

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2020-13
June 30, 2020**

The County Council of Cecil County met in special 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 June 30, 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 Assistant Pastor William Harris from Wards Hill Baptist Church in Warwick, 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 June 30, 2020. Motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Suzan Doordan, North East, read comments from Joyce Bowsbey regarding her opposition to the proposed Charter amendment.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice President Gregory extended congratulations to Chief Darrell Hamilton who is retiring after 41 years as the Police Chief of North East. She recognized all law enforcement for their dedication to the citizens of Cecil County.

Councilman Miller wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July. He thanked the administration for taking care of the citizens.

Councilman Patchell wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July. He reminded citizens to stay safe and be careful with fireworks.

Councilman Coutz agreed with Vice President Gregory's comments on supporting law enforcement during these times. He wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July and hoped that families will enjoy their time together. He expressed his concern for the rise in overdose and domestic violence statistics and hoped the Sheriff Adams can update the Council on this issue.

Council President Meffley announced that Sheriff Adams will be making a presentation at the work session on July 7 to address the recent rise in overdoses and domestic violence. He wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July. He congratulated Chief Hamilton on his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 36-2020: Expedited Legislation - Charter Amendment – Qualifications – County Council
A Resolution amending Article 2, County Council, Section 205, Qualifications, of the Cecil County Charter to provide that the qualification for County Council Members be expanded to allow current employees of county agencies, not under the direct supervision or substantially controlled by the County Executive or County Council, to be qualified as a County Council Member. To require submission of this amendment to the legally qualified voters of Cecil County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Section 602 of the Charter of Cecil County. This legislation is requested to be expedited in order to meet the deadline of July 31, 2020 for submission to the State Board of Election.

Council President Meffley commented on the legislation. He asked John Downs, Council Attorney, to explain the proposed legislation. Council comments ensued.

Council President Meffley explained that Resolution No. 36-2020 requires that the Council consider expediting so that this legislation can be submitted to the State Board of Election by the deadline of July 31, 2020.

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 36-2020 for expediting because of the impending deadline. The motion was seconded by Vice President Gregory.

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

Introduced, read first time, order posted and scheduled for public hearing on July 28, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

The next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, July 7, 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