

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2023-21
November 21, 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 November 21, 2023, was called to order by Council President Gregory at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Pastor Robert McKnight from United Redeemed 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 21, 2023. The motion was approved 5 to 0.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS

Councilwoman Hamilton read the proclamation congratulating Cecil Transit on winning the Transportation Association of Maryland Outstanding Transit System of the Year. John Duklewski, Executive Director of the Transportation Association of Maryland, spoke on the many accomplishments of Cecil Transit. He noted Cecil Transit leads the industry in innovative approaches to safety, driver recruitment, financial management, community relationships, and responsiveness to community needs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Miller noted one correction to the minutes to reflect Mitch Hopkins being with the Farm Bureau not the Maryland Department of Agriculture. On motion made by Councilwoman Hamilton, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson the Council moved to approve the amended minutes of the legislative session of November 7, 2023. The motion was approved 5 to 0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sean Brimm of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.

Sherri Issac of North East spoke on education funding issues and the safe and secure entrances being completed this year.

Phyllis Kilby of Colora spoke on education funding issues.

Jake Van Wingerden of Elkton spoke on Bill 2023-11 regarding cannabis regulations.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Culberson noted the intel numbers for the past week. She also noted she attended the BOE Meeting, the Citizens Advisory Board and the Town Hall on the Blueprint for Growth. She also attended the First Responders Appreciation Dinner on November 9 at the Great Wolf Lodge and noted that it was a fantastic event.

Councilman Miller noted that he attended the Weed Control Board Meeting and thanked Director of Public Works Scott Flanigan and the Roads Division on the efforts they made with this program this past growing season. He also noted they would meet in February to ensure the spraying is done in a timely manner next year. He also noted he attended the Town Hall on the Blueprint for Growth and noted it provided great insight into the upcoming mandates. He also noted that he attended the Maryland Agriculture Showcase "Museum on Wheels" event at the North East library on November 15. He noted he brought Charlie the Cow to the event for the children to see and the library gave Charlie an honorary library card. He also attended the Cecil County Farm Bureau meeting on November 20.

Councilwoman Hamilton noted she attended the Rising Sun Children Business Fair on November 18 and was extremely impressed by the children's displays and how they became business savvy on marketing the products. She also attended the Planning Commission Meeting on November 20 and the Parks and Recreation Board meeting on November 21. She noted the amount of park usage that was reported at the meeting. Finally, she wished everybody a Happy Thanksgiving and safe travels during the holidays.

Vice President Meffley noted he attended the Paris Foundation Meeting and that they should be breaking ground on its new facility in the next few weeks. Once completed this facility will host a community kitchen and a job training program for cooking. He noted numerous area restaurants are participating in funding the cooking school. He also attended the Veterans Day event in North East on November 11. He also attended the Blueprint for Growth Town Hall. He also attended the ribbon cutting on November 17 for the Brantwood Park pavilion and noted that the park is scheduled for several upgrades. Finally, he noted the Chesapeake City Pet Show was on November 18 and had 75 participants.

President Gregory noted she attended the BEPAC Meeting and was very impressed by the School of Technology training program for children with disabilities. She also attended the Blueprint for Growth Town Hall Meeting. She also noted the many great Veterans Days events that were held in Perryville, Port Deposit, Rising Sun and North East and thanked the various American Legions and Veterans of Foreign Wars organizations. On November 20 she attended the Port Deposit State Park Meeting and discussed the future of the park with the Department of Natural Resources and various

stakeholders. She also noted that the Finance Department stated at the last meeting that the ACFR will be available by the end of the year.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Bill 2023-10 - Supplemental Appropriation – Amendment to the 2024 Capital Improvement Program – Replacement of Wheatley Road Bridge.

A Bill to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, to provide supplemental expenditure authority from the existing bond proceeds and to add the Replacement of Wheatley Road Bridge, project number 52695, into the FY24 Capital Budget in the amount of \$63,000.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on November 21, 2023, public hearing scheduled on December 19, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on January 2, 2024.

Director of Finance Shon McCollum noted this was a FY23 CIP project, but needed additional funding since the bids came in higher than expected. This bill would add this project back to the FY24 CIP Budget and add the additional funding necessary to complete the project along with some contingency funding. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired about the completed Bailiff Road project that was discussed at the Work Session and how the funds were being moved and Director McCollum noted that the Bailiff Road project was under budget and that the remaining funds from that project were moved back to bond proceeds.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Bill 2023-11 - Amendment – Zoning Ordinance – Cannabis – Definitions, Permissible Uses, Home Occupation, Prohibited Signs, and General Loading Specifications.

