

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2023-10
May 16, 2023**

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:

Jackie Gregory, Council President
Robert Meffley, Vice President
Rebecca Hamilton, 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 May 16, 2023, was called to order by Council President Gregory at 7:02 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Councilman Miller introduced Pastors R. Kevin Brown and Annette Brown of Wrights AME Church in Elkton.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley, the Council moved to approve the legislative agenda of May 16, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS

President Gregory noted that Pastors R. Kevin Brown and Annette Brown of Wright's AME Church will be leaving Cecil County for a church in Prince Georges County.

Councilman Miller presented the proclamation for R. Kevin Brown. Pastor Kevin Brown thanked the Council and noted how much he has enjoyed his time in Cecil County and his wonderful congregation.

Councilwoman Culberson presented the proclamation for Annette Brown. Pastor Annette Brown also thanked the Council and noted she is going to miss the people of Cecil County and the congregation.

Councilwoman Hamilton presented the proclamation for Public Works Week to Director of Public Works Scott Flanigan. Director Flanigan thanked Council for recognizing the hard work and dedication the Public Works employees do in Cecil County.

Vice President Meffley read the proclamation for National Safe Boating Month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of May 9, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

On a motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council closed session of May 9, 2023, as presented. The motion passed 5 to 0.

Closed Session

May 9, 2023

8:10 PM

Council Manager Culver announced that the County Council is entering a closed session pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions for §3-305:

(b) (1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individual.

On a motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley, the Council moved to convene a closed session, pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions §3-305 (b)(1).

Roll Call Vote

Hamilton - Y, Miller - Y, Culberson - Y, Meffley - Y, Gregory - Y

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

PRESENT: Council Members: Robert Meffley, Rebecca Hamilton, Al Miller, Donna Culberson and Jackie Gregory; David Culver, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant, Steven Overbay, Director of Administration; Shon McCollum, Director of Finance.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay and Director of Finance Shon McCollum gave Council an overview of health care costs, plan administration and future calculations on health care issues.

The Council noted that future changes to the health care cost will need to be explained to employees during the budget process and open enrollment.

On a motion by Councilwoman Culberson, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, President Gregory adjourned the closed session at 8:43 pm and reopened the Legislative Session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Neff of Elkton stated he would like more funding for the Board of Education.

Jordan Seguin of Elkton stated she would like more funding for the Board of Education.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Miller noted he attended the School of Technology awards ceremony on May 11. He noted the diesel repair program that was started 4 years ago had a student make the finals in the repair competition in Atlanta this past year.

Councilwoman Culberson noted she also attended the School of Technology awards ceremony. She also attended the Singerly Fire Company annual banquet. She also noted that the salaries of elected officials are set in Charter and have not changed.

Councilwoman Hamilton also attended the School of Technology awards ceremony. She noted the "Capstone Walk" will be on May 18 at Elkton High School and encourage people to attend to see the projects the five high school students completed. She also attended the Singerly Fire Company banquet and noted the one million dollar donation made to them from the Town of Elkton. She also noted the upcoming Scottish Games at Fair Hill and Demo Day at APG on May 20. She noted the upcoming Cecil College graduation and offered her congratulations to the graduating class.

Vice President Meffley also attended the School of Technology awards ceremony and congratulated Ann Chestnut on winning the Council Scholarship for the school. He also attended the Singerly Fire Company banquet. He encouraged everybody to come to the Budget Hearing on May 18. He later noted he attended the sports tourism meeting with the Town of Elkton and outlined the planned sports complex. He also noted the Great Wolf Lodge will be opening in June and that day passes for county residents may be available.

Council President Gregory noted that high school graduations are beginning and congratulated the Class of 2023. She noted the North East VFW Golf Tournament is on May 20. She also noted the draft budget is online and that the Budget Hearing is May 18.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Bill 2023-08 - Bond Authorization – General Obligation Project Bonds

An Act authorizing and empowering Cecil County, Maryland (the "County"), to borrow from time to time not more than Fifty Seven Million Dollars (\$57,000,000) for the purpose of financing the costs of certain public facilities within the County described herein, and to effect such borrowing by the issuance and sale of its general obligation bonds in one or more series from time to time; 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, as amended, 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 19-223 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of

Maryland, as amended, 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 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.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on May 18, 2023, Public Hearing on June 6, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on June 20, 2023.

Director of Finance Shon McCollum noted this is for the upcoming CIP projects and to refinance previous bonds. He noted that every 2 years the County issues bonds for projects and the last bonds were issued in 2021. He noted this bill would allow refinancing of older debt and cover the CIP for the next two years. This bill will give authorization but does not necessarily reflect the amount to be borrowed if we can use fund balance as pay-go funds. He noted that some of the larger projects will be the North East Middle and High School project, the Belvidere Bridge project, Cell 2 at the Landfill, sewer along Route 40 and some projects at the community college. Director McCollum also noted we still retain a very high bond rating. Vice President Meffley asked for a breakdown of projects and Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that it would be provided. Councilman Miller inquired as to the bond issue in 2021 and duration of the bonds and Director McCollum noted it was 48 million and 30 years but would verify. Councilman Miller inquired if debt would be refinanced and Director McCollum noted it could be depending on the rates. President Gregory discussed the fund balance and the pay go funds for the NEHS project and other BOE projects. Councilman Miller inquired if the fund balance funds will be committed and Director McCollum noted it would still need to be determined. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired about the language in the bill and the need for the project spreadsheet and Director McCollum noted it is standard language and he would provide the spreadsheet.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 31-2023 - Reappointment – Electrical Examiners Board – Frederick Craig, Jr., Paul Palmer, and Appointment - Joshua Huegel

