

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2023-20
November 7, 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
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 November 7, 2023, was called to order by Council President Gregory at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER/MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Gregory held a moment of silence on the passing of former Emergency Services Director Frank Muller.

Pastor Robert Tucker from Five Rivers Church in Elkton gave the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley, the Council moved to approve the legislative agenda of November 7, 2023. The motion was approved 4 to 0 with 1 absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of October 17, 2023. The motion was approved 4 to 0 with 1 absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Denise Sopa of Rising Sun spoke on education funding issues.

Joe Buckley of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.

Phyllis Kilby of Colora spoke on education funding issues.

Elizabeth Lucas of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.

Sean Brimm of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.

Whitney Smith of North East spoke requested a roundtable discussion on development.

Kimberly Roman of Elkton spoke and requested a roundtable discussion on development.

Alexis Bazzoli of North East spoke and requested a roundtable discussion on development.

Deborah Dugan of Chesapeake City spoke and requested a roundtable discussion on development.

Maryanne Dolan of Elkton spoke on development issues.

Dennis Uhler of North East spoke and requested a roundtable discussion on development.
Michael Welker of North East spoke on development issues.
Amy Short of North East spoke and requested a roundtable discussion on development.
Christopher Defoe of Conowingo spoke and requested a roundtable discussion on development.
Jordan Seguin of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.
Evan Argudo of North East spoke and requested a roundtable discussion on development.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice President Meffley spoke on development issues within the County and hopes everybody continues the conversation. He noted that he attended the Cecil County Detention Center Officer graduation. He also attended the annual MDOT Visit on October 31 and noted the discussion on the North East bypass and Route 213 improvements that do not occur until the development begins. He also noted that the Southfields development is proposing a multi-use facility for athletics that could prepare video tapes for potential scholarship offers. He also noted the Paris Foundation Dinner on November 9 and encouraged people to attend.

Councilman Miller noted that the Fair Hill Nature Center 5K fun run raised about \$25,000. He also attended the School of Technology Honor Society induction on October 26. He also noted Senator Gallion's committee toured a local farm to see the methane digester that it was using. Finally, he noted the Wreaths Across America fund raiser that is ongoing and they are trying to raise funds for at least 300 wreaths to place on veterans gravesites.

Councilwoman Culberson spoke on development issues and the need for medical professionals in Cecil County. She noted the intel numbers for the past weeks. She also attended the Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting on November 1 on the school budget. Finally, she encouraged everybody to continue the conversation on development and to work with the developers and agencies on these projects.

President Gregory noted that the MACo Legislative Committee that she serves on did adopt 4 priorities for the upcoming session and they will focus on incentives to attract and keep volunteer firefighters, transparency in school budgeting, updating fiscal enabling legislation and work force housing issues. She also met with the new field manager, Mitch Hopkins, from the Farm Bureau. She also attended the Spooktacular Event in Rising Sun as well as the School of Technology Honor Society induction. She also presented certificates to the Drug Court graduation on November 3. She also attended the Art Council Fundraising Dinner and noted it was well attended. She noted the various Veterans Day events happening from November 10 to 12 and encouraged everybody to attend these events. She also addressed development issues, school capacity, costs and timing of infrastructure improvements and CecilCAN posting of responses on issues on its website.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 57-2023 - 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, 2024, in order to provide a total of \$11,000 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.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on November 7, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on November 21, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that this grant was from the Upper Shore Regional Council and is the third year they have supported this event. The event goes from January 1 thought February 26 and features the main street in each Town.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 58-2023 Supplemental Appropriation – Grants – Economic Development – Supplement Marketing Costs

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 in order to provide a total of \$54,272 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund- Office of Economic Development, to record the grant awarded from the Maryland Department of Commerce, for the purpose of allowing the County to supplement marketing costs and to increase the effect and impact of marketing activities beyond the ability of local funds.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on November 7, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on November 21, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that this grant is from the Maryland Department of Commerce to help promote tourism locally, statewide, nationally and internationally. Vice President Meffley inquired if this will be used to help with Maryland 5 Star and Director Overbay noted it would and also many other events.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 59-2023 - Operation Green Light for Veterans

