

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2020-10
May 19, 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 May 19, 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

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

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

OPENING PRAYER

Councilman Miller introduced Dr. Harold Phillips from Pleasant View Baptist Church in Port Deposit, who led the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Coutz, the Council moved to approve the legislative agenda of May 19, 2020. Motion was unanimously approved.

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 May 5, 2020. Motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ernie Beck, Cecilton, commented on passing a budget based on essential spending.

Joyce Bowsbey, Elkton, commended the Council for the excellent budget hearing process.

Joe Carabetta, Perryville, commented that budget should have been cut by \$2M.

Lori Hrinko, Cecil County Classroom Teachers Association, commented in support of the budget.

Donna Caldell, Elkton, commented in support of Vice President Gregory actions on the budget.

Don Harmer, North East, commended the County Executive on the proposed budget.

Vince Sammons, Elkton, commented on the importance of fiscal responsibilities and commended Vice President Gregory.

Bob Willick, Rising Sun, commented in support of Joe Carabetta's comments on cutting spending.

Doris Cloud, North East, commented in support of the public schools budget.

Linda Meffley, Chesapeake City, commended the County Executive for his proposed budget.

Thomas MacFadden, Elkton, commended the Council for their budget process.

Chris Ann Szep, North East, thanked the County for support of Cecil College.

Julia Svoboda, North East, commended Councilman Coutz and Vice President Gregory for their work on reducing the budget.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Coutz stated his concern for first responders in dealing with the stress related to the Coronavirus. He attended the Sheriff's Intel Meeting and stated that there has been a significant increase in overdose fatalities by first time users. He encouraged people to reach out to others during this pandemic.

Councilman Miller reminded everyone that it is not too late to complete their 2020 Census.

Councilman Patchell thanked the audience for their comments and participation in the Council's budget process.

Vice President Gregory thanked the public for their comments and suggestions in budget deliberations.

Council President Meffley thanked the audience for their comments on the budget. He cautioned the public to be careful on Memorial Day weekend to continue practices to stay safe.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 22-2020: Tax Credit - Historic Property – Keiffer Brick 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 the Keiffer Brick House, a historic designated structure in Cecil County.

Eric Sennstrom, Director of Land Use and Development Services, provided introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time, and order posted on May 19, 2020; and scheduled for consideration on June 9, 2020.

CALL FOR FINAL READING OF BILLS

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.

The Bill was introduced on April 7, 2020, and public hearing held and concluded on May 12, 2020.

Lisa Saxton, Finance Director, and David Trolio, Community Services Director, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

On motion made by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Coutz, the Council moved to approve Bill No. 2020-02.

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:

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.

The Bill was introduced on April 7, 2020, and public hearing held and concluded on May 12, 2020.

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

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve Bill No. 2020-03.

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:

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.

The Bill was introduced on April 7, 2020, and public hearing held and concluded on May 12, 2020.

There were no administration comments.

Council President Meffley asked for the amendments to be read into the record.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

AMENDMENT NO. 01

TO BILL NO. 2020-04

Capital Improvement Program – FY 2021-2025

Title: Board of Parks -Capital Project- Calvert Regional Park - Development

Synopsis: To reduce the proposed capital project, Calvert Regional Park – Development.
To \$1.9M

Introduced by: Vice President Gregory

To reduce the proposed Parks & Recreation capital project, Calvert Regional Park – Development, from the FY 2021 capital budget, from \$2,900,000 to \$1,900,000, a reduction of \$1,000,000, in consideration for the current health and economic crisis.

On motion by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilman Miller, the Council moved to approve Amendment No. 01 to Bill No. 2020-04.

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:

**AMENDMENT NO. 02
TO BILL NO. 2020-04**

Capital Improvement Program – FY 2021-2025

Title: Board of Parks -Capital Project-Rising Sun Synthetic Turf Field

Synopsis: To remove the proposed capital project for the Rising Sun Synthetic Turf Field

Introduced by: Vice President Gregory

To remove the proposed Parks & Recreation capital project, Rising Sun Synthetic Turf – Development, from the FY 2021 capital budget, a reduction of \$1,300,000, in consideration for the current health and economic crisis.

