

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2021-04
February 16, 2021**

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 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 February 16, 2021 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 (arrived 7:05pm., 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 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 Reverend Delmar Duval from Nottingham Missionary Baptist Church in Nottingham, PA, who led the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilman Miller, the Council moved to approve the legislative agenda of February 16, 2021. Motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2021-01 County Council - Qualifications

An Act to amend Chapter 21 (County Council) to add a new section to be titled "Qualifications" to reflect the approved Charter Amendment that non-elected board members, committee members and employees, who receive county funds, not under the direct supervision or substantially controlled by the County Executive or County Council, may be qualified as candidates for County Council; which was approved as Local Question A by Cecil County qualified voters at the General Election on November 3, 2020.

The Bill was introduced on January 19, 2021; advertised on February 3, 2021 and February 10, 2021; and scheduled for public hearing on February 16, 2021.

There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comments.

Thomas McFadden, Elkton, commented that he hoped more educators would run for public office.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing on Bill No. 2021-01 and announced that final consideration of this Bill will be held on March 2, 2021.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2021-02 Ethics – Employment and Financial Interest Restrictions

An Act to amend Chapter 39. (Ethics), Article III. (Prohibited Conduct and Interest), Section 39-14. (Employment and Financial Interest Restrictions), to add language to reflect the Charter Amendment that non-elected board members, committee members and employees, who receive county funds, not under the direct supervision or substantially controlled by the County Executive or County Council, are not included in the restrictions of employment and financial interest; which was approved as Local Question A by Cecil County qualified voters at the General Election on November 3, 2020.

The Bill was introduced on January 19, 2021; advertised on February 3, 2021 and February 10, 2021; and scheduled for public hearing on February 16, 2021.

Council questions and comments ensued.

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

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing on Bill No. 2021-02 and announced that final consideration of this Bill will be held on March 2, 2021.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 04-2021 Amendment – Comprehensive Plan – Mineral Extraction District
A Resolution to amend the Comprehensive Plan in order change the land use classification of a 60.102 acre property, located at 730 Craigtown Road, Port Deposit, Maryland, from Low Density Growth area to Mineral Extraction District for the purpose of removal of sand and gravel resources; and amend the total proposed land uses by area categories.

The Resolution was introduced on January 19, 2021; advertised on February 3, 2021 and February 10, 2021; and scheduled for public hearing on February 16, 2021.

Steve O'Connor, Land Use and Development Services, Acting Director, provided comments. Council questions and comments ensued.

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comments.
Mike Pugh, Elkton, provided comments on his proposal to increase the allocation of mineral extraction by 60 acres.

Liz Dubravcic, Elkton, questioned if an environmental study had been done.

Vince Sammons, North East, asked about the effect on wells and the aquifer.

Dave Mehellas, Elkton, asked about the size of the parcel.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing on Resolution No. 04-2021 and announced that final consideration of this legislation will be held on March 2, 2021.

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 February 2, 2021. Motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vince Sammons, North East, commented about the previous Executive's administration.

Janice Stenger, Elkton, commented in opposition to Ethics Commission appointees.

Adriana Brown, Elkton, commented on Ethics Commission appointees.

Scott Stevens, Charlestown, commented in support of Andrew Goins.

Tanya Beresh, Elkton, commented in support of Ethics Commission appointees.

Stephanie Dean, Elkton, commented in opposition to Ethics Commission appointees.
Heidi Gaultney, Elkton, commented in opposition to Ethics Commission appointees.
Holly Wolf, Elkton, commented in support of County Executive but opposed to Heather O'Rourke's appointment.

James Gasparo, North East, commented on the unfairness of Executive replacing all members of Ethics Commission.

Dave Mehelas, Elkton, asked about the status of Southfields.

J.T. Wilson, Elkton, commented in support of new Ethics Commission appointees.

Jennifer Cooper, Elkton, commented in opposition to process of Executive's appointment of all members of Ethics Commission.

Donna Caudell, Elkton, commented in support of Ethics Commission appointees.

