

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2024-10
June 4, 2024**

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 June 4, 2024, was called to order by Council President Gregory at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council Manager Culver called the roll and noted all five members were present.

OPENING PRAYER/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Pastor Robert McKnight of 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 agenda of June 4, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Councilwoman Hamilton, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of May 21, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sean Brimm of North East spoke on the proposed Charter changes.
Michelle Ravert of Chesapeake City spoke on the proposed Charter changes.
Phyllis Kilby of Colora spoke on education funding issues and the budget.
Brian Hampton of Perryville spoke on education funding issues.
Jeff Kase of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Culberson thanked everybody for attending and reviewed the intel numbers for the past two weeks.

Councilman Miller noted the numerous graduation events he attended the past two weeks including the Cecil Community College, the School of Technology and Rising Sun High School. He also offered his congratulations to all the graduates and hoped for continued success for them. He also noted that he hopes for the return of the Fair Hill Races on Memorial Day and the benefits the races have on Cecil County.

Vice President Meffley thanked everybody for coming to the meeting. He also noted his sincerest congratulations to all the graduates and noted the many scholarships and awards that were received at graduation. He also noted the many benefits the Fair Hill Races brought to Cecil County and that it would be a good companion event to the 5 Star Event.

Councilwoman Hamilton also noted her congratulations to all the graduates of the College, public and private high schools as well as those that are home school and wished them continued success.

President Gregory noted that the Open Meetings compliant filed against County Council was dismissed by the State and that Council did act properly. She also congratulated all the graduating students. She also attended the Behavioral Health Listening Sessions and encouraged everybody to attend one of these sessions. She also noted her thanks to the many teachers in the school system and that statements attributed to her, and others were false.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Council Manager Culver Stated for the record:

Bill 2024-13 – Establishment of the Little Elk Creek Sanitary Subdistrict

A Bill to establish the Little Elk Creek Sanitary Subdistrict.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on June 4, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on July 2, 2024 and consideration on July 16, 2024.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that the establishment of the Little Elk Creek Sanitary Subdistrict had been an ongoing project for 10 years to provide County sewer to Triumph Industrial Park. He also noted that Triumph Industrial Park has operated its own wastewater treatment plant and collection system, but under the terms of the agreement, the plant would be discontinued and a pump station that is currently being constructed would take the wastewater. He noted the collection system would also be turned over to the County and the County would receive the nutrient credits associated with the wastewater plant. The current and future users of the wastewater system would pay a Benefit Assessment on any cost not covered by the Maryland Department of the Environment grant over 30 years. Vice President Meffley inquired if the examination of the collection system was completed, and Director Overbay noted it was and the repairs that will be necessary will be made prior to acceptance.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 19-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance – Motor Vehicle Internal Service Fund – Budget Amendment.

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, in the amount totaling \$250,000 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the Motor Vehicle Internal Service Fund. This additional appropriation is needed for the remaining quarter of FY24 due to more than expected repairs and maintenance of aging landfill heavy equipment and roads dump trucks.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on June 4, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on June 18, 2024.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted this budget amendment was to cover the cost for two grinders at the landfill and several dump trucks that needed repairs. He also noted that several dump trucks are scheduled to be replaced in FY25.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 20-2024 - Charter Amendment – Term of Office – County Council

A Resolution amending Article 2, County Council, Section 206, Term of Office, of the Cecil County Charter to provide that the County Council shall be limited to serve no more than 3 consecutive 4-year terms. To require submission of this amendment to the legally qualified voters of Cecil County for their adoption or rejection, in accordance with Section 602 of the Charter of Cecil County.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on June 4, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on July 2, 2024 and consideration on July 16, 2024.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 21-2024 - Charter Amendment – Compensation – County Council

A Resolution amending Article 2, County Council, Section 207, Compensation of the Cecil County Charter to provide that the County Council shall receive as compensation \$35,000 per annum. To require submission of this amendment to the legally qualified voters of Cecil County for their adoption or rejection, in accordance with Section 602 of the Charter of Cecil County.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on June 4, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on July 2, 2024 and consideration on July 16, 2024.