A Resolution to designate Cecil County as a Green Light for Veterans program participant and encouraged business and residents to display a green light on November 1-11, 2023 to salute and honor Veterans in observance of Operation Green Light for Veterans.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on November 7, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on November 21, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that this is the annual event that brings awareness to veterans transitioning from the military to civilian life and encourages everybody to use green lights until November 11 for this event.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 60-2023 – Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Emergency Services – MDOT Grant - Highway Safety

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, Department of Emergency Services, Highway Safety Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, in order to provide a total of \$1,643 to the Highway Safety Fund; to record the grant awarded from the Maryland Department of Transportation, Highway Safety Office for two purposes – Purchasing additional Pediatric Patient Restraint devices to transport patient safely in ambulance and to purchase impaired Driving Simulation Goggles for use when engaging the community to encourage the prevention of impaired driving.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on November 7, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on November 21, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that this grant is part of the National Highway Safety grant fund program to assist in the purchase of emergency and training equipment. This grant will help fund the purchase of pediatric stretchers for the ambulances and impairment goggles for training classes.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 61-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation - Grant Funds – Emergency Services – Hazard Mitigation Project Fund

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, in order to provide a total of \$68,850 to the Department of Emergency Services, Hazard Mitigation Project Fund to record a Hazard Mitigation Grant awarded from the Maryland Department of Emergency Management to assist a resident to elevate his home 3 feet above Base Flood Elevation to reduce the risk of flood damage to his home.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on November 7, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on November 21, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that this grant is to assist the homeowner, Bill Martin of North Shore Drive, with the relocation and elevation of his house in the floodplain area. The house will be moved approximately 10 feet back and be raised about 10 feet in order to be 3 feet above the floodplain elevation. Councilman Miller inquired if the homeowner also participates financially and Director Overbay noted the homeowner covers all costs in excess of the grant amount. Vice President Meffley hopes other will pursue this type of grant and noted that many homeowners already made this type of improvement.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 62-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – Unassigned Fund Balance – Department of Emergency Services – Volunteer Fire Companies in Cecil County – On-Going Testing

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, in order to provide the Department of Emergency Services, Volunteer Fire Companies in Cecil County with an additional \$50,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance to the previously awarded ARPA funds of \$175,000 in FY2024 General Funds for the on-going testing of equipment.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on November 7, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on November 21, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that this is a continuation of funding for the volunteer fire companies to test the various pieces of equipment at the fire houses.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 55-2023 – Grant Funds – Circuit Court for Cecil County – Maryland Problem-Solving Court Universal Risk / Need Screening Pilot Program – BJA Sub-Grant

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, in order to provide a total of \$170,161 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund – Cecil County Circuit Court, to record a grant awarded from the US Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to be used to implement and enhance drug court services, including service coordination, management of drug court participants and recovery support services.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on October 17, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on November 7, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that this grant is a multiyear grant to fund a full-time screener for new criminal cases. The individual hired would review the cases for drug use and recommend programs and drug court. Councilman Miller inquired on how long the grant would last and Director Overbay noted it will fund the position for the remainder of FY23 and will continue until FY25.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 55-2023, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – A, Miller -Y, Culberson – Y, Meffley – Y, Gregory- Y
The motion was approved 4 to 0 with 1 absent.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 56-2023 - Appointment—Economic Development Commission – Amy Marston and Kristina Brown

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Amy Marston to finish the term of Sharon Kurfuerst to expire on January 17, 2026, and Kristina Brown to finish the term of Jeffrey Emmons to expire on April 1, 2025.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on October 17, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on November 7, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay thanked the two individuals who are being appointed and noted that these two appointments are to fill unexpired terms that are traditionally held by representatives from Delmarva Power and Christiana Care.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 56-2023, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – A, Miller -Y, Culberson – Y, Meffley – Y, Gregory- Y
The motion was approved 4 to 0 with 1 absent.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, President Gregory adjourned the meeting at 8:17 pm.

Council President Gregory announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, November 21, 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