

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2020-02
January 21, 2020

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:

Robert Meffley, Council President
Al Miller, Council Member
George Patchell, Council Member
Jackie Gregory, Vice President
William H. Coutz, Council Member

NOTE: The video and audio recording with transcription of this meeting is available on the County website at www.ccgov.org.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the County Council of Cecil County of January 21, 2020 was called to order by Council President Meffley at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING PRAYER

Councilman Miller introduced Rev. Jason Cornish from Providence United Methodist Church of Elkton, who led the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve the legislative agenda of January 21, 2020. Motion was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION

The Council presented a proclamation in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday to Charles Hicks and Rev. R. Kevin Brown from Wright's AME Church in Elkton.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Rezoning Case #2019-04; APPLICANT: Michael and Rachel Good; REQUEST: Request to rezone 4.8 acres from High Density Residential (RM) to Employment Mixed Use (EMU); PROPERTY LOCATION: 776 West Pulaski Highway, Elkton, MD 21921, Election District: 3, Tax Map: 32, Parcel: 4; PROPERTY OWNER: Michael and Rachel Good; PRESENTLY ZONED: High Density Residential (RM)

Notice of the public hearing was published on January 8, 2020 and January 15, 2020.

Witnesses presenting testimony were sworn in by the Council Manager.

Jason Good, representing the applicant, presented the request for rezoning, based on a mistake in the Comprehensive Rezoning of May 1, 2011. He also stated that there has been a substantial change to the character of the neighborhood.

Eric Sennstrom, Director of Land Use and Development Services, stated that the Planning and Zoning staff and Planning Commission recommended approval, based on a demonstrated mistake in the Comprehensive Rezoning. Bryan Lightner, Zoning Administrator, presented the staff report of findings of facts, which recommended approval based on a demonstrated mistake in the Comprehensive Rezoning.

There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comments. There were no public comments.

There were no closing remarks by Mr. Good.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing and announced that the rezoning case will be considered at the next legislative session on February 4, 2020.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2019-21 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Roads and Bridges Capital Budget – Belvidere Road Culvert Replacement

A Bill to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 to appropriate expenditure authority within the Roads & Bridges Capital Projects Budget in the amount of \$150,000 from the General Fund – Assignment of Fund Balance.

The Bill was introduced on December 17, 2019, advertised on January 8, 2020 and January 15, 2020, and scheduled for public hearing on January 21, 2020.

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided a summary of the legislation. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comments. There was no public comment.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing on Bill No. 2019-21 and announced that final consideration for this legislation will be held on February 4, 2020.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2019-22 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Roads and Bridges Capital Budget – Bethel Church Road Project

A Bill to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 to appropriate expenditure authority within the Roads and Bridges Capital

Projects Budget in the amount of \$200,000 from the General Fund – Assignment of Fund Balance for Bethel Church Road Project.

The Bill was introduced on December 17, 2019, advertised on January 8, 2020 and January 15, 2020, and scheduled for public hearing on January 21, 2020.

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided a summary of the legislation. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comments. There was no public comment.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing on Bill No. 2019-22 and announced that final consideration for this legislation will be held on February 4, 2020.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2019-23 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Courthouse Capital Budget – Courtroom #3 Renovation Project

A Bill to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 to appropriate expenditure authority within the General Capital Projects Budget in the amount of \$250,000 from the General Fund – Assignment of Fund Balance for the Courtroom #3 Renovation Project.

The Bill was introduced on December 17, 2019, advertised on January 8, 2020 and January 15, 2020, and scheduled for public hearing on January 21, 2020.

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided a summary of the legislation. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comments. There was no public comment.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing on Bill No. 2019-23 and announced that final consideration for this legislation will be held on February 4, 2020.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 74-2019 Roads - Renaming – Sandy Hill Way

A Resolution to rename an unnamed road "Sandy Hill Way", which is off of Turkey Point Road in North East.

The Resolution was introduced on December 17, 2019, advertised on January 8, 2020 and January 15, 2020, and scheduled for public hearing on January 21, 2020.