James Reeves, Elkton, commented in support of Andrew Goins.

Renee Dixon, Elkton, commented in support of Andrew Goins.

Bill DeFreitas, Elkton, commented in opposition to Ethics Commission appointees.

Bart Thomas, Elkton, commented in support of Andrew Goins.

Jeff Kase, Elkton, commented in opposition to Ethics Commission appointees.

Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, commented in opposition to former Ethics Commission members.

Katelyn Lovelace, Elkton, commented in support of Andrew Goins.

Justin Vest, Rising Sun, commented in support of Ethics Commission appointees.

Stacey Clark, Elkton, asked why former Ethics Commission members were dismissed.

Alexis Brewer, Rising Sun, commented in support of Andrew Goins.

Katie Keys, Elkton, commented in support of Andrew Goins.

David Larason, Elkton, commented in support of Andrew Goins.

Lauren Johnsky, Elkton, commented in opposition of appointment of O'Rourke and Goins.

Jennifer Berman, Elkton, commented on new members' knowledge of ethics law.

Raedina Shelton, Elkton, commented in support of Ethics Commission appointees.

Liz Dubravcic, Elkton, commented on the difficult situation of appointing Ethics Commission members.

Frances Bowman, Perryville, asked Council to consider the individuality of each appointee.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice President Gregory thanked the audience for attending and giving their comments. She attended the MACo legislative committee to discuss State legislation and its impact on counties. She will be attending the 75th anniversary of the VFW Post 6027 in North East and thanked the veterans for the service. She also commented about the transparency in the process of appointing Ethics Commission members. She stated that persons with religious convictions should not be discriminated against.

Councilman Miller thanked the audience for their attendance and comments.

Councilman Coutz thanked the audience for their attendance and comments. He stated that the Council would base their actions on the Ethics Commission appointments on facts. He thanked Lauren Levy for her COVID-19 update and her department's efforts in

testing and vaccinations. He reported on statistics from the Sheriff's Intel Meeting that showed emergency calls rising as well as a continuation in the rise of fatal overdoses. He asked the administration to consider this a priority for programs.

Councilman Patchell thanked the audience for attending. He attended the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and reported that regular spring activities will begin, which includes flag football and lacrosse. He stated that the final phase of Calvert Regional Park will be completed by May 1, 2021. He reported that the Friends of Parks and Recreation raised funds to provide golf tees at Brantwood Park; and he encouraged the public to visit the park to enjoy the amenities. He also stated that Perryville had lost a very fine citizen, Eddie Ryan, who had been chief engineer of the Perryville Fire Company and a Town Commissioner.

Council President Meffley encouraged the public to visit Brantwood Park and walk the trails. He stated that the court had decided to allow a new cell tower near Chesapeake City Bridge, which the Town and public had opposed because of its adjacency to the Scenic Byway. He announced the Mayor Joe Zang is retiring from the Cecilton Town Board. He will be attending the Upper Shore Regional Council meeting and hoped that additional funds will be available for broadband expansion to the rural areas of Cecil County. He will be attending the anniversary celebration at the VFW Post in North East and thanked them for their service to veterans and the public. He stated that he will be reviewing the Charter to consider a better process to appoint members of the Ethics Commission.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 19-2021: Appointment—Economic Development Commission – Sharon Kurfuerst

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Sharon Kurfuerst to the Economic Development Commission; filling the vacancy of Dr. Richard Szumel, which will expire on January 7, 2023.

Dan Schneckenburger, Director of Administration, provided introductory comments. Steve Overbay, Economic Development Director, also provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time, order posted, and schedule for consideration on March 2, 2021.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 08-2021 Appointment—Cecil County Ethics Commission – Janet Pope

A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Janet Pope made by the County Executive to the Cecil County Ethics Commission, term to expire October 3, 2021.

There were no comments from the administration.

Vice President Jackie Gregory provided comments on the process and the Council's handling. She stated that she asked for legal counsel on this legislation.

