

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2022-17
August 2, 2022**

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 August 2, 2022, was called to order by Council President Meffley at 7:00 p.m. Council President Meffley asked Hank Passi to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING PRAYER

Council Member Miller introduced Reverend David Burke from Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church in Colora, 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 August 2, 2022. Motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**Bill No. 2022-10 Supplemental Appropriation and Budget Transfer – Capital Projects –
Courtroom No. 3 – Courthouse Parking Lot**

A Bill to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, to move expenditure authority within the Circuit Court Capital Projects Budget in the amount of \$12,218 from the Renovate Courtroom No. 3 Project to the Resurface Courthouse Parking Lot Project.

The Bill was introduced on July 5, 2022, advertised on July 20, 2022 and July 27, 2022, and scheduled for public hearing on August 2, 2022. Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

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

Council President Meffley closed the hearing and announced that Bill No. 2022-10 will be considered for approval at the next legislative session on August 16, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 41-2022 Master Water and Sewer Plan – Elkton West and Route 40 Business Corridor – Triumph Industrial Park

A Resolution to amend the Cecil County Master Water and Sewer Plan, Chapter 4, Section 4.1.9 North East River Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (NERAWWTP); and to amend Appendix B, Table 13 – Immediate, 5 and 10-year Priorities for Sewerage Development to reflect the addition of Triumph Industrial Park to the NERAWWTP.

The Resolution was introduced on July 5, 2022, advertised on July 20, 2022 and July 27, 2022, and scheduled for public hearing on August 2, 2022. Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

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

Council President Meffley closed the hearing and announced that Resolution No. 41-2022 will be considered for approval at the next legislative session on August 16, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 45-2022 Approval – Franchise Agreement – Armstrong Cable Television

A Resolution to execute the renewal of a non-exclusive cable service franchise agreement by and between Cecil County, Maryland, and Armstrong Utilities Inc., operator of Armstrong Cable Television, for the installation, operation, maintenance and extension of the cable system for subscribers within the County, upon the terms and conditions and subject to the agreement.

The Resolution was introduced on July 5, 2022, advertised on July 20, 2022 and July 27, 2022, and scheduled for public hearing on August 2, 2022. Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

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

Council President Meffley closed the hearing and announced that Resolution No. 45-2022 will be considered for approval at the next legislative session on August 16, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of August 2, 2022. Motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Coutz thanked the audience for attending. He attended the National Night Out in Elkton. He provided statistics from the Sheriff's Office Intel Meeting and noted that fatal overdoses are up while non-fatal overdoses are down.

Vice President Gregory attended the Cecil County Fair every night and thanked the Fair volunteers for their tremendous efforts and stated that this was an outstanding event for families.

Councilwoman Culberson thanked the audience for attending. She attended the pre-opening of the Fifth Company Brewing in Perryville and wished them success.

Councilman Miller thanked the Cecil County Fair volunteers for their outstanding efforts, the Cecil County Firemen's Association and Singerly Fire Company for their efforts on the legislation, and Sheriff's Office for their support of the Fair. He commended the Health Department for providing COVID testing at the Fair, the students from DrugFreeCecil for their participation, and the business community for their financial support. He stated that it was the largest livestock auction ever held in Cecil County.

Council President Meffley attended the pre-opening of the Fifth Company Brewery in Perryville and congratulated the Town of Perryville and Mayor for this new business. He attended the Cecil County Fair and participated in the demolition derby and won third place in competition. He attended the Maryland Rural Development Corporation meeting where Cecil County received \$10M in grant funding for rent assistance for the homeless and evicted residents. He also stated that Caroline and Kent Counties each received \$1M in funds.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 49-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Board of Education – Safe and Secure School Entrances

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, in order to provide the Cecil County Board of Education budget with expenditure appropriation authority to utilize \$240,000 in funds to be expended for Safe and Secure School Entrances.

Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided introductory comments. Vice President Gregory stated that all Cecil County Public Schools have safety protocols such as locked doors, but this funding will fund the reengineering of school entrances to increase safety measures. Council President Meffley thanked Steve Overbay and the administration for submitting this legislation.

Introduced, read first time and order posted on August 2, 2022. This Resolution will be scheduled for consideration on August 16, 2022.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 47-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Information Technology – Broadband Expansion – Matching Funds

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, to provide the Department of Information Technology budget with expenditure appropriation authority to utilize \$888,438 in funds to be expended for matching funds associated with broadband expansion.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on July 26, 2022 and scheduled for consideration on August 2, 2022.

Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution No. 47-2022, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

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

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 48-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Parks and Recreation – Rising Sun High School –Turf Field

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, in order to provide a total of \$1,200,000 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund – Parks and Recreation, to record a grant awarded from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to be used to convert the stadium field to synthetic turf at the Rising Sun High School.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on July 26, 2022 and scheduled for consideration on August 2, 2022.

Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 48-2022, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory.