On motion by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve Amendment No. 02 to Bill No. 2020-04.

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:

**AMENDMENT NO. 3
TO BILL NO. 2020-04**

Capital Improvement Program – FY 2021-2025

Title: Facilities Management – Capital Project – Administration Building Security

Synopsis: To remove the proposed capital project, Administration Building Security

Introduced by: Vice President Gregory

To remove the proposed Facilities Management capital project, Administration Building Security, from the FY 2021 capital budget, a reduction of \$150,000, in consideration for the current health and economic crisis.

On motion by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve Amendment No. 03 to Bill No. 2020-04.

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:

**AMENDMENT NO. 04
TO BILL NO. 2020-04**

Capital Improvement Program – FY 2021-2025

Title: Sheriff's Office -Capital Project-Phase 2 Retrofit space for evidence and armory

Synopsis: To remove the proposed capital project for the Retrofit space for evidence and armory

Introduced by: Vice President Gregory

To remove the proposed Sheriff's Office capital project, Phase 2 Retrofit space for evidence and armory, from the FY 2021 capital budget, a reduction of \$535,000, in consideration for the current health and economic crisis.

On motion by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Coutz, the Council moved to approve Amendment No. 04 to Bill No. 2020-04.

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:

AMENDMENT NO. 05

TO BILL NO. 2020-04

Capital Improvement Program – FY 2021-2025

Title: Community Services –Animal Services - Capital Project-Main Building Expansion/sprinkler install

Synopsis: To remove the proposed capital project for the Main Building Expansion/sprinkler install, of the Animal Shelter.

Introduced by: Vice President Gregory

To remove the proposed Community Services capital project, Main Building Expansion/sprinkler install at Animal Shelter, project 580, from the FY 2021 capital budget, a reduction of \$640,000, in consideration for the current health and economic crisis.

On motion by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve Amendment No. 05 to Bill No. 2020-04.

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:

AMENDMENT NO. 06

TO BILL NO. 2020-04

Capital Improvement Program – FY 2021-2025

Title: DPW Roads & Bridges -Capital Project-Replace Bridge CE0055 Belvidere Road over CSX

Synopsis: To remove the proposed capital project for the Replace Bridge CE0055 Belvidere Road over CSX.

Introduced by: Vice President Gregory

To remove the proposed DPW Roads & Bridges capital project, Replace Bridge CE0055 Belvidere Road over CSX, project 52657, from the FY 2021 capital budget, a reduction of \$1,000,000, in consideration for the current health and economic crisis.

On motion by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve Amendment No. 06 to Bill No. 2020-04.

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:

**AMENDMENT NO. 07
TO BILL NO. 2020-04**

Capital Improvement Program – FY 2021-2025

Title: DPW Roads & Bridges -Capital Project-Edgar Price Road Roadway Improvements

Synopsis: To remove the proposed capital project for the Edgar Price Road Roadway Improvements

Introduced by: Vice President Gregory

To remove the proposed DPW Roads & Bridges capital project, Replace Bridge CE0055 Belvidere Road over CSX, project 52657, from the FY 2021 capital budget, a reduction of \$300,000, in consideration for the current health and economic crisis.

On motion by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilman Coutz, the Council moved to approve Amendment No. 07 to Bill No. 2020-04.

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

There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President asked for a motion to approve Bill No. 2020-04 As Amended.

Councilman Coutz made a motion, seconded by Vice President Gregory, to approve Bill No. 2020-04 As Amended.

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-N, Meffley-Y
The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 1. Vice President Gregory was opposed.

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.

The Bill was introduced on April 7, 2020, and public hearing held and concluded on May 12, 2020.

Lisa Saxton, Finance Director, and David Trolio, Community Services Director, commented on Amendment No. 10 to Bill No. 2020-05, which will delete a position in Animal Services Division.

