councilman Schneckenburger also requested a discussion of how projects for bonding are determined such as roof replacements.

The Council reviewed legislation to determine a consensus to approve Bill Nos. 2015-05, 2015-06, 2015-07, 2015-08 and 2015-09.

The administration suggested a revision of Amendment No. 1 to Resolution No. 27-2015 Adoption of the Tax Rate regarding the rate for Winding Brook, which was accepted by the Council.

#### **Review of Legislative Agenda**

Council President Hodge led a review of tonight's legislative agenda. There were no comments or questions.

#### **Council Manager Report**

Council Manager Massey reminded Council Members of the Volunteer Recognition Banquet and the Cecil County Wade-In on June 20 at Elk Neck State Park.

#### **Council Member Items**

Councilman Schneckenburger attended an Eagle Scout Court of Honor recently. He will be attending the Volunteer Recognition Banquet and the Economic Development meeting regarding the incubator feasibility study.

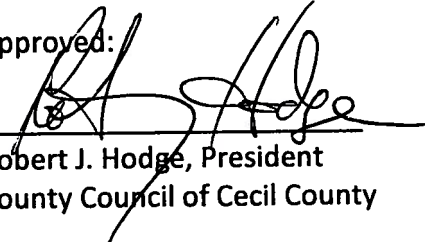
Councilwoman Bowsbey attended the Cecil Leadership Banquet and Employee Recognition Luncheon.

Vice President McCarthy, Councilman Patchell and President Hodge had no comments.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Hodge adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Approved:

  
Robert J. Hodge, President  
County Council of Cecil County

Attest:

  
James Massey  
Council Manager

