

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2021-24
December 21, 2021**

The County Council of Cecil County met in legislative session at the County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Elk Room, Elkton, MD. The following members of the Council were present:

Robert Meffley, Council President
Jackie Gregory, Vice President
William H. Coutz, Council Member
Al Miller, Council Member
Donna Culberson, Council Member

NOTE: The recording with transcription of this meeting is available on the County website at www.ccgov.org/council.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the County Council of Cecil County of December 21, 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.

OPENING PRAYER

Council Member Miller introduced Pastor Steve Basht from Janes United Methodist Church in Rising Sun, who led the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Coutz, the Council moved to approve the legislative agenda of December 21, 2021. Motion was approved unanimously.

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 7, 2021. Motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marcus Webster, Voices of Hope, commended the Council for their commitment to addressing drug addiction.

Heather Lyons, North East, commented in support of backyard chicken legislation.

Bob Gatchell, Port Deposit, commented in support of backyard chicken legislation.

Linda Meffley, Chesapeake City, commented in support of COVID vaccinations.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Coutz thanked the audience for attending and wished them Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He attended the Cecil County Watershed Stewards Academy graduation and commended their North East rain garden capstone project. He participated in the Rockin' Reader program at

Cecil Manor Elementary School. He reported on statistics from the Sheriff's Office Intel meeting that showed most calls for service has increased. He also stated that 2021 has shown a significant increase in overdose fatalities. He congratulated Caleb and Alice Crothers, and Amanda and Westley Miller, who received the Farmers on the Rise awards from the Mid Atlantic Farm Credit. He voiced his concern about the number of COVID patients in Christiana Care Union Hospital.

Councilman Miller attended the Firemen's Association meeting and asked everyone to pray for our firefighters who have been very busy. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilwoman Culberson expressed her concern over the impact of Chester County hospitals closing in Jennersville and Bryn Mawr. She wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Vice President Gregory wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. She requested that public comments regarding the backyard chicken legislation be read into the record. Council Manager Massey read comments from Donna Caudill and John Stricklett in support of this legislation.

Council President Meffley commented on the Residential Noise Committee members being a balance of homeowners, business, and law enforcement. He attended the Firemen's Association meeting and commented on the county's purchase of ambulances for Cecilton and Hacks Point. He commended volunteer fire companies for their great public service to the county.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2021-16 Amendment – Zoning Ordinance – Animal Husbandry – Backyard Chickens

An Act to amend the Cecil County Zoning Ordinance, Article V, Part I, Section 58, Animal Husbandry in order to add and define backyard chickens raised in specific residential zones.

Vice President Gregory, Bill sponsor, provided comments. Vice President Gregory read an additional comment from Austin Nester in support of the legislation. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time, and order posted on December 21, 2021. The Bill will be scheduled and advertised for public hearing on January 18, 2022.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 60-2021 Appointment – Electrical Examiners Board – Richard LeBrun and Donald Hicks

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Richard LeBrun and Donald Hicks to the Electrical Examiners Board for a three year term to expire on January 4, 2025.

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

Introduced, read first time, order posted, and scheduled for consideration on January 4, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 61-2021 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Economic Development – Upper Shore Regional Council – Agriculture Microgrant Program

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, in order to provide a total of \$27,000 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund- Office of Economic Development, in order to record the grant awarded from the Upper Shore Regional Council, for the purpose of an Agriculture Microgrant Program in Cecil County.

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

Introduced, read first time, order posted, and scheduled for consideration on January 4, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 62-2021 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Economic Development – MARBIDCO – Agriculture Microgrant Program

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, in order to provide a total of \$24,000 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund- Office of Economic Development, to record the cost share grant awarded from the Maryland Agricultural & Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) for the purpose of matching funds towards the Agriculture Microgrant Program in Cecil County.

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

Introduced, read first time, order posted, and scheduled for consideration on January 4, 2022.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 59-2021 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Tourism – Winter Lights Cecil Nights

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, in order to provide a total of \$10,000 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund- Office of Economic Development – Tourism, to record the grant awarded from the Upper Shore Regional Council, for the purpose of a “Winter Lights-Cecil Nights” Marketing Campaign in Cecil County.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on December 7, 2021 and schedule for consideration on December 21, 2021.

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

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution No. 59-2021, which was seconded by Councilman Coutz.

Roll call vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Culberson-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y
The motion was unanimously approved.

CALL FOR FINAL READING OF BILLS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2021-15 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Roads and Bridges Capital Projects – Belvidere Road

A Bill to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, in order to appropriate expenditure authority within the Roads and Bridges Capital Projects Budget in the amount of \$750,000 from the General Fund – Assignment of Fund Balance.

The Bill was introduced and posted on November 2, 2021; the public hearing was held and concluded on December 7, 2021; and scheduled for final consideration on December 21, 2021.

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

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve Bill No. 2021-15, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory.

Roll call vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Culberson-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y
The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Cecil County Public Schools – Budget Amendment # 93

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #93, in the amount of \$496,531 for November 2021 expenses. The motion was seconded by Vice President Gregory. The Council approved the motion unanimously by a voice vote of 5 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilman Coutz and seconded by Vice President Gregory. Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Council President Meffley announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building. The public may attend and participate. The legislative session will continue to be livestreamed in real time at the county's webpage at www.ccgov.org/council. The recording and transcription will be uploaded to the county's website as soon as possible.

Approved:



Robert Meffley
Council President

Attest:



James Massey
Council Manager