

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2020-16
July 28, 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 July 28, 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 legislation 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 approved unanimously.

OPENING PRAYER

Councilman Miller introduced Chaplain John Groth, USAF, Lt. Colonel, Retired, who led the opening prayer.

At 7:05pm, Council President Meffley called for a recess upon learning that some members of the public were unable to connect.

At 7:17pm, Council President Meffley reconvened the session and provided a summary of Council proceedings for the public who may have been unable to connect. He stated that the Council session had been called to order and conducted the Pledge of Allegiance, established by roll call that five members were present that constitutes a quorum, approved the suspension of rules to allow the session to be held as a virtual meeting because of the health crisis, and held the opening prayer. He stated that the approval of the agenda was halted upon learning of the communication issue.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve the legislative agenda of July 28, 2020. Motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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 public agencies, boards, commissions or other public bodies, which receive county funds, not under the direct supervision or substantially controlled by the County Executive or County Council, to be qualified as candidates for County Council. 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.

The Resolution was introduced and approved as expedited legislation on June 30, 2020; advertised on July 15, 2020 and July 22, 2020; and scheduled for public hearing on July 28, 2020.

John Downs, Council Attorney, provided comments on the legislation. Council Members provided comments.

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comment.

Joyce Bowsbey, Elkton, provided comments in opposition to the legislation.

Lori Hrinko, Elkton, provided comments in support of the legislation.

Linda Meffley, Chesapeake City, provided comments in support of the legislation.

Jason Allison, County Attorney, provided comments in opposition to the legislation.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing on Resolution No. 36-2020 and announced that final consideration of this legislation will be held later in the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tina Sharp, Perryville, thanked Council President Meffley and Council for sponsoring Resolution No. 36-2020.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Coutz commended Grant Handley, Council Intern, for creating a Council Listserve that will be used to inform subscribers of Council news and updates so that the public can stay informed. He stated that the Sheriff's intel meeting reported that overdose calls have dropped while mental health calls have increased dramatically in the last month. He commended those who participated in Back the Blues parade for law enforcement.

Councilman Miller reminded everyone that this day would have been Agriculture Day at the Cecil County Fair, if the fair had not been cancelled because of the pandemic. He reported that he served as masters of ceremonies for the 2020 Miss and Jr. Miss Cecil County Farm Bureau contest last Sunday. He stated that Brynn Lasala was chosen as Miss Cecil County Farm and Kaylin Stafford was selected as Jr. Miss Cecil County Farm Bureau. He also announced that the 4H Virtual Livestock Sale will begin on Friday.

Councilman Patchell stated that he has been on vacation and is catching up with his messages.

Vice President Gregory thanked Grant Handley, Council Intern, for his work in the Council office. She also thanked citizens who participated in Back the Blues parade. She encouraged everyone to participate in a golf tournament being held on August 5 as a fundraiser for the Boys and Girls Clubs.

Council President Meffley attended the Cecilton Town Council meeting and congratulated Craig DeVary and Danielle Zack who were recently elected. He plans to attend Make a Difference Day on August 8, being planned by Charles Ringold, a Cecilton Town Commissioner.

CONSIDERATION 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 public agencies, boards, commissions or other public bodies, which receive county funds, not under the direct supervision or substantially controlled by the County Executive or County Council, to be qualified as candidates for County Council. 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.

The Resolution was introduced and approved as expedited legislation on June 30, 2020; advertised on July 15, 2020 and July 22, 2020; and scheduled for public hearing on July 28, 2020.

There were no Council questions or comments.

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

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**AMENDMENT NO. 1
TO RESOLUTION NO. 36-2020**

Title: Expedited Legislation – Charter Amendment – Qualifications – County Council

Synopsis: To clarify that non-elected board members, committee members, and employees of State, County and Municipal agencies will be permitted to be County Council Members.

Introduced by: Council President

On Page 1, Synopsis, line 3, insert

“to allow non-elected board members, committee members and employees of State, County and Municipal agencies” and delete “current employees of public agencies, boards, commissions or other public bodies”.

On Page 4, line 69, insert the following:

“(d) Non-elected board members, committee members and employees of State, County and Municipal agencies, which are not directly supervised or substantially controlled by the Executive or Council, shall be eligible to be a council member if all the other provisions of this section are satisfied.”

On Page 5, line 96, insert the following:

“(d) Non-elected board members, committee members and employees of State, County and Municipal agencies, which are not directly supervised or substantially controlled by the Executive or Council, shall be eligible to be a council member if all the other provisions of this section are satisfied.”

On motion by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve Amendment No. 01 to Resolution No. 36-2020.

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 was opposed.

On motion by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Coutz, the Council moved to approve Resolution No. 36-2020 As Amended.

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 was opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

The next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, August 4, 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
James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:

Robert Meffley
Robert Meffley
Council President