Councilwoman Hamilton inquired how the language would appear on the ballot and Council Manager Culver noted that, if passed, the County Attorney would draft the ballot questions and send to the State Board of Elections for approval.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 22-2024 - Charter Amendment – Vacancies – County Council

A Resolution amending Article 2, County Council, Section 209, Vacancies, of the Cecil County Charter to provide that the vacancies in County Council shall be filled based on the vacating members party at the time of filing. To require submission of this amendment to the legally qualified voters of Cecil County for their adoption or rejection, in accordance with Section 602 of the Charter of Cecil County.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on June 4, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on July 2, 2024 and consideration on July 16, 2024.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 23-2024 - Charter Amendment – Term of the County Executive – Executive

A Resolution amending Article 4, Executive, Section 404, Term of the County Executive, of the Cecil County Charter to provide that the Executive shall be limited to serve no more than 3 consecutive 4 year terms. To require submission of this amendment to the legally qualified voters of Cecil County for their adoption or rejection, in accordance with Section 602 of the Charter of Cecil County.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on June 4, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on July 2, 2024 and consideration on July 16, 2024.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 24-2024 - Charter Amendment – Compensation – Executive

A Resolution amending Article 4, Executive, Section 406, Compensation of the County Executive to provide that the County Executive shall receive as compensation \$130,000 per annum and clarify benefits. To require submission of this amendment to the legally qualified voters of Cecil County for their adoption or rejection, in accordance with Section 602 of the Charter of Cecil County.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on June 4, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on July 2, 2024 and consideration on July 16, 2024.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 25-2024 - Charter Amendment – Vacancy in the Office of County Executive – Executive

A Resolution amending Article 4, Executive, Section 407, Vacancy in the Office of County Executive, of the Cecil County Charter to provide that the vacancies in the Office of the County Executive shall be filled based on the vacating member party at the time of filing. To require submission of this

amendment to the legally qualified voters of Cecil County for their adoption or rejection, in accordance with Section 602 of the Charter of Cecil County.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on June 4, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on July 2, 2024 and consideration on July 16, 2024.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 26-2024 - Charter Amendment – Appointment and Removal of Department Heads and Others – Executive

A Resolution amending Article 4, Executive, Section 412, Appointment and Removal of Department Heads and Others, County Executive, of the Cecil County Charter to provide that the Council shall have 2 consecutive Legislative Sessions to approve appointments of the Executive. To require submission of this amendment to the legally qualified voters of Cecil County for their adoption or rejection, in accordance with Section 602 of the Charter of Cecil County.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on June 4, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on July 2, 2024 and consideration on July 16, 2024.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 27-2024 - Charter Amendment – Council review of contracts – Budget and Finance

A Resolution amending Article 5, Budget and Finance, Section 516, Council review of contracts of the Cecil County Charter to clarify the review of County contracts by County Council. To require submission of this amendment to the legally qualified voters of Cecil County for their adoption or rejection, in accordance with Section 602 of the Charter of Cecil County.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on June 4, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on July 2, 2024 and consideration on July 16, 2024.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 17-2024 - Adoption - Real Property and Personal Property Tax Rates - Fiscal Year 2025

A Resolution to levy and impose a property and income tax for the fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025; setting the tax rates for property and providing for the collection of the property tax.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on April 2, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on May 23, 2024 and consideration on June 4, 2024.

Director of Finance Shon McCollum noted that this resolution will set the tax rates for FY25. He noted the property tax rate will go down by one cent to \$0.9824 per \$100 assessed, personal

property down to \$2.4560, income tax down to 2.74% and the Winding Brook Special Taxing District rate is set at \$371.96 per parcel. President Gregory noted the accomplishment of the County executive and County Council to reduce the tax rate for the past four years and providing relief to our citizens during these inflationary times.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Resolution 17-2024, 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.