An Act to amend the Cecil County Zoning Ordinance, Article II, Part I, Section 12, Definitions in order to add and define Cannabis Terms; Amend Article IV, Section 54, Permissible Uses Tables in order to amend by insertion; Amend Article V, Part III, Section 79, Home Occupations in order to strike number 5 due to inaccurate numbering and insert number six (6); in order to Insert Article V, Part XII, Section 164A, 164B, 164C, & 164D, Cannabis Section 164A Cannabis Grower, Section 164B Cannabis Processor & Cannabis Independent Testing Laboratory, Section 164C Dispensary, & 164D Cannabis On-Site Consumption Establishment; Amend Article XIII, Section 263, Prohibited Signs in order to add number thirteen (13); Amend Article XIV, Section 276, General Loading Specifications in order to add to Use, Loading Space, and Off Street Parking Requirements.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on November 21, 2023, public hearing scheduled on December 19, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on January 2, 2024.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted this was significant legislation in response to the State's legalization of cannabis and this bill should provide safeguards to the cultivation, processing and sales of cannabis. He noted that the Planning Commission recommended approval of this bill

and that new licenses are expected to be issued by the State and in accordance with the approved legislation beginning in January 2024. Vice President Meffley inquired on the license types that were previously discussed and Director Overbay noted they are for growers, processors and laboratories and dispensaries. The State also allows for micro dispensaries for home deliveries. Councilman Miller asked for confirmation on how the dispensaries are being limited by Council District and will they place a cap on total dispensaries and Director Overbay explained that once every Council District had one, each district could then have 2, and so forth. Councilwoman Hamilton noted the Public Hearing on this bill is December 19 and encouraged everybody to review the State legislation, SB15/HB556, to understand the allowances and limitations placed on local jurisdictions.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 63-2023 - Appointment—Police Accountability Board –Robert F. McKnight.

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Robert F. McKnight to the Police Accountability Board.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on November 21, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on December 5, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that the PAB required staggered terms and Mr. McKnight was appointed to a one-year term, but this would reappoint him to a three-year term. He also noted Mr. McKnight is a valuable member of the PAB and is very active in the Board proceedings. Councilman Miller noted the impressive resume of Mr. McKnight and his public service.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

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 thanked the Upper Shore Regional Council for this grant and noted the event goes from January 1 through February 26 and features the main street in each Town. President Gregory encouraged everybody to go to the County and Town websites to learn more about the events.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 57-2023, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Miller -Y, Culberson – Y, Meffley – Y, Gregory- Y
The motion was approved 5 to 0.

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 thanked the Maryland Department of Commerce for this grant to help promote tourism locally, statewide, nationally and internationally.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 58-2023, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Miller -Y, Culberson – Y, Meffley – Y, Gregory- Y
The motion was approved 5 to 0.

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 supports and gives thanks to our veterans.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Resolution 59-2023, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Miller -Y, Culberson – Y, Meffley – Y, Gregory- Y
The motion was approved 5 to 0.

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 thanked the National Highway Safety grant fund program for this grant. Councilman Miller thanked EMS Deputy Director John Donahue for getting this grant.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 60-2023, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Miller -Y, Culberson – Y, Meffley – Y, Gregory- Y
The motion was approved 5 to 0.

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 thanked the Maryland Emergency Management Program for this grant and noted that the grant was for \$68,000 to help the homeowner raise his house out

of the floodplain. Vice President Meffley noted the house would be elevated 11 feet and be moved further back on the property.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 61-2023, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Miller -Y, Culberson – Y, Meffley – Y, Gregory- Y
The motion was approved 5 to 0.

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.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 62-2023, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Miller -Y, Culberson – Y, Meffley – Y, Gregory- Y
The motion was approved 5 to 0.

NEW BUSINESS

Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #117

President Gregory noted the Board of Education Budget Amendment for October is \$2,433,245 and was discussed at the BOE Meeting.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #117 in the amount of \$2,433,245. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, President Gregory adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm.

Council President Gregory announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, December 5, 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