

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY  
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES  
LSD 2020-24  
December 15, 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  
Jackie Gregory, Vice President  
William H. Coutz, Council Member  
George Patchell, 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 December 15, 2020 was called to order by Council President Meffley at 7:00 p.m. Council President Meffley led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**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 Miller.

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

The motion was approved unanimously.

**OPENING PRAYER**

Councilman Miller introduced Pastor Kevin Brown from Wrights AME Church to deliver the opening prayer.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion made by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Miller, the Council moved to approve the legislative agenda of December 15, 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 December 8, 2020. Motion was approved unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Joyce Bowlsbey, Elkton, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and commented that they should stay safe especially with the upcoming snowstorm.

### **PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Vice President Gregory attended a virtual meeting of the Upper Shore Regional Council with Council President Meffley and reported on their election of officers and plans for the new year. Vice President Gregory will serve as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of USRC. She participated in the MACo virtual winter conference. She stated that the General Assembly is modifying their procedure to reflect pandemic health risks. All public testimony at committees will be virtual. She reviewed anticipated legislative issues. She encouraged everyone to support Toys for Tots and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Miller attended the Local Management Board meeting and commented on their discussion on current issues of mental health and COVID. He commended Lauren Levy, Health Officer, for her leadership during this pandemic. He reported that Cecil County has a 12% positivity rate, a seven-day outbreak of 45.3% and 67 COVID-related deaths. He commented the vaccine is coming. He thanked Pastor Brown for leading the opening prayer and wished everyone Merry Christmas.

Councilman Coutz wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He thanked the audience for attending the session. He commented on the possible peak in COVID in January but hoped that the vaccine would arrive as soon as possible. He attended the Sheriff's intel meeting and reported statistics on calls for assistance. He reported that there had been two suicides last week that were related to evictions. He encouraged everyone to be compassionate to friends and neighbors during this pandemic.

Councilman Patchell attended the Parks and Recreation Board meeting and reported that the Friends of Parks and Recreation has cancelled their fundraiser and explained that this volunteer group will be working to raise funds to support programs. He stated that work on a parking lot at Calvert Park has begun and Brantwood Park has a new disk golf course. He wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Council President Meffley commented on Christmas Market at Poplar Hall held in Chesapeake City, which had been organized by the Chesapeake City Lions Club. He also commended Donna Shelton, King Lion, for her outstanding leadership. He encouraged the public to go to Chesapeake City to see the ferris wheel that is in place near the bridge, which was placed in honor of first responders and Harold Reynolds who had been a lifetime member of the Chesapeake City Volunteer Fire Company. He congratulated

Vice President Gregory on being elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Upper Shore Regional Council. He encouraged everyone to remember others during this holiday.

### **INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

#### **Resolution No. 66-2020 Appointment—Department of Social Services Board – Dianne Fox**

A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Dianne Fox to the Department of Social Services Board for three (3) year term to expire June 30, 2023.

Dan Schneckenburger, Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time, order posted on December 15, 2020, and scheduled for consideration on January 5, 2021.

#### **Resolution No. 67-2020 Approval - Annexation - Town of Elkton – Belle Hill Road et al - Zoning Designation**

A Resolution to approve the request from the Town of Elkton that the zoning of the property, located on Belle Hill Road, Swallow Drive, and Elkton Road; also known as the Preston and Laetitia Ayars Property, which is being annexed into the Town, be changed from High Density Residential (RM) to the Town's Highway Interchange Commercial (C-3) zone.

Steve O'Connor, Acting Director of Land Use and Development Services, and Scott Flanigan, Director of Public Works, provided comments.

Council questions and comments ensued. Council Members agreed that more information was needed before this Resolution should be considered for approval. Issues mentioned included: the maintenance and ownership of Belle Hill Road, the impact to the surrounding residential areas, direct access on MD 279, and resulting county parcel that would be surrounded by town annexed parcels. Council Members commented that there was insufficient time to resolve these issues before January 5, 2021, when the Resolution was to be considered.

Councilman Coutz made a motion to set a public hearing for Resolution No. 67-2020, which would be on January 19, 2021. 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.

President Meffley restated that a public hearing on Resolution No. 67-2020 will be held on January 19, 2021, and final consideration scheduled on February 2, 2021.

Introduced, read first time and order posted on December 15, 2020 and scheduled for public hearing on January 19, 2021.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS**

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**Resolution No. 65-2020 Approval – COVID Supply Storage – Multiple Year Contract**

A Resolution to approve a three (3) year lease agreement between the County and Nowland Development, Inc. to rent 4,808 square feet of space, located at 400 Pintail Circle, Elkton, for a total cost of \$165,877 for use for COVID Supply Storage.

Dan Schneckeburger, Director of Administration provided comments. John Donohue, Deputy Chief of Emergency Services, was also available to answer questions. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Meffley confirmed that the administration uses 3,000 SF of storage and plans to use 4,300 SF of storage in the new site, which will fluctuate throughout the year.

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 65-2020, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

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 #81

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #81, in the amount of \$5,593 for November 2020, which was seconded by Councilman Coutz. The Council approved the motion by a voice vote of 4 to 0. Vice President Gregory recused herself from voting.


**ADJOURNMENT**


On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

The next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., which is planned as a virtual meeting because of the current health crisis. The session will be livestreamed on the County Council’s webpage. Members of the public who do not have broadband access should contact the Council Office for instructions to be connected via telephone.

Approved:

Attest:

 1-6-21  
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Robert Meffley  
Council President

  
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James Massey  
Council Manager