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Joshua Huegel to expire on November 19, 2025, Frederick Craig, Jr. to expire January 1, 2026, and the appointment of Paul Palmer to fill a vacancy to expire May 31, 2026, to the Electrical Examiners Board for three-year terms.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on May 16, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on June 6, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that Mr. Craig and Mr. Huegel have done an excellent job on the board and Mr. Palmer is well qualified. He also noted that this board is part of the licensing requirements.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 32-2023 - Grant Application – Community Development Block Grant – Holloway Beach Sewer Project – Habitat for Humanity Home Rehabilitation Project

A Resolution to authorize the Cecil County Department of Community Services, Housing and Community Development Division, to apply for funding from the Maryland Community Development Block Grant program through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. The Department of Community Services requests that this Resolution be considered as expedited legislation due to the application deadline. Grant funds will support the Holloway Beach Sewer Project and the Habitat for Humanity Home Rehabilitation Project.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on May 16, 2023, Public Hearing on June 6 and scheduled for consideration on June 6, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that the projects being requested in this application. Director of Community Services David Trolio noted that the CDBG grant application would be for the Holloway Beach sewer project and for Habitat for Humanity housing rehab projects. The funds would assist low to moderate income people with the connection fees and the Habitat funds would assist 6 to 10 low to moderate household to rehabilitate property. Councilwoman Culberson inquired if more houses could be rehabilitated and Director Trolio noted it depends on the extent and costs of the repairs. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if the Habitat money is for property owners or landlords and Director Trolio noted you must be the property owner. Vice President Meffley requested confirmation this is income based and Director Trolio noted it is based on low to moderate income.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 33-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation - Grant Funds – Community Services – Prevention and Overdose Response and Trauma Supports

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 \$28,146 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund to record the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Inter-Agency Agreement between the Cecil County Health Department and the Cecil County Department of Community Services. The agreement provides funding for educational, promotional, and training items for the PORT team members and basic supplies and personal care items for individuals experiencing addiction as distributed by the PORT team members.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on May 16, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on June 6, 2023.

Director of Community Services David Trolio noted these are remaining funds from previous grants that were awarded and will be spent by the end of Fiscal Year 23 on supplies and salaries for the PORT program.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution No. 26-2023 – Enterprise Zone – Re-designate

A Resolution to re-designate the existing Cecil County Enterprise Zone for an additional 10 years. The Enterprise Zone provides real property and income tax credits to businesses located within the designated geographic area. The proposed Zone is comprised of 8,140+/- acres.

This resolution was introduced on April 18, 2023 with a Public Hearing on May 9, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay gave a brief overview of the enterprise zones credits.

Council had no further questions or comments.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 26-2023, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

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

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution No. 28-2023 - Reappointment – Board of Parks and Recreation – Brian Morgan

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment of Brian Morgan, to the Board of Parks and Recreation to fill a three (3) year term that will expire on March 17, 2026.

This resolution was introduced on May 9, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2023.

Council had no further questions or comments.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 28-2023, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

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

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 29-2023 – Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Office of Economic Development – Accept Grant from Maryland Department of Commerce, Office of Tourism

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 \$250,000 to the Special

Revenue Other Grants Fund- Office of Economic Development to record the grant awarded from the Maryland Department of Commerce, Maryland Office of Tourism for the purpose of marketing the Maryland 5 Star.

This resolution was introduced on May 9, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted the positive impact the 5 Star Event has had and these funds will help further market this event.

Council had no further questions or comments.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Resolution 29-2023, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

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

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 30-2023 – Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Department of Land Use and Development

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 \$166,562 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund- Department of Land Use and Development Services to record the grant awarded State of Maryland Bay Restoration to connect sanitary sewer systems or replace septic system for county residents.

This resolution was introduced on May 9, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that going forward the State will make these payments directly.

Council had no further questions or comments.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 30-2023, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley.

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

CALL FOR FINAL READING OF BILLS

Bill No. 2023-07 - Amend - Critical Area Maps Program – Summary Draft Maps

This Bill was introduced on April 18, 2023, public hearing held May 9, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2023.

A Bill to adopt the Critical Area Maps Program by approving all elements of the summary draft map including, the shoreline and landward boundary of tidal wetlands, the digitally generated and georeferenced Critical Area 1,000-foot boundary line; and Critical Area classifications of all areas newly included in the Critical Area.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Bill 2023-07, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Cecil County Public Schools – Budget Amendment #110

President Gregory noted the Budget Amendment was for \$500,522 for April.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #110 in the amount of \$500,522 for April expenses. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson. The motion was approved by voice vote of 5 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT

Director of Administration noted the passing of county employee Miguel Vazquez on May 15. Mr. Vazquez worked in Facilities Management as a Custodian supporting the Cecil County Sheriff's Office and Department of Emergency Services. He first began working for Cecil County Government in February 2017.

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilman Miller, Council President Gregory adjourned the meeting at 8:32 pm.

Council President Gregory announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, 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:


Jackie Gregory
Council President

Attest:



David M. Culver
Council Manager