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided a summary of the legislation. Devyn King, Planner, provided additional details of this legislation. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comments. There was no public comment.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing on Resolution No. 74-2019 and announced that final consideration for this legislation will be held on February 4, 2020.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of January 7, 2020. Motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Gramer, Elk Neck, commented on a portion of Elk Neck Road in serious need of repair.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Patchell announced that work will begin in April to construct parking and four additional fields at Calvert Regional Park. He stated that dredging of Elk River will begin in June. He also stated that a public workshop on design for Brantwood Park will be held on March 3, 2020.

Councilman Miller attended Cecil Night in Annapolis and commended Carl Roberts and the Chamber of Commerce for the successful event. He attended the Local Management Board meeting and expressed his concern for people dealing with their drug problem.

Councilman Coutz thanked the audience for attending. He also thanked the Young Republican Club members for attending tonight's session. He attended the Cecil County Firemen's Association and stated that Vice President Gregory discussed some of the issues being considered by MACo.

Vice President Gregory thanked the Young Republican Club members for attending tonight's session. She discussed a new program by the Susquehanna Workforce Network, Reconnect to Rebuild, which is striving to attract 18 to 24 year old citizens in career training. She attended the Perryville Fire Company banquet and commended them for recruiting twenty new members. She will be attending the MACo legislative committee and will be discussing legislation to reimburse volunteer firemen for Medicare. She attended bingo night at a rotating homeless shelter that was sponsored by Scout Troop #444. She announced that Voices of Hope will host a Gratitude Banquet on February 16, 2020, beginning at 5pm, at Rosewood Farm. She stated that she agreed with the citizen that Old Field Point Road is in very poor condition and hopes that this project can be funded because of the unsafe conditions.

Council President Meffley attended Cecil Night in Annapolis and commended the event as very successful. He stated that he spoke with General Kilgo of Aberdeen Proving Ground and Lt. Governor Rutherford.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 03-2020 Appointment—Board of Parks and Recreation—Jennifer Callaghan

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Jennifer Callaghan to the Board of Parks and Recreation for a three (3) year term to expire January 21, 2023.

There were no introductory comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time and posted on January 21, 2020. Consideration for approval of this legislation will be scheduled on February 4, 2020.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 04-2020 Appointment—Cecil County Plumbing Board – Melvin Reburn and Edward Arellano

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Melvin Reburn, and the appointment of Edward Arellano to fill the vacancy of Fred von Staden, to the Cecil County Plumbing Board, terms to expire on August 31, 2020.

There were no introductory comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time and posted on January 21, 2020. Consideration for approval of this legislation will be scheduled on February 4, 2020.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 05-2020 Appointment—Cecil County Mental Health Core Service Agency Advisory Board – Betsy Murphy

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Betsy Murphy to the Cecil County Mental Health Core Service Agency Advisory Board for three-year term to expire on February 4, 2023.

There were no introductory comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time and posted on January 21, 2020. Consideration for approval of this legislation will be scheduled on February 4, 2020.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 06-2020 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – County Council Department – 2020 Census Outreach

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 in order to provide a total of \$20,000 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund-County Council Department to record the grant from the Maryland Department of

Planning/Maryland Historical Trust for the purpose of conducting outreach efforts that focus on promoting and facilitating responses to the 2020 Census.

There were no introductory comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time and posted on January 21, 2020. Consideration for approval of this legislation will be scheduled on February 4, 2020.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 01-2020 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Domestic Violence Department – Continuum of Care

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, in order to provide \$68,076 to the Community Services Fund – Domestic Violence Department to record the grant award from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the purpose of a Continuum of Care grant to provide rental assistance to victims of domestic violence.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on January 7, 2020, and scheduled for consideration on January 21, 2020.

There were no administrative comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

On motion by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve Resolution No. 01-2020.

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y

The motion was approved unanimously.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 02-2020 Appointment - Soil Conservation Board - Bruce Yerkes

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Bruce Yerkes to the Cecil County Soil Conservation Board to a four-year term to expire on January 21, 2024.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on January 7, 2020, and scheduled for consideration on January 21, 2020.

There were no administrative comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

On motion by Councilman Miller, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve Resolution No. 02-2020.

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y

The motion was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Cecil County Public Schools – Budget Amendment #70

Vice President Gregory made a motion to approve Cecil County Public Schools budget amendment #70 in the amount of 855,889 for transactions in December 2019.

The motion was approved by a voice vote of 5 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Vice President Gregory, Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

The next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Elkton, Maryland.

Approved:



Robert Meffley
Council President

Attest:



James Massey
Council Manager