

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2021-09
May 4, 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
Jackie Gregory, Vice President
William H. Coutz, Council Member
George Patchell, Council Member
Al Miller, Absent

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 May 4, 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-Absent, Patchell-Present, Gregory-Present, Meffley-Present.

Council President Meffley announced that there were four Council Members present, which constitute a quorum. Councilman Miller was absent.

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-Absent, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y
The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0. Councilman Miller was absent.

OPENING PRAYER

Council President Meffley introduced Pastor Steve Basht from Janes United Methodist Church in Rising Sun 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 May 4, 2021. Motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

FILE: 2021-05 APPLICANT: York Building Products, Co., Inc. REQUEST: Request to rezone 60.102 acres from Low Density Residential (LDR) to Low Density Residential with an MEB overlay, (LDR/MEB). PROPERTY LOCATION: 730 Craigtown Road, Port Deposit, MD 21904, Election District: 7, Tax Map: 23E, Parcel 684, Lot 2; PROPERTY OWNER: William Hociak. PRESENTLY ZONED: Low Density Residential, (LDR).

Notice of the public hearing was published on April 21, 2021 and April 28, 2021.

Witnesses presenting testimony were sworn in by the Council Manager.

Mike Pugh, representing the applicant, introduced Jim Gawthrop, York Building Products. Mr. Pugh presented the request for rezoning, based on a change in the character of the neighborhood since the 2011 Comprehensive Rezoning. Mr. Pugh and Mr. Gawthrop reviewed their visual presentation with the Council.

Stephen O'Connor, Acting Director of Land Use and Development Services, stated that the Planning and Zoning staff and Planning Commission had recommended approval of the request based on a change in the character of the neighborhood since the 2011 Comprehensive Rezoning.

Bryan Lightner, Zoning Administrator, presented the staff report of findings of facts, which supported the approval based on a change in the character of the neighborhood since the 2011 Comprehensive Rezoning. Council questions and comments ensued.

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comments.

Sabine Whitney, 843 Craigtown Road, Port Deposit, commented in opposition to the rezoning application.

Patricia Strong, 855 Craigtown Road, Port Deposit, commented in opposition to the rezoning application.

Don Jackson, 385 Camp Meeting Ground Road, Port Deposit, commented in opposition to the rezoning application.

Marianne Bitner, 775 Craigtown Road, Port Deposit, commented in opposition to the rezoning application.

Eloise Wiley, 560 Craigtown Road, Port Deposit, commented in opposition to the rezoning application.

Mr. Pugh provided closing remarks. Council questions and comments ensued.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing and announced that the rezoning case will be considered at the next legislative session on May 18, 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 April 20, 2021. Motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, commented in support of the County Executive's tax reduction.

Sabine Whitney, Port Deposit, commented in opposition to the 2021-05 Rezoning application.

Thomas McFadden, Elkton, commented in support of Friends of Parks and Recreation's efforts in opening disc golf courses in Calvert and Brantwood.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Patchell participated in the Perryville Little League parade and the opening of the new Trego Field, which will be the home of the Perryville Little League. He participated with the roadside cleanup on Belvidere Road. He coached several basketball games.

Councilman Coutz participated in the roadside cleanup on Route 213. He reported on statistics discussed at the Sheriff's Office intel meeting and commented on the continued increase in overdoses incidents and fatalities. He stated that he was pleased with the recent opioid summit and looks forward to developing action plans that were discussed.

Vice President Gregory thanked the audience for attending and sharing their comments. She commented that the County is opening slowly and more events are being planned. She recognized teachers for their adaption to changes in instruction caused by the pandemic. She congratulated all the nominees for Teacher of the Year and commended Mary Spence from Elkton High School who received the title. She organized a team to cleanup Old Elk Neck Road; and thanked Dr. Lawson, Superintendent, and Diana Hawley, Board of Education member, for their participation. She invited the public to contact her about joining roadside cleanup efforts on Elk Neck. She attended the opening of the Hollingsworth Manor community center, Wayne Hill Library and Sheilagh's Pantry at their new location. She attended the North East VFC recognition for David Penhollow, Richard Meekins, and Sean Day who were recently inducted into the Harford-Cecil Firefighters Hall of Fame. She attended the vaccination clinic in Rising Sun where Congressman Harris assisted in vaccinating local residents.

Council President Meffley attended the recent opioid summit and commended the group's proposals to combat our drug problems. He attended the opening of the Family Education Center, which is supported by the Maryland Rural Development Corporation. He stated that Sheilagh's Pantry and Wayne Hill's Library have also relocated to this facility. He represented Cecil County Government with the Cecil Leadership Institute panel discussion of challenges of managing during the pandemic. He participated in the roadside cleanup in Earleville.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2021-07 Bond Authorization – General Obligation Project Bonds

An Act authorizing and empowering Cecil County, Maryland, from time to time, to borrow not more than Thirty Nine Million Dollars (\$39,000,000) for the purpose of financing the costs of certain public facilities in Cecil County described herein, and to effect such borrowing by the issuance and sale of its general obligation bonds in one or more series; empowering the County Executive to execute and deliver one or more executive orders prior to issuing the bonds in order to fix, prescribe and determine the details of the bonds and the issuance and sale thereof; empowering and directing the County to levy ad valorem taxes in rate and amount sufficient to provide funds for the payment of the maturing principal of and interest on the bonds; exempting the bonds from the provisions of Sections 19-205 and 19-206 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, or successor provision; authorizing the County to issue and sell bond anticipation notes in one or more series pursuant to the authority of Sections 19-211 through 19-221 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, or successor provision, prior to and in anticipation of the sale of the bonds; providing that the County may issue and sell all or any portion of the bonds as bonds the interest on which is not excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes; authorizing the County to issue bonds for the purpose of refunding any bonds issued pursuant to this Act in one or more series pursuant to the authority of Section 19-207 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland; and relating generally to the issuance and sale of such bonds.

Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, provided introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time, order posted on May 4, 2021. The public hearing for this legislation will be scheduled on June 1, 2021.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2021-08 Bond Authorization – General Obligation Refunding Bonds

An Act authorizing and empowering Cecil County, Maryland, from time to time, to issue and sell its general obligation bonds in one or more series for the purpose of refunding all or a portion of its outstanding general obligation bonds described herein and the bonds authorized hereby; empowering the County Executive to execute and deliver one or more executive orders prior to issuing the bonds in order to fix, prescribe and determine the details of the bonds and the

issuance and sale thereof; empowering and directing the County to levy ad valorem taxes in rate and amount sufficient to provide funds for the payment of the maturing principal of and interest on the bonds; exempting the bonds from the provisions of Sections 19-205 and 19-206 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, or successor provisions; providing that the County may issue and sell all or any portion of the bonds as bonds the interest on which is not excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes; and relating generally to the issuance and sale of such bonds.

Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, provided introductory comments. Vice President Gregory thanked the administration for allowing Council Members to have input on this legislation.

Introduced, read first time, order posted on May 4, 2021. The public hearing for this legislation will be scheduled on June 1, 2021.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2021-09 Transfer of Appropriations – Board of Education Capital Budget – FY 2022 to FY 2021

A Bill to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, to move forward the bond expenditure authority in the amount of \$4,200,000, requested for the New Chesapeake City Elementary School within the Board of Education Capital Projects Budget, resulting in a reduction to FY2022 and increase to the current fiscal year 2021.

James Appel, Finance Director, provided introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time, order posted on May 4, 2021. The public hearing for this legislation will be scheduled on June 1, 2021.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2021-10 Transfer of Appropriations – Board of Education Capital Budget- North East Middle School

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 Board of Education Capital Projects Budget, in the amount of \$308,706.71 from the New Gilpin Manor Elementary School completed project, to the preliminary design work for the new North East Middle School.

James Appel, Finance Director, provided introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time, order posted on May 4, 2021. The public hearing for this legislation will be scheduled on June 1, 2021.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2021-11 Transfer of Appropriations – Board of Education Capital Budget – Chesapeake City Elementary School

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 Board of Education Capital Projects Budget, in the amount of \$100,888.46 from completed School Capital Projects (Bohemia Manor High Roof Replacement Project \$95,364.20; Providence School Roof Replacement Project \$1,471.00; Rising Sun Elementary School Boiler Replacement Project \$3,993.00; and Cherry Hill Middle School Windows and Doors Project \$60.26); to the New Chesapeake City Elementary School Project currently under construction.

James Appel, Finance Director, provided introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time, order posted on May 4, 2021. The public hearing for this legislation will be scheduled on June 1, 2021.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 24-2021 Appointment - Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council – Robert Alt

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Robert Alt to the Cecil County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council to a four-year term, to expire on May 18, 2025.

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

Introduced, read first time, order posted on May 4, 2021, and scheduled for consideration on May 18, 2021.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 25-2021 Authorization – Refunding Bonds of 2021

A Resolution to authorize and empower Cecil County, Maryland to borrow, from time to time, not more than Twenty One Million Dollars (\$21,000,000) and to effect such borrowing by the issuance and sale of its general obligation bonds in one or more series, authorized by Section 19-207 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland (2013 Replacement Volume), such bonds to be designated “Cecil County, Maryland Refunding Bonds of 2021,” such bonds to be sold and issued for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding general obligation bonds of the County; to empower the County Executive to execute and deliver one or more executive orders prior to issuing the bonds in order to fix, prescribe and determine certain matters relating to such bonds and the issuance and sale thereof, as hereinafter described; empowering and directing the County to levy ad valorem taxes in rate and amount sufficient to provide funds for the payment of the maturing principal of and interest on the bonds; exempting the bonds

from the provisions of Sections 19-205 and 19-206 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, or successor provisions; providing that the County may issue and sell all or any portion of the bonds as bonds the interest on which is not excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes; and to provide for and determine certain matters in connection with the sale, issuance and delivery of such bonds.

Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, provided introductory comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time, order posted on May 4, 2021. The public hearing for this legislation will be scheduled on June 1, 2021.

CALL FOR FINAL READING OF BILLS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2021-03 Establishment – Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board

A Bill to establish the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board, its membership, organization and role.

The Bill was introduced on March 16, 2021, the public hearing held and concluded on April 20, 2021, and scheduled for consideration on May 4, 2021.

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

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve Bill No. 2021-03, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory.

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

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0. Councilman Miller was absent.

ADJOURNMENT


On motion made by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Coutz, Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

The next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, May 18, 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. Limited seating will be available on a first come basis. Attendees must wear masks and observe social distancing.

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Robert Meffley
Council President