

**Wicomico County Council
Open Work Session
December 16, 2014**

Work sessions require written minutes that reflect each item that the public body considered, the action that the public body took on each item and each vote that was recorded. **It should be noted that at work sessions, the Wicomico County Council does not take formal action, nor is a vote taken on any item discussed.**

In attendance: John T. Cannon, President; Ernest F. Davis, Marc Kilmer, Larry W. Dodd, John B. Hall and Joe Holloway. Matt Holloway was absent.

Present: Matthew E. Creamer, Council Administrator; Edgar A. Baker, Jr., County Attorney; Maureen Howarth, Deputy County Attorney; and Melissa Holland, Recording Secretary.

Council Goals and Upcoming Agenda Items :

Mr. Cannon asked the Council to think about any agenda items they would like to see on the agenda in the future. Mr. Joe Holloway said one of the biggest topics is an Elected School Board. Mr. Hall and Mr. Kilmer would like to see speed cameras discussed as well. Mr. Davis would like to see the Board of Education place information into the transparency portal. Mr. Kilmer said that local legislation can be done to address the Board of Education as well and that may need to be discussed with the Delegation. Mr. Dodd said he would like to see the Board of Education meetings televised as the county does with PAC14. Mr. Kilmer said the NAACP has suggested body cameras and a Citizens Review Board which the Sheriff and State's Attorney have supported and said that may come before Council. Mr. Cannon said that will have to come from the Executive office. Mr. Hall said he would like to continue the meetings with the Board of Education and the legislators. Mr. Cannon said that job growth is a concern and didn't know if the Council wanted to have quarterly meetings with SWED, DBED, Tri County Council and the universities. He said they will need to know what measures the Executive would like to take. He said he would like to see all of the benefits of the impact fee grant and what impact that has on the community. Mr. Dodd said he would like to have Dave Ryan from SWED come in regularly to give updates to the Council. Mr. Kilmer said at a meeting the Executive mentioned a moratorium on the impact fee. Mr. Strausburg said that Mr. Culver will be bringing forward a proposal to put a moratorium on impact fees for a 12 month period. He said he asked Mr. Jack Lenox to provide the potential revenue impact by placing a moratorium on the fees. Mr. Strausburg said they have revised the Personnel Manual and the Executive is reviewing it and will come before Council. He said they are also revising the Purchasing Manual which will also go to the Council. Mr. Dodd asked if the Council will be given information about the purchase cards and how many employees have a purchase card. Mr. Strausburg said Mr. Mackel can do a presentation for the Council and the purpose was to cut down costs to the county by not having to cut a check. He said the checks and balances is the same and the cards increased the efficiency of the banking. Mr. Dodd said that a lot of people feel that too many county employees have a purchase card. Mr. Cannon said the comprehensive plan and tier map need to be discussed. He also said

that \$200,000 was budgeted for Watershed Implementation Plan and he would like to know how this is going in the process. Mr. Strausburg said he will have Keith Hall with Planning and Zoning come before the Council. He said that the Executive attended a meeting with the Governor-Elect and the consensus was to wait until the Governor takes office and appoints his cabinet secretaries and then put forth a proposal on a tier map. Mr. Cannon said he would like to see the Council take a stronger role with the Rural Areas Coalition. He is not sure if more interaction is needed with the Clean Air Coalition. Mr. Strausburg said Mr. MacLeod keeps the county informed with emails. Mr. Hall asked if a Council member should be a representative on the Clean Air Coalition. Mr. Joe Holloway asked about the Sage Study and the Board of Education and that it was received by the Executive and when will the Council review it. Mr. Strausburg said Mr. Culver is not ready to accept the study because he does not feel that it addressed the scope of work that was assigned and they are going to schedule a meeting to meet with the staff that prepared the study. Mr. Dodd asked if the Council could look at it to which Mr. Strausburg said if they don't accept it they don't have to pay for the study. Mr. Cannon said should the Council not be a part of the process to accept the study. Mr. Strausburg said once it is disseminated it will be accepted. Mr. Baker said it was a study commissioned by the Executive and appropriated by the Council and once it is completed it will be presented as it did not meet the scope of work. Mr. Cannon said there is a Fire Agreement which is still being worked on and he understands that it is an Executive function. Mr. Dodd asked if the Council could get a copy of the Fire Agreement in order for them to understand. Mr. Strausburg said he can give the Council a copy of the current agreement. Mr. Baker said legislation will be coming through as the county has to re-do the floodplain ordinance and building code updating it to the 2015 and the Council will be receiving them in the near future.

Open Work Session Adjourned.