This Resolution was introduced on January 19, 2021 and scheduled for consideration on February 2, 2021. On January 19, 2021, the Council rejected Resolution Nos. 08-2021 through 12-2021 at introduction. On February 2, 2021, the Council rescinded motion of January 19, 2021, to reject Resolution Nos. 08-2021 through 12-2021 at introduction, and tabled consideration of Resolution Nos. 08-2021 through 12-2021, until February 16, 2021, in order to allow time for Council to vet and interview appointees.

There were no final comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 08-2021, which was seconded by Council President Meffley.

Roll call vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y

The motion was approved unanimously.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 09-2021 Appointment—Cecil County Ethics Commission – Andrew Goins
A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Andrew Goins made by the County Executive to the Cecil County Ethics Commission, term to expire August 7, 2022.

This Resolution was introduced on January 19, 2021 and scheduled for consideration on February 2, 2021. On January 19, 2021, the Council rejected Resolution Nos. 08-2021 through 12-2021 at introduction. On February 2, 2021, the Council rescinded motion of January 19, 2021, to reject Resolution Nos. 08-2021 through 12-2021 at introduction, and tabled consideration of Resolution Nos. 08-2021 through 12-2021, until February 16, 2021, in order to allow time for Council to vet and interview appointees.

There were no final comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Vice President Gregory made a motion to approve Resolution No. 09-2021, which was seconded by Councilman Patchell.

Roll call vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y

The motion was approved unanimously.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 10-2021 Appointment—Cecil County Ethics Commission – Joseph Graf
A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Joseph Graf made by the County Executive to the Cecil County Ethics Commission, term to expire December 19, 2023.

This Resolution was introduced on January 19, 2021 and scheduled for consideration on

February 2, 2021. On January 19, 2021, the Council rejected Resolution Nos. 08-2021 through 12-2021 at introduction. On February 2, 2021, the Council rescinded motion of January 19, 2021, to reject Resolution Nos. 08-2021 through 12-2021 at introduction, and tabled consideration of Resolution Nos. 08-2021 through 12-2021, until February 16, 2021, in order to allow time for Council to vet and interview appointees.

There were no final comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 10-2021, which was seconded by Council President Meffley.

Roll call vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y

The motion was approved unanimously.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 11-2021 Appointment—Cecil County Ethics Commission – Charles Kelso
A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Charles Kelso made by the County Executive to the Cecil County Ethics Commission, term to expire March 3, 2024.

This Resolution was introduced on January 19, 2021 and scheduled for consideration on February 2, 2021. On January 19, 2021, the Council rejected Resolution Nos. 08-2021 through 12-2021 at introduction. On February 2, 2021, the Council rescinded motion of January 19, 2021, to reject Resolution Nos. 08-2021 through 12-2021 at introduction, and tabled consideration of Resolution Nos. 08-2021 through 12-2021, until February 16, 2021, in order to allow time for Council to vet and interview appointees.

There were no final comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 11-2021, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory.

Roll call vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y

The motion was approved unanimously.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 12-2021 Appointment—Cecil County Ethics Commission – Heather O'Rourke

A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Heather O'Rourke made by the County Executive to the Cecil County Ethics Commission, term to expire July 18, 2024.

This Resolution was introduced on January 19, 2021 and scheduled for consideration on February 2, 2021. On January 19, 2021, the Council rejected Resolution Nos. 08-2021 through 12-2021 at introduction. On February 2, 2021, the Council rescinded motion of January 19, 2021, to reject Resolution Nos. 08-2021 through 12-2021 at introduction, and tabled consideration of Resolution Nos. 08-2021 through 12-2021, until February 16, 2021, in order to allow time for Council to vet and interview appointees.

There were no final comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Vice President Gregory made a motion to approve Resolution No. 12-2021, which failed for lack of a second.

NEW BUSINESS

Cecil County Public Schools – Budget Amendment #83

Councilman Coutz made a motion, seconded by Councilman Miller, to approve Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #83, in the amount of \$1,160,980 for transactions in January 2021.


The motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote of 5 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilman Miller, Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

The next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, March 2, 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:



Robert Meffley
Council President

Attest:



James Massey
Council Manager