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

CALL FOR FINAL READING OF BILLS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2022-09 Fire Companies Volunteer – Emergency Services Expenses – Reimbursement

An Act to add to Chapter 49, Fire Companies, Volunteer, of the Code of Cecil County; to include authorization for the member volunteer fire and fire and ambulance companies of the Cecil County Firemen's Association to obtain reimbursement of certain costs to render services during the normal course of emergency service and/or rescue operations.

The Bill was introduced and posted on June 21, 2022, public hearing held on July 26, 2022, and scheduled for final consideration on August 2, 2022.

Council President Meffley stated that there were proposed amendments to this legislation

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

**AMENDMENT NO. 1
TO BILL NO. 2022-09**

Title: Fire Companies Volunteer – Emergency Services - Reimbursement

Synopsis: To clarify that reimbursement charges are for services.

Introduced by: Vice President Gregory

On page 2, line 16, delete "to the recipients of" and insert "for".

**AMENDMENT NO. 2
TO BILL NO. 2022-09**

Title: Fire Companies Volunteer – Emergency Services - Reimbursement

Synopsis: To clarify that fire companies are authorized to collect reimbursement from insurance companies.

Introduced by: Vice President Gregory

On page 2, lines 19-21, delete "those persons and parties, or from third party representatives of those parties, who receive emergency services, medical care and transport " and insert "insurance companies".

**AMENDMENT NO. 3
TO BILL NO. 2022-09**

Title: Fire Companies Volunteer – Emergency Services - Reimbursement

Synopsis: To clarify that fire companies are authorized to charge and receive reimbursement from insurance companies of the insured individuals.

Introduced by: Vice President Gregory

On page 2, lines 27-28, Section A., delete "The purpose of this section is to establish authorization for the association's member companies to recover certain costs" and insert the following:
"The Cecil County Firemen's Association company members are authorized to charge and receive reimbursement for certain costs from insurance companies of insured individuals who are"

**AMENDMENT NO. 4
TO BILL NO. 2022-09**

Title: Fire Companies Volunteer – Emergency Services - Reimbursement

Synopsis: To establish Definitions as a separate section of the legislation.

Introduced by: Vice President Gregory

On page 3, line 30, delete "as used in this section," and insert the following:
"B. DEFINITIONS:"

**AMENDMENT NO. 5
TO BILL NO. 2022-09**

Title: Fire Companies Volunteer – Emergency Services - Reimbursement

Synopsis: To remove the definition of party and parties because it is not used within the text of the legislation.

Introduced by: Vice President Gregory

On page 3, lines 32-33, delete in its entirety.

~~“(1) “party” or “parties” include an individual, natural person, estate, trust, firm, corporation, partnership, LLC, government entity, association or other legal entity.”~~

**AMENDMENT NO. 6
TO BILL NO. 2022-09**

Title: Fire Companies Volunteer – Emergency Services - Reimbursement

Synopsis: To remove Section B, which addresses published fee schedule and to remove Section C that addresses unpaid reimbursement fees to be sent to collection agency.

Introduced by: Vice President Gregory

On page 3, lines 39-61, delete in its entirety.

~~“B. Each association member shall maintain and publish an individual fee schedule for applicable costs for services provided, which shall be based on the cost of providing emergency services (limited to those incident types specifically noted), medical care and transport, and may be revised and adjusted annually based on inflation, as measured by an index reasonably related to the cost of providing emergency medical services.~~

~~(1) Liability of costs.~~

~~(i) A party who receives emergency services shall be responsible for payment of any charge issued by an association member for services rendered, which shall be paid to the authorized representative of the said association member upon receipt of billing.~~

~~(ii) The costs and fees as outlined in the member company’s published fee schedule shall be recovered directly by the association or its authorized representative, attorney, or contracted collections services agency. In addition to the costs and fees as outlined in the fee schedules, the association or any attorney, agency, or collection services agency shall be authorized to collect reasonable interest and administrative charges for collecting the costs and fees.~~

~~C. In the event that any person fails to pay any bill or invoice within 90 days of the mailing or delivery of such notice of charges, the member companies of the association or any attorney or contracted collection services agency that mailed or delivered the bill or invoice may enforce the provisions of this section by filing a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction for the collection of any and all amounts due to the association together with statutory interest, court costs, collections fees, and reasonable attorney’s fees. the remedies provided herein shall be in addition to any other relief or penalties that may be appropriate if provided by law.”~~

**AMENDMENT NO. 7
TO BILL NO. 2022-09**

Title: Fire Companies Volunteer – Emergency Services - Reimbursement

Synopsis: To clarify that this legislation does not include medical care and transport, which is already specified in an existing agreement.

Introduced by: Vice President Gregory at the request of the Cecil County Fire Company Association
On page 2, lines 11-12, delete “medical care and transport”.

Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, thanked the Council and Firemen’s Association for their amendments to the legislation and stated that the administration was in support of this Bill. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Meffley polled Council Members to determine that they agreed to vote on all seven amendments at one time.

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve Amendment Nos. 1 to 7 to Bill No. 2022-09, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

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

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve Bill No. 2022-09 As Amended, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory.

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

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, , Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Council President Meffley announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building. The legislative session will be livestreamed 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