

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2023-22
December 5, 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 December 5, 2023, was called to order by Council President Gregory at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilwoman Hamilton 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 December 5, 2023. The motion was approved 5 to 0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of November 21, 2023. The motion was approved 5 to 0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sean Brimm of Elkton spoke on education issues.
Allison Stoudt of Rising Sun spoke on education funding issues.
Carolyn Duttener of Rising Sun spoke on education funding issues.
Sandy Ward of Elkton spoke on the need to be responsible on education funding.
Phyllis Kilby of Colora spoke on the annual audit requirements and Cecil TV funding.
Brian Hampton of Perryville spoke on education funding issues.
Jordan Seguin of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Culberson noted the intel numbers for the past week. She also noted that she will continue to voice her concerns on the erosion of parental rights in education and her support for Moms for Liberty in Cecil County.

Councilman Miller noted that he attended the "Chat n Chew" at Rising Sun Elementary on the Blueprint program for education. He also attended the Soil Conservation District Meeting and Banquet. He also reviewed the Weed Control Board discussion on noxious weeds and Public Works assistance in this matter. He also attended the Chamber GRC Meeting and noted that Senator Hershey gave an update on upcoming issues in the Legislative Session in Annapolis. He also noted he attended the Fair Hail International Event. He also presented the proclamation to Ross Peddicord who is retiring from the Maryland Industry Board and thanked him for his years of service to the Maryland horse industry.

Councilwoman Hamilton thanked Council for allowing her the honor to do the opening prayer at tonight's meeting. She noted that this meeting marks her first full year as a Councilmember and reviewed the Board and Commission meetings she attended as well as the numerous events she attended. She noted her many accomplishments so far on Council and looks forward to continuing her public service. She noted one of the best highlights of the year was presenting the scholarships to our high school seniors.

Vice President Meffley noted he attended the YES Dinner and noted the many good accomplishment of that organization. He also attended Lt. Joe Wilson's retirement from the Sheriff's Office and thanked him for his years of service. He also noted he attended the North East Parade and it was a huge success with a great turnout. He also noted the upcoming MACo Conference from December 6 to 8. He also reviewed the school budget and process and encouraged everybody to participate in the upcoming budget discussions.

President Gregory noted she attended the Maryland Economic Development Association Meeting for the Upper Shore region. She also noted the upcoming MACo Conference and that the Blueprint for Education will be a topic of discussion at the Conference. She also voiced her support for Councilwoman Culberson and the Cecil County Moms for Liberty and noted that parental rights in education is important.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 64-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund - State's Attorney Office – Fund Vacant Positions and to provide Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

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 \$333,000 from the General Fund to the State's Attorney Office to fund three vacant positions (Line Assistant State Attorney, General Felony Prosecutor and DC DV Prosecutor - \$198,000) and to provide a Cost-of-Living Adjustment - \$135,000. These positions will add fundamental strength to the office and reduce case backlog. The COLA is needed to keep compensation competitive before the \$10K salary

enhancement. Without the COLA, the enhancement would have been insufficient to compete with other jurisdictions.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on December 5, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on December 19, 2023.

Director of Finance Shon McCollum noted that this funding is for the State's Attorney Office to fill three vacant positions and to cover a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for these positions. This will bring the State's Attorney Office to full staffing and assist with the backlog of cases. Councilman Miller inquired on the COLA, salary adjustments and overall budget as it relates to this office and the Maryland requirements. County Attorney Lawrence Scott noted that this is a State of Maryland office that the County funds. Council President Gregory recognized State's Attorney James Dellmyer and requested he speak on this matter. State's Attorney Dellmyer thanked Council for its consideration and noted that his office is funded by the County and is not subject to the Maryland pay scale or human resource policies, but instead utilizes the County Department of Human Resources for its policy and procedures. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired as to how the COLA was being addressed for the vacant positions and Director McCollum noted it will be included for those positions once hired. President Gregory thanked State's Attorney Dellmyer for his service.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

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 thanked Mr. McKnight for his service and noted the Mr. McKnight has been a valuable member to this Board.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 63-2023, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley.

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

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, President Gregory adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm.

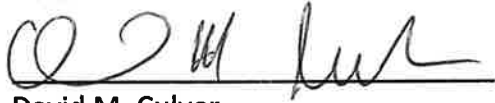
Council President Gregory announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building.

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