

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY**  
**LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES**  
**LSD 2017-09**  
**May 2, 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 Bowlsbey, 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 May 2, 2017 was called to order by Council President Bowlsbey at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion made by Councilwoman Gregory, seconded by Councilman Meffley, the Council moved to approve the legislative agenda of May 2, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

**PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION**

The Council presented a proclamation in recognition of Cecil County Tourism Month to Sandra Turner, Tourism Director.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Rezoning Application:**

File 2017-02; Applicant: Penntex Ventures LLC, c/o Dwight Thomey; Request: to rezone 1.2 acres from High Density Residential (RM) to Business General (BG); Property Location: Singerly Road at Leeds Road, Elkton, MD 21921; Election District: 3; Tax Map: 20; Parcel: 440, 694, 864; Property Owner: Augustine C. and Emily Cupeto; Presently Zoned: Business General (BG).

Notice of the public hearing was published on April 19, 2017 and April 26, 2017.

Witnesses presenting testimony were sworn in by Council Manager Massey.

Dwight Thomey, representing the applicant, presented the request for rezoning, based on a mistake in the comprehensive rezoning. He introduced Ted Donald, Penntex Ventures, as the applicant; Betty Tuston, The Traffic Group, as a traffic engineering expert; and Augustus Charles Cupeto, as the owner of the parcel. He displayed a map of the surrounding properties.

Eric Sennstrom, Director of Planning and Zoning, stated that the Planning and Zoning staff and Planning Commission recommended approval based on a demonstrated mistake in the 2011 Comprehensive Rezoning.

Stephen O'Connor, Zoning Administrator, presented the staff report of findings of facts, which recommended approval based on a demonstrated mistake in the 2011 Comprehensive Rezoning.

Council President Bowsbey opened the public hearing for public comments.

John Mackie, 150 Carters Mill Road, spoke in support of the application.

Joe Rodek, 2204 Singerly Road, spoke in opposition to the application.

Ron Lobos, 10 Academy Drive, spoke in opposition to the application.

Bill Witt, 27 Breezeway Drive, spoke in opposition to the application.

Mr. O'Connor stated that he received a letter of opposition to the application from Tracy and Jason Planck, 210 Carters Mill Road.

Council questions and comments ensued.

Council President Bowsbey concluded the public hearing and announced that the rezoning case will be considered at the next legislative session on May 16, 2017.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**Bill No. 2017-09 Hotel Rental Tax Rate - FY 2018**

A Bill setting the tax rate for Hotel Rentals, and to levy and impose a Hotel Rental Tax of 6% for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018.

The Bill was introduced on April 4, 2017, advertised on April 26, 2017 and May 1, 2017, and scheduled for public hearing on May 2, 2017.

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments about the legislation. Council Members also received the fiscal note and document that compared hotel tax rates of other Maryland counties.

Council President Bowsbey opened the public hearing for public comments.

Russ Johnson, Elkton, spoke in opposition to the Bill.

Bob Willick, Rising Sun, representing the Maryland Campaign for Liberty, spoke in opposition to the Bill.

Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, spoke in opposition to the Bill.

Council questions and comments ensued.

Council President Bowsbey concluded the public hearing on Bill No. 2017-09 and announced that final consideration of this Bill will be held on May 16, 2017.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Bob Willick, Rising Sun, Maryland Campaign for Liberty, presented 300 petitions against the tax increase.

Ashley Larrimore, Rising Sun, representing Young Farmers, spoke in support of CAFOs.

Russ Johnson, Elkton, spoke in opposition to the tax increase and hotel tax increase.

Kristen Puncan, Elkton, spoke in support of the school budget.

Jason McNew, Earleville, spoke in support of the school budget.

Tammy Woodard, Perryville, spoke in support of the school budget.

Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, asked for a moment of silence for the Delaware state trooper killed in Bear, DE recently. He also spoke in opposition to the proposed turf field, tax increase and hiring consultants, David Rudolph and Carl Roberts.

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

Councilman Patchell and Meffley had no comments.

Councilwoman Gregory thanked the audience for attending and the citizens who spoke tonight. She also encouraged citizens to attend the public hearing on the budget on May 23, 2017 at 7pm at Elkton High School.

Vice President Schneckengerger thanked the audience for attending and the citizens who spoke tonight. He attended the Sheriff's Town Hall in Conowingo and commented on the lack of services in this area.

Council President Bowsbey thanked the audience for attending and the citizens who spoke tonight.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

##### **Bill No. 2017-12 Agricultural Preservation District - Appledale Farm**

A Bill to approve the petition of George and Barbara Balog for property located at 134 Warburton Road, North East, MD 21901, also known as Appledale Farm (Tax Map 19, Grid 15, Parcels 61 and 487) requesting the establishment of an agricultural preservation district.

Introduced, read first time and posted on May 2, 2017. The public hearing will be advertised and scheduled on June 6, 2017.

Stephen O'Connor, Zoning Administrator, provided comments on the legislation. Council questions and comments ensued.

## **INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

### **Resolution No. 17-2017 Appointment - Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council - Dr. Paul M. Katz**

A Resolution to appoint Paul M. Katz to the Cecil County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council to a three year term, term to expire on May 16, 2020.

Introduced, read first time and posted on May 2, 2017 and scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2017.

There were no comments or questions.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

### **Resolution No. 18-2017 Appointment - Council Attorney - Victor R. Jackson, LLC**

A Resolution to appoint Victor R. Jackson, LLC as council attorney for general legal opinions and advisor, beginning July 1, 2017.

Introduced, read first time and posted on May 2, 2017 and scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2017.

Council President Bowsbey provided comments on this legislation. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

### **Resolution No. 19-2017 Appointment—Human Services Agency - Richard C. Szumel and Darrell Hamilton**

A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Richard C. Szumel, M.D., and the reappointment of Darrell Hamilton to the Human Services Agency terms to expire on May 16, 2021.

Introduced, read first time and posted on May 2, 2017 and scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2017.

There were no comments or questions.

## **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS**

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.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on April 18, 2017.

Council questions and comments ensued.

On motion made by Councilwoman Gregory, seconded by Vice President Schneckenburger, the Council moved to approve Resolution No. 16-2017.

Roll call vote: Meffley - Y, Schneckenburger - Y, Patchell - Y, Gregory - Y, Bowsbey - Y.

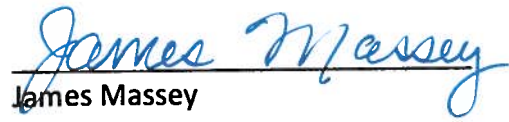
The motion was unanimously approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

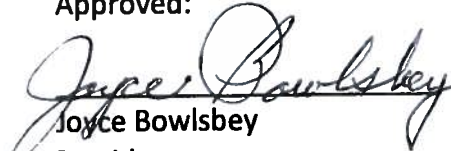
Councilwoman Gregory made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilman Meffley. Council President Bowsbey adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

The next Council Legislative Session is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, 2017 in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Elkton, Maryland.

Attest:

  
James Massey  
Council Manager

Approved:

  
Joyce Bowsbey  
President