Council President Meffley asked for the amendments to be read into the record.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**AMENDMENT NO. 10
TO BILL NO. 2020-05**

Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance – FY 2021

Title: Animal Services

Synopsis: To reduce funding in Animal Services budget by \$30,000

Introduced by: Vice President Gregory

To eliminate the proposed new animal care attendant position in Animal Services to reduce the proposed allocation to Animal Services by \$30,000, in the Dept 392, Animal Services, in the General Fund 001, a reduction of \$30,000, including benefits, in consideration for the current health and economic crisis.

On motion by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve Amendment No. 10 to Bill No. 2020-05.

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

The motion failed by a vote of 2 to 3. Councilman Miller, Councilman Patchell and Council President Meffley were opposed.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**AMENDMENT NO. 15
TO BILL NO. 2020-05**

Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance – FY 2021

Title: Cecil College – Allocation-Capital – Soccer Fields

Synopsis: To eliminate funding in Cecil College Allocation- Regular budget by \$200,000

Introduced by: Vice President Gregory

To reduce the proposed project to rehabilitate soccer fields in the Allocation-Regular budget in Dept 555, Cecil College, in the General Fund, a reduction of \$200,000, in consideration for the current health and economic crisis.

On motion by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Coutz, the Council moved to approve Amendment No. 15 to Bill No. 2020-05.

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:

**AMENDMENT NO. 16
TO BILL NO. 2020-05**

Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance – FY 2021

Title: Planning and Zoning

Synopsis: To eliminate funding for FY 2021 LIDAR & topography acquisition by \$200,000

Introduced by: Vice President Gregory

To reduce the proposed allocation in the Professional and Related Services budget in the Planning and Zoning budget, from \$400,000 to \$200,000 in Dept 221, Planning and Zoning, in the General Fund, a reduction of \$200,000 by elimination the FY 2021 Lidar & topography acquisition, in consideration for the current health and economic crisis.

On motion by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve Amendment No. 16 to Bill No. 2020-05.

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

There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President asked for a motion to approve Bill No. 2020-05 As Amended.
Councilman Patchell made a motion, seconded by Councilman Miller, to approve Bill No. 2020-05 As Amended.

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-N, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-N, Meffley-Y
The motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 2. Councilman Coutz and Vice President Gregory were opposed.

ADOPTION OF TAX RATE

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 19-2020

Title of Resolution: Adoption – Tax Rates - FY 2021

Synopsis: 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.

The Resolution was introduced on April 7, 2020, and public hearing held and concluded on May 12, 2020.

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

On motion made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilman Patchell, the Council moved to approve Res. No. 19-2020

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-N, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-N, Meffley-Y
The motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 2. Councilman Coutz and Vice President Gregory were opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

Rezoning Case #2020-02

APPLICANT: Cecil Real Properties, LLC, c/o Thomas C. Kleine, Esq. REQUEST: Request to rezone 395.37 acres from Suburban Transition, (ST) to Heavy Industrial, (M2); PROPERTY LOCATION: 183 Zeitler Road,

Elkton, MD 21921. Election District: 3, Tax Map: 305, Parcel: 23; PROPERTY OWNER: Cecil Properties, LLC, Att: Tom Ahearn; PRESENTLY ZONED Suburban Transition (ST).

Vice President Gregory made a motion to approve the amended application of Cecil Real Properties, LLC, to rezone 251.05 acres located at 183 Zeitler Road, Elkton, MD, from Suburban Transition, (ST) to Heavy Industrial, (M2); and leaving 130.32 acres to the west of Laurel Run currently zoned as Suburban Transition, (ST); based upon a mistake in the zoning classification of the property during the last comprehensive rezoning. The motion was seconded by Councilman Coutz.

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 #74

Vice President Gregory made a motion, seconded by Councilman Coutz, to approve CCPS Budget Amendment #74, In the amount of \$111,350 for April 2020.

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

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.


The next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, June 9, 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.

Attest:



James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:



Robert Meffley
Council President