

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY  
PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING  
MINUTES  
May 22, 2018**

The County Council of Cecil County met at the Elkton High School, 110 James Street, Elkton MD for the FY 2019 Public Budget Hearing. The following members of the Council were present:

Joyce Bowsbey, Council President, District 2  
Dan Schneckenburger, Vice President, District 3  
Bob Meffley, Council Member, District 1  
George Patchell, Council Member, District 4  
Jackie Gregory, Council Member, District 5

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Bowsbey called the Public Budget Hearing of May 22, 2018 to order at 7:00 pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INTRODUCTION**

Council President Bowsbey welcomed the public and introduced members of the Council and Council Manager.

**READING OF LEGISLATION**

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**Bill No. 2018-02 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance – FY 2019**

A Bill to adopt the County Budget including the Current Expense Budget, Capital Budget, Special Purpose Budgets and Grants Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, and to appropriate funds for all expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018.

The Bill was introduced on April 3, 2018, advertised on May 9, 2018 and May 16, 2018, and scheduled for public hearing on May 22, 2018.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**Bill No. 2018-03 Capital Improvement Plan – FY 2019-2023**

A Bill to approve the Capital Improvement Program for Cecil County for Fiscal Years 2019 through 2023.

The Bill was introduced on April 3, 2018, advertised on May 9, 2018 and May 16, 2018, and scheduled for public hearing on May 22, 2018.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**Bill No. 2018-04 Lease and Purchase – Vehicle and Equipment Financing**

A Bill authorizing and empowering Cecil County, Maryland to enter into new financing under a lease purchase agreement or similar arrangement in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) for Fiscal Year 2019 for the purpose of financing the acquisition of certain necessary and essential vehicles and equipment for use in the County's governmental programs; providing that the obligations of the County under the agreement shall not be a general obligation of the County, shall not constitute a pledge of the full faith and credit or the taxing power of the County and shall not constitute a debt of the County within the meaning of any statutory or constitutional provision, but shall be subject to appropriation in each and every fiscal year during the term of the agreement; empowering the County Executive to execute and deliver an executive order prior to the execution and delivery of the agreement in order to award the agreement to the successful bidder and to fix, prescribe and determine the details of such financing; and relating generally to such financing.

The Bill was introduced on April 3, 2018, advertised on May 9, 2018 and May 16, 2018, and scheduled for public hearing on May 22, 2018.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**Resolution No. 19-2018 Fees - Mosquito Control Spraying**

A Resolution to establish fees for mosquito control (spraying) pursuant to Md. Code Ann., § 5-404, Agriculture Article and Cecil County Charter § 508.

The Resolution was introduced on April 3, 2018, advertised on May 9, 2018 and May 16, 2018, and scheduled for public hearing on May 22, 2018.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**Resolution No. 21-209 Adoption of Property Tax Rate - FY 2019**

A Resolution to levy and impose a property tax for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019; setting the tax rates for property and providing for the collection of property tax. Real property is fixed at \$1.0414 on each \$100 of assessed valuation of such property; personal property and operating real property is fixed at 2.6035, and Winding Brook Special Taxing District property tax is levied at the rate of 286.52 per parcel.

The Resolution was introduced on April 3, 2018, advertised on May 9, 2018 and May 16, 2018, and scheduled for public hearing on May 22, 2018.

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments on the legislation.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Council President Bowsbey opened the public hearing for public comment.

Joe Tropp, Earleville, representing the Cecil County Campaign for Liberty, commented in opposition to the proposed budget.

Robert E. Anderson, Elkton, commented on reducing the budget and turf fields.

Bill Malesh, Perryville, commented in favor of the school budget.

Kim Williams, Perryville, commented to increase the school budget.

Sharon Rosenburg, North East, representing the Women's Civic League of North East, commented in favor of the proposed North East Library.

Lorain Alexander-Maurer, North East, commented in opposition to a tax increase and turf fields.

Jacob Bauer Zebley, Elkton, commented to increase the school budget.

Bob Willich, Rising Sun, representing the Maryland Campaign for Liberty, commented to cut government spending.

Joe Carabetta, Carpenters Point, commented on the cost of living, adding new expenses, turf fields, the proposed North East Library, and bonding sewer projects.

Kayla and Kyra Gaskill, Perryville, commented in support of Cecil College and scholarship program.

Diane Carabetta, Perryville, commented on reducing taxes and fees, the proposed North East Library, the opioid epidemic and creating special taxing districts for new sewer service.

Meredith Keating, Perryville, commented in support of the public library budget.

Brandon Boas, Perryville, commented in support of education, the public library and technology.

Kimberly Rhoades, Elkton, commented on cutting government spending.

Josh Rhoades, Elkton, commented in opposition to the proposed budget, the proposed North East Library, additional parks, and the public school's large surplus.

Marianne Wood, North East, commented in support of the proposed North East Library.

Christy Millham, North East, commented in support of the proposed North East Library.

Ed Larson, Conowingo, commented in support of the proposed North East Library, school safety, the school budget, paramedics, dispatchers, and fire companies.

Shawn Johnson, Port Deposit, commented to fully fund the school budget.

Don Harmer, Elkton, representing the Board of Parks and Recreation, commented in support of Parks and Recreation funding and the new park at the former Bittersweet Golf Course.

Ken Wiggins, Elkton, representing the Board of Library Trustees, commented in support of the proposed North East Library.

Ron Jagers, Rising Sun, commented on school shootings and drug problems.

Kathy Jagers, Rising Sun, commented in support of tax relief.

Staci Lamb, Elkton, and Teacher of the Year, commented in support of the school safety.

Lori Hrinko, Elkton, commented on the school's support of children who experience trauma and teacher salaries not competitive with other counties.

Katherine Elvins, Chesapeake City, commented on support for the school budget and school safety.

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

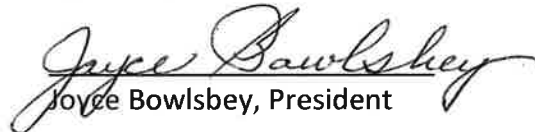
Council President Bowsbey thanked the audience for attending and expressing their opinions.

She stated that the Council would be meeting on Tuesday, May 29, 2018 at 9am in the Elk Room of

the County Administration Building, to deliberate the budget. She also stated that the Council will be considering the budget at the Council legislative session on Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 7pm in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building.

Council President Bowsbey adjourned the public hearing at 8:30 pm.

Approved:

  
Joyce Bowsbey, President

Attest:

  
James Massey  
Council Manager