

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY  
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES  
LSD 2020-14  
July 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](http://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](http://www.ccgov.org).

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the County Council of Cecil County of July 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**

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 Pastor Sean Hurm from Charlestown United Methodist Church in Charlestown, 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 July 7, 2020. Motion was unanimously approved.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

### **Bill No. 2020-06 Amendment – Forest Conservation Regulations**

A Bill to amend the Cecil County Forest Regulations, Article VI, Forest Conservation Plan, to add text to Final Forest Conservation Plan; Article VII, Afforestation and Retention, to add text to Afforestation Requirement; Article X, Payment Instead of Afforestation and Reforestation, to add text to Forest Conservation Fund; Article X-3, Forest Retention Banks, to add new sections of Establishing Forest Retention Banks and Using a Forest Retention Bank.

The Bill was introduced on June 9, 2020, advertised on June 24, 2020 and July 1, 2020, and scheduled for public hearing on July 7, 2020.

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

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comment.

Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, made comments on the criteria for higher quality forestation.

Mr. Sennstrom stated that the criteria for higher quality forestation is based on higher quality timber, density and productivity.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing on Bill No. 2020-06 and announced that final consideration of this Bill will be held on July 21, 2020.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

### **Bill No. 2020-07 Budget Transfer – Capital Budget – Roads and Bridges – Central Yard Fuel and Mechanics Valley Road over CSX Bridge**

A Bill to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 to transfer existing bond appropriation authority within the Roads and Bridges Capital Projects Budget in the amount of \$1,000,000 from the Belvidere Road Improvement Project Phase I to the Replace Central Yard Fuel Project (\$500,000) and the Mechanics Valley Road over CSX Bridge Project (\$500,000). This Bill will also remove new FY 2021 bond funding of \$1,125,000 from the Central Yard Fuel Point and Mechanics Valley Bridge projects to lower the County's overall capital debt burden for FY 2021.

The Bill was introduced on June 9, 2020, advertised on June 24, 2020 and July 1, 2020, and scheduled for public hearing on July 7, 2020.

Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comment.  
Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, commented in favor of this legislation.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing on Bill No. 2020-07 and announced that final consideration of this Bill will be held on July 21, 2020.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**Bill No. 2020-08 Amendment – Capital Improvement Program FY 2021-2025**

A Bill to amend the Capital Improvement Program for Cecil County to delete Belvidere Road Improvement Phase 1 and insert Replace Bridge Belvidere Road over CSX.

The Bill was introduced on June 9, 2020, advertised on June 24, 2020 and July 1, 2020, and scheduled for public hearing on July 7, 2020.

Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

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

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing on Bill No. 2020-08 and announced that final consideration of this Bill will be held on July 21, 2020.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**Resolution No. 33-2020 Amendment – Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual**

A Resolution to repeal the existing Cecil County, Maryland Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual, and to enact a new Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual pursuant to Cecil County Code Chapter A384, §§ A384-1 (Adoption of Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual) and A384-2 (Change or Repeal of Provisions; No Express or Implied Contract of Employment).

The Resolution was introduced on June 9, 2020, advertised on June 24, 2020 and July 1, 2020, and scheduled for public hearing on July 7, 2020.

Sally Kilby, Human Resources Director, provided comments. She stated that there were two corrections in the proposed manual. She stated that on Page 2, under Unclassified Positions, the deputy and assistant State's Attorneys, criminal investigators and executive secretary within the State's Attorney's Office should have been included. She also stated that on Page 34, under Sick Leave, Sick Leave Accrual section, the following text was omitted in error, "Full time, active employees begin to accrue sick leave insurance at hire at the rate of 10 hours for each full month worked; however, they are unable to be paid leave until they have successfully completed their initial probationary period."

There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comment.

Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, commented on his concern on the rate of 10 hours for each month worked.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing on Resolution No. 33-2020 and announced that final consideration of this Resolution will be held on July 21, 2020.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilman Miller, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of June 16, 2020. Motion was approved unanimously.

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Special legislative session of June 30, 2020. Motion was approved unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, commented on the proposed Charter Amendment and suggested other possible issues for Charter Amendments. He also asked about any plans for the local public school system to reopen in the fall.

#### **PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Vice President Gregory attended the Armed Forces Golf Tournament that raise funds for the Cecil County Memorial VFW Post in North East. She stated that Cecil County Public Schools has a video presentation on possible options being considered for opening public schools in the fall.

Councilman Patchell expressed his sympathy in the passing of Dave Williams, who had been a leader in the community who was very supportive of Elkton Little League.

Councilman Miller agreed that Mr. Williams had worked for the Little League and baseball in the Town. He expressed his appreciation for the recent rain in the county. He also congratulated his son, Robbie, who was married on July 3 in Rehoboth Beach.

