

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2020-25
December 22, 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
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.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the County Council of Cecil County of December 22, 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

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 approved unanimously.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Council President Meffley led the Council in a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve the special legislative agenda of December 22, 2020. Motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Reconsideration of Motion

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.

Council President Meffley provided a summary of the annexation of Belle Hill Road et al by the Town of Elkton. He noted that the County's High Density Residential zoning (RM) was substantially different from the Town's Highway Interchange Commercial (C-3) zoning, which would require the Council's approval. During introduction of this Resolution, several outstanding issues were raised, which included access to the parcels, impact of traffic to existing residential properties, maintenance and ownership of Belle Hill Road, possible State approval of access on MD 279, and deadline of January 11, 2021 for Council action.

Council President Meffley explained that at the introduction of Resolution No. 67-2020 on December 15, 2020, Council expressed concern that the identified issues could not be resolved by January 5, 2021 when the legislation would be considered for approval. For this reason, the Council voted to set a public hearing on January 19, 2021 so that there would be sufficient time to look at these issues. He stated that since the Council legislative session, the County learned that there was no deadline for the Council to approve the annexation as previously thought.

After discussion with Council Members, Council President Meffley suggested that the motion to set a public hearing on this legislation be rescinded so that the Council could consider this Resolution at the legislative session on January 5, 2021, at which time the Council can determine if they wish to table the legislation until the Town of Elkton holds their public hearing on the annexation and the identified issues can be resolved.

After discussion, Councilman Coutz made a motion to rescind the motion to hold a public hearing on Resolution No. 67-2020 on January 19, 2021 so that the Council could consider approval on January 5, 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 unanimously approved.

Council President Meffley restated that Resolution No. 67-2020 Approval- Annexation – Town of Elkton- Belle Hill Road et al – Zoning Designation, will be considered for approval at the Council legislative session of January 5, 2021.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Miller wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He also commented on the passing of Mary Maloney and her significant role in Cecil County.

Councilman Coutz commented on the passing of Lee Crabbe, retired Marine, Toys for Tots organizer, and active member of the Elkton VFW Post. He wished everyone Merry Christmas.

Vice President Gregory wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. She stated her hope for a better 2021.

Councilman Patchell commented on the passing of Mary Maloney who was the first female commissioner and her many accomplishments. He wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Council President Meffley commented on the passing of Mary Maloney and her contributions to Cecil County. He hoped that we can put COVID behind us in 2021.


ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilman Miller, Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 7:08 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

Robert Meffley
Council President


for James Massey
Council Manager