

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY  
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES  
LSD 2017-08  
April 18, 2017**

The County Council of Cecil County met in legislative session at the County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Elk Room, Elkton, MD. The following members of the Council were present:

Joyce Bowsbey, Council President  
Dan Schneckenburger, Vice President  
Bob Meffley, Council Member  
George Patchell, Council Member  
Jackie Gregory, Council Member

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the County Council of Cecil County of April 18, 2017 was called to order by Council President Bowsbey at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Council President Bowsbey led the Council in a moment of silence.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council President Bowsbey asked for a motion to suspend the rules and move to items 10, 11, and 12 so that Councilman Patchell could vote before leaving on a family emergency. Councilwoman Gregory made the motion to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Vice President Schneckenburger. The motion was approved unanimously.

**CALL FOR FINAL READING OF BILLS**

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**Bill No. 2017-04 Supplemental Appropriation - Capital Budget - Board of Education - BTOP and E-Rate**  
A Bill to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, to amend and increase the revenue and expenditure authority within the Board of Education Capital Projects fund by \$123,060 to record the total cost for the FY2017 phase of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) project, and to recognize the Federal Communications Commissions' E-Rate program that will provide \$408,379 towards (BTOP) project costs. The savings gained by federal reimbursement of County bonds funds will allow the transfer of bonds funds from the BTOP project to complete the North East High School Girls Locker Room renovation (\$270,000), complete replacement of interior galvanized water line at Bohemia Manor High School (\$15,319).

The Bill was introduced on March 7, 2017, and public hearing held and concluded on April 4, 2017.

There were no Council questions or comments.

On motion made by Vice President Schneckenburger, seconded by Councilman Meffley, the Council moved to approve Bill No. 2017-04.

Roll Call Vote: Meffley-Y, Schneckenburger- Y, Patchell- Y, Gregory-Y, Bowsbey- Y. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**Bill No. 2017-05 Transfer of Appropriations - Capital Budget - Board of Education**

A Bill to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 to transfer existing bond appropriation authority within the Board of Education Capital Projects Budget in the amount of \$165,505.43 from completed School Capital Projects (Conowingo Elementary Roof Replacement (\$30,505.43) & the Boiler Replacement Projects at Kenmore, Thomson Estates Elementary & Cherry Hill Middle(\$135,000) to the Cecilton Elementary Exterior Envelope Project (\$16,950), the Boiler Replacement Project at Bo Manor High School (\$55,500) and the Perryville Elementary Renovation Project (\$93,055.43).

The Bill was introduced on March 7, 2017, and public hearing held and concluded on April 4, 2017. There were no Council questions or comments.

On motion made by Councilwoman Gregory, seconded by Vice President Schneckenburger, the Council moved to approve Bill No. 2017-05.

Roll Call Vote: Meffley-Y, Schneckenburger- Y, Patchell- Y, Gregory-Y, Bowsbey- Y. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Rezoning Case:

File 2017-01 APPLICANT: Noe V. Mejia; REQUEST: To rezone 7.017 acres; PROPERTY LOCATION: 791 West Pulaski Hwy, Elkton, MD 21921; Election District: 3, Tax Map: 26, Parcel: 661. PROPERTY OWNER: Noe V. Mejia.

Vice President Schneckenburger made a motion to approve the application of Noe V. Mejia to rezone 7.017 acres located at 791 West Pulaski Hwy, Elkton, MD 21921, from Residential Mixed Use (RMU) to Business General (BG), based upon a mistake in the zoning classification of the property during the last comprehensive rezoning. Councilwoman Gregory seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Meffley- N, Schneckenburger- Y, Patchell- N, Gregory- Y, Bowsbey- Y. Motion carried by a vote of 3 to 2. Councilman Patchell and Councilman Meffley were opposed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Cecil County Public Schools - Budget Amendment #39

There were no Council questions or comments about Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #39.

Vice President Schneckeburger made a motion, seconded by Councilman Meffley, to approve Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #39 in the amount of \$55,019.

Roll Call Vote: Meffley-Y, Schneckeburger- Y, Patchell- Y, Gregory-Y, Bowsbey- Y. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The suspension of rules was ended and the Council returned to the agenda.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion made by Councilwoman Gregory, seconded by Councilman Meffley, the Council moved to approve the legislative minutes of April 18, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Diane McBride, Port Deposit, commented in support of the school budget funding for the Perryville High School turf field.

Bob Willick, Rising Sun, representing Maryland Campaign for Library, presented 500 petitions opposing the tax increase.

Joe Tropp, Earleville, representing Cecil County Campaign for Library, commented in opposition to tax increases.

Amy Heckert, Earleville, Kenmore Elementary School teacher, read a letter from Tanya Roland, a parent of a student, in support of the school budget.

Councilman Patchell left the chamber at 7:19 pm.

#### **PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Meffley and Councilwoman Gregory had no comments.

Vice President Schneckeburger thanked the audience for attending tonight's session.

Council President Bowsbey commented that the Council would have to cut \$7M in the proposed budget to avoid raising taxes and without taking from the unassigned fund.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

##### **Bill No. 2017-10 Public Safety Pension Plan - Purchase of Prior Service**

A Bill to approve an amendment to the Cecil County Pension Plan for Public Service Employees to comply with the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and to provide procedures for the purchase of prior service at retirement.

Introduced, read first time and posted on April 18, 2017. The public hearing will be advertised and scheduled on May 16, 2017.

Mr. Allison, County Attorney, provided comments on the legislation. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**Bill No. 2017-11 Public Safety Pension Plan - 25 Years of Service - Contribution Waiver**

A Bill to approve an amendment to the Cecil County Pension Plan for Public Service Employees to provide that participants with 25 years or more of creditable service will not be required to make any further contributions.

Introduced, read first time and posted on April 18, 2017. The public hearing will be advertised and scheduled on May 16, 2017.

Mr. Allison, County Attorney, provided comments on the legislation. Council questions and comments ensued.

Vice President Schneckenburger requested a fiscal impact note on this legislation.

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION**

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**Resolution No. 16-2017 Tax Credit - Historic Property - Thomas Richards House**

A Resolution to approve a property tax credit of 10% of the documented expenses spent by the owner-taxpayer for the restoration and preservation of Thomas Richards House, a historic designated structure in Cecil County.

Introduced, read first time and posted on April 18, 2017 and scheduled for consideration on May 2, 2017.

Mr. Sennstrom, Director of Planning and Zoning, provided comments on this legislation. There were no Council questions or comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**


Council President Bowsbey adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

The next Council Legislative Session is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, 2017 in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Elkton, Maryland.

Attest:

  
James Massey  
Council Manager

Approved:

  
Joyce Bowsbey  
President