Councilman Coutz expressed his hope that everyone enjoyed the Fourth of July holiday, even with the pandemic restrictions. He thanked Sheriff Adams and Ray Lynn for their presentation on the increases in domestic violence and overdose fatalities statistics in the county.

Council President Meffley spoke about his fond memories of Dave Williams during an All-Star game between Chesapeake City and Elkton. He expressed his hope that everyone could enjoy the Fourth of July holiday with their families.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

#### **Bill No. 2020-09 Amendment – Collective Bargaining – Law Enforcement Deputy Sheriffs and Correctional Deputy Sheriffs**

A Bill to amend Chapter 70 (Officers and Employees), Article II, of the Cecil County Code, pursuant to authority set forth in the Annotated Code of Maryland, to now include the labor organization

representing certain Law Enforcement Deputy Sheriffs in the Cecil County Sheriff's Office, Correctional Deputy Sheriffs in the Cecil County Sheriff's Office, and full-time, regular, non-exempt uniformed employees on the Public Safety pay scale within the Cecil County Department of Emergency Services at the rank of captain and below, formulation of a memorandum of understanding of agreements made pursuant to collective bargaining, and dispute resolution procedures, timeframes and rules for conducting non-binding arbitration where the County and a bargaining unit are unable to reach an agreement on the contents of a memorandum of understanding or collective bargaining agreement through mediation, as well as rules for remedying unfair labor practices.

Jason Allison, County Attorney, provided introductory comments on this Bill. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time, and order posted. The public hearing on Bill No. 2020-09 will be advertised and scheduled on the Council legislative session of August 4, 2020.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**Resolution No. 37-2020 Appointment – Planning Commission – A. Chad Johnston and Peter Kirsh**

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of A. Chad Johnston and Peter Kirsh to the Cecil County Planning Commission; to a three year term, which is to expire on August 15, 2023.

Eric Sennstrom, Director of Administration, provided introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time, order posted and scheduled for consideration on July 21, 2020.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**Resolution No. 38-2020 Appointment – Board of Appeals – Brad Carrillo, Jr. and Michael Linkous**

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Brad Carrillo, Jr. and Michael Linkous to the Cecil County Board of Appeals, for a three year term to expire on August 15, 2023.

Eric Sennstrom, Director of Administration, provided introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time, order posted and scheduled for consideration on July 21, 2020.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**Resolution No. 39-2020 Approval – Water and Sewer – Sewer Use – Connection Charge-Extension**

A Resolution to extend the reduction of the connection fee for residential living units from \$12,000 per equivalent living unit to \$6,000 per equivalent living unit within the Cecil County Sanitary District; to establish that the \$6,000 reduction applies to all subdivisions receiving approval prior to July 31, 2022, and will remain in effect as long as the subdivision maintains its validity; and to reestablish that terms of any installment payment of the wastewater connection charge to be subject to terms as specified in the Sanitary District Policy.

Eric Sennstrom, Director of Administration, provided introductory comments. Council President Meffley clarified that the county has already received \$2.4M in fees for 398 residential units this year.

Introduced, read first time, order posted and scheduled for consideration on July 21, 2020.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**Resolution No. 40-2020 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Award – Broadband Expansion**

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 in order to provide a total of \$413,758 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund- Department of Land Use and Development Services to record the grant awarded from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, the Governor’s Office of Rural Broadband for the purpose of bringing internet access to underserved areas of Cecil County.

Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, provided introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time, order posted and scheduled for consideration on July 21, 2020.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**Resolution No. 41-2020 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Broadband Expansion – Fair Hill Area**

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 to authorize the Department of Land Use and Development Services budget, within the General Fund, expenditure appropriation authority of a County match to the Rural Broadband Grant of \$150,000 to be expended by investing in County broadband infrastructure in the area of Big Elk Chapel Road, Telegraph Road and Gallaher Road that will provide the necessary internet access for the Maryland Five Star Event at Fair Hill.

Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, provided introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time, order posted and scheduled for consideration on July 21, 2020.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**Resolution No. 42-2020 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Doctor Jack Road Bridge**

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 in order to provide the Department of Public Works – Roads Maintenance Department within the General Fund, additional expenditure appropriation authority in the amount of \$200,000. The additional expenditure authority will provide the necessary funding to rehabilitate Bridge CE-0003 Doctor Jack Road over Octoraro Creek, due to recent and continuing damage to the structure.

Rebecca Anderson, Budget Manager, provided introductory comments. Scott Flanigan, Public Works Director, provided additional details. Councilman Coutz led discussion on the cost of repair versus a more permanent solution.

Introduced, read first time, order posted and scheduled for consideration on July 21, 2020.

Council President Meffley stated that he appreciated public comments and hopes to see more citizens participating in the Council hearings. He invited the public to let Council Members know about their interests and concerns.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilman Miller, Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

The next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, July 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](http://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:

  
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Robert Meffley  
Council President