

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2020-07
April 7, 2020**

The County Council of Cecil County met in legislative session in an online virtual meeting because of the current health crisis and based on the Governor's orders to avoid public meetings. Council Members, presenters and members of the public participated in this meeting by going online to www.ccgov.org/council and selecting "livestream".

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 April 7, 2020 was called to order by Council President Meffley at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council President Meffley asked for a roll call of attending Council Members. The Council Manager called the roll and recorded the following Council Members in attendance:

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-Present, Miller-Present, Patchell-Present, Gregory-Present, Meffley-Present.

Council President Meffley announced that there were five Council Members present, which constitute a quorum.

SUSPENSION OF RULES

Vice President Gregory made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Council Members who are connected to participate and vote in this legislation session, because of the current health crisis and orders by the Governor to avoid public meetings. The motion was seconded by Councilman Coutz.

Council President Meffley called for a voice vote. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

OPENING PRAYER

Councilman Miller introduced Pastor Steve Basht from Ebenezer United Methodist Church, 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 April 7, 2020. Motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING

Bill No. 2020-01 Approval - Agricultural Preservation District – McKeown Family LLC

A Bill to approve the petition of Robert McKeown Jr., and Deborah McKeown property located Knollwood Farm, Eastside of Locust Point Road, Elkton, MD 21921 (Acres: 220, Election District: 2, Tax Map: 38, Grid: 8, Parcels: 511 & 532), requesting the establishment of an agricultural preservation district.

The Bill was introduced on March 3, 2020, advertised on March 25, 2020 and April 1, 2020, and scheduled for public hearing on April 7, 2020. Eric Sennstrom, Director of Land Use and Development Services, provided comments on the legislation. The Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board, Planning Commission and staff recommended approval.

There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for comments:
Debbie McKeown, Elkton, commented in support of the legislation.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing and announced that final consideration of this legislation will be held on April 21, 2020.

Resolution No. 14-2020 Master Water and Sewer Plan – Tables – Town of Perryville

A Resolution to amend the Cecil County Master Water and Sewer Plan, Tables, in order to revise Table 13. Immediate, 5 and 10 year priorities for sewerage development, and Table 15A. Sewer Pump Stations and Force Mains, in the Town of Perryville, in order to reflect upgrades to their wastewater collection system.

The Resolution was introduced on March 3, 2020, advertised on March 25, 2020 and April 1, 2020, and scheduled for public hearing on April 7, 2020. Eric Sennstrom, Director of Land Use and Development Services, provided comments on the legislation. The Planning Commission and staff recommended approval.

There were no Council questions or comments.

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

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing and announced that final consideration of this legislation will be held on April 21, 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 March 3, 2020. Motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Anna Maria Buehler, Indian Acres Glen 8, Lot 1, commented on complaints about the management of Indian Acres.

Marie O'Brien, Indian Acres Glen 6, Lot 84 and Glen 9, Lot 263, commented on complaints about the management of Indian Acres.

Joe DiNunzio, President, Artesian Water, commented in support of Resolution No. 07-2020 and Amendment No. 1.

Dan Devine, Indian Acres Glen 2, Lots 55 and 56, commented on complaints about the management of Indian Acres.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Patchell thanked the Council staff for arranging the online meeting.

Councilman Miller thanked the IT staff for their patience and expressed his appreciation to allow Council Members to have remote access. He also thanked the Volunteer Fire Companies for keeping us safe.

Councilman Coutz thanked the administration and IT staff for overcoming the challenge of arranging for this virtual meeting. He thanked the first responders, law enforcement, and emergency staff for their efforts during this health crisis. He expressed his appreciation to the medical professionals, doctors and nurses for their work and dedication during this crisis. He thanked the citizens of Cecil County for following the Governor's order to stay home and follow healthy practices during this crisis. He commented that we are stronger together.

Vice President Gregory thanked the Council staff, the IT department and public for arranging and attending this virtual meeting. She thanks the community for support of local businesses during this crisis. She asked that we keep the sick in our prayers. She stated that the County is in support of the citizens and businesses. She attended the first Council budget hearing today and stated that she will keep in mind the many who have lost their jobs and businesses that are shut down during this crisis. She stated that she looked forward to working in the best interest of the community.

Council President Meffley thanked the farmers who are working this week to plant their crops and the trades that are essential to our community. He also stated that he will keep buying from local take-out restaurants during this crisis.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2020-02 Taxation – Tax Credit – Senior Citizens and Veterans

A Bill to provide for a Cecil County Senior Citizens and Veterans Tax Credit Program; to establish a property tax credit for certain senior citizens and veterans; to establish the criteria for the property tax credit created; and generally relating to property tax discounts and credits.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2020-03 Lease and Purchase – Vehicles 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 2021 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.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2020-04 Capital Improvement Program – FY 2021-2025

A Bill to approve the Capital Improvement Program for Cecil County for Fiscal Years 2021 through 2025.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2020-05 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance – FY 2021

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, 2021, and to appropriate funds for all expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 19-2020 Adoption – Tax Rates - FY 2021

A Resolution to levy and impose a property and income tax for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021; setting the tax rates for property and providing for the collection of the property tax.

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments on the proposed FY 2021 operating and capital budgets, and related legislation. He noted the great uncertainty because of the current health crisis and its impact on the economy. He summarized areas of increase in the budget proposal. He stated that the tax rates will remain the same, 1.0414 for property tax, 2.6035 for income tax. He summarized the senior citizen and veterans tax credit legislation. He reviewed the proposed allocations to the public schools, public library, and Cecil College. He summarized the projects proposed in the capital improvement plan. He stated that there are no proposed increases in tipping fees and sewer user rates. He stated that a sewer rate study will be conducted in FY 2021.

Council questions and comments ensued. Vice President Gregory clarified that the senior and Veteran tax credit would only apply to the county's portion of the property tax and that the total amount of tax credits is estimated at \$400,000. She also clarified that the constant yield rate would be 1.0216, which would reduce the budget by \$2.3M.

These budget related legislation, which includes Bill Nos. 2020-02, 2020-03, 2020-04, 2020-05 and Resolution No. 19-2020, is introduced, read first time and posted on April 7, 2020; scheduled for public hearing on May 12, 2020; and scheduled for final consideration on May 19, 2020.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 16-2020 Appointment - Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council – Aaron Wright

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Aaron Wright to the Cecil County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council to a three-year term, to expire on April 7, 2023.

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

Introduced, read first time and posted on April 7, 2020 and scheduled for consideration of approval on April 21, 2020.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 17-2020 Approval - Tax Credit – Rising Sun Little League

A Resolution granting property tax credits to the Rising Sun Little League, pursuant to the authority conferred under *Md. Code Ann., § 9-303, Tax-Property Article*.

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments. Councilman Coutz clarified that this proposed tax credit will be retroactive to FY 19 and FY 20.

Introduced, read first time and posted on April 7, 2020, and scheduled for consideration of approval on April 21, 2020.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 18-2020 Supplemental Appropriation – Grants Fund – State’s Attorney’s Office – Asset Forfeiture

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, in the amount of \$47,232 within the Special Revenue – Other Grants Fund – State’s Attorney’s Office, in order to record the Town of Elkton, Maryland, granting a portion of an asset forfeiture to the agency.

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments from the administration. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time, and order posted on April 7, 2020, and scheduled for consideration of approval on April 21, 2020.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 07-2020: Amendment - Master Water and Sewer Plan – Town of North East and Artesian Water

A Resolution to amend the Cecil County Master Water and Sewer Plan, Chapter 3 Water Systems, Section 3.2.6 North East; Section 3.2.9 Artesian Water Maryland, Inc.; Section 3.2.10.3 Elkton West/Meadowview Water System; Section 3.2.10.6 Route 7 Water System; Appendix D. Water System Maps; Appendix F. Agreements Incorporated by Reference; and Appendix G. Town of North East and Artesian Water Maryland, Inc. Non Exclusive Water Service Areas; in order to reflect the January 2019 agreement, which supersedes a June 2018 agreement, with the establishment of an additional interconnection between the Town and Artesian on the east side of the Town in order to enable Artesian to purchase up to 200,000 gallons per day from the Route 40 east interconnection.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on February 18, 2020 and scheduled for consideration on March 3, 2020.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO RESOLUTION NO. 07-2020

On page 1, under Synopsis, line 5, delete "January 2019" and insert "June 2019"

On page 1, under Synopsis, line 6, delete "June 2018" and insert "January 2018".

On page 5, line 114, delete "INTERSECTION" and insert "INTERCONNECTION".

The Resolution was introduced on February 4, 2020, and public hearing held and concluded on March 3, 2020.

Amendment No. 1 to Resolution No. 07-2020 was introduced by the Council President on behalf of the County Executive on March 3, 2020.

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

On motion by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Coutz, the Council moved to approve Amendment #1 to Resolution No. 07-2020.

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

The motion was approved unanimously.

On motion by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve Resolution No. 07-2020 As Amended.

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. 12-2020 Appointment – Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council – James W. Ziccardi

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of James W. Ziccardi to the Cecil County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council to a three-year term, to expire on March 17, 2023.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on February 18, 2020 and scheduled for consideration on March 3, 2020.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on March 3, 2020; and scheduled for consideration on April 7, 2020.

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

On motion by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilman Miller, the Council moved to approve Resolution No. 12-2020.

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. 13-2020 Appointment – Weed Control Advisory Board

A Resolution to confirm the reappointments by the County Executive of Monty D. Johnson, II, Jim Calao, William Ewing, C. Michael Scheeler, Dan Webber, Lane Heimer, Ronald Penhollow, and to appoint Mark T. Martin to the Cecil County Weed Control Advisory Board for a one (1) year term, to expire March 15, 2021.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on March 3, 2020 and scheduled for consideration on April 7, 2020.

On motion by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilman Coutz, the Council moved to approve Resolution No. 13-2020.

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y
The motion was approved unanimously.

Resolution No. 15-2020 Appointment – Board of Parks and Recreation – Brian Morgan

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Brian Morgan to the Board of Parks and Recreation for a three (3) year term to expire March 17, 2023.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on March 3, 2020 and scheduled for consideration on April 7, 2020.

On motion by Councilman Miller, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve Resolution No. 15-2020.

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y
The motion was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution No. 11-2020 Appointment – Cecil County Ethics Commission – Janice K. Colvin

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Janice K. Colvin to the Cecil County Ethics Commission, for a four-year term to expire March 3, 2024.

Councilman Coutz made a motion to table consideration of Resolution No. 11-2020, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory. The motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Cecil County Public Schools – Budget Amendment #72

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve Cecil County Public Schools budget amendment #72 in the amount of \$30,560 for transactions in February 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller. The motion was approved by a voice vote of 5 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Coutz, Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

The next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., which is planned as a virtual meeting because of the current health crisis and Governor’s orders to avoid public meetings. The session will be livestreamed on the County Council’s webpage at www.ccgov.org/council. Members of the public who do not have broadband access, should call the Council Office for instructions to connect to the session via telephone.

Approved:



Robert Meffley
Council President

Attest:



James Massey
Council Manager