CALL FOR FINAL READING OF BILLS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Bill 2024-10 - Capital Improvement Program FY2025-2029

A Bill to approve the Capital Improvement Program for Cecil County for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2029.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on April 2, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on May 23, 2024 and consideration on June 4, 2024.

Director of Administration Steve Overbay noted this is the bill for the annual Capital Improvement Program.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Bill 2024-10, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record Amendment 1 to Bill 2024-10

Amendment No. 1 to Bill No. 2024-10

Title: Capital Improvement Plan – Project 71273 – North East Middle School/High School

Synopsis: An Amendment to the FY2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan to reflect funding for Project 71273 – North East Middle School/High School

Introduced by: Council President at the request of the County Executive

On CIP Budget Project No. 71273 the State funding schedule for FY25-FY29 decreased by \$17,447,000 from \$59,447,000 to \$42,000,000

On CIP Budget Project No. 71273 the County funding increased post FY29 increased by \$3,000,000 from \$75,000,000 to \$78,000,000

Total CIP project cost for the “North East Middle School / High School” increased by \$3,000,000 from \$178,000,000 to \$181,000,000

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Amendment 1 to Bill 2024-10, 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.

Councilwoman Culberson and Vice President Meffley agreed to revise motion to approve Bill 2024-10 as amended.

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:

Bill 2024-11 - Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance - FY 2025

A Bill to adopt the County Budget including the Current Expense Budget, Capital Budget, Special Purpose Budgets and Grants Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and to appropriate funds for all expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on April 2, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on May 23, 2024 and consideration on June 4, 2024.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted this is the bill for the annual budget.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Bill 2024-11, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Council Manager Culver Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Amendment No. 1 to Bill No. 2024-11

Title: Emergency Shelter Grant Revenue and Expense Change

Synopsis: Increase Emergency Shelter Grant Revenue and Expense from \$0 to \$500,000 from \$353,202,659 to 352,702,659.

Introduced by: Council President at the request of the County Executive

On Page 210 of the Proposed FY25 Budget Book increase REVENUE:

“11100000-394150-RT40” budget line item in Department 111-00000 from \$0 to \$500,000 in the Emergency Shelter Grant – Revenue”

On Page 270 of the Proposed FY25 Budget Book increase EXPENSE:

11153400-507800-RT40 budget line item in Department 111-53400 from \$0 to \$500,000 in the Allocation – Regular – Expense.

On the Proposed FY 2025 Revenue and Expense Budget Report increased:

Fund 111 – Emergency Shelter Grant - Both Revenues and Expenses are increased \$500,000 from \$696,614 to \$1,196,614 - A net impact of \$0.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve amendment 1 to Bill 2024-11, 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.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Amendment 2 to Bill No. 2024-11

Title: Water & Sewer Planning - LUDS

Synopsis: Increase Revenue in 00122500-349001 and decrease Revenue in 00100000-312100

Introduced by: Council President at the request of the County Executive

On Page 31 of the Proposed FY25 Budget Book increase REVENUE:

“00122500-394001” budget line item in Department 001-22500 - from \$0 to \$500,000 in the Inter-Operations Transfer;

On Page 1 of Section 3 of the Proposed FY25 Budget Book decrease REVENUE:

“00100000-312110” budget line item of in the General Fund – Income Tax from \$81,266,624 to \$80,766,624 Revenue.

On the Proposed FY 2025 Revenue Budget Report increase:

Fund 001 – General Fund – Remains at \$240,615,109 – No Change.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve amendment 2 to Bill 2024-11, 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.

Councilwoman Hamilton and Councilwoman Culberson agreed to revise motion to approve Bill 2024-11 as amended.

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

Councilman Miller indicated he voted no on the bill because he thought the Board of Education needed more funding. Vice President Meffley indicated he voted in favor of the bill because it did allocate additional finding beyond the maintenance of effort to the BOE and also lowered taxes to help the citizens.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Bill 2024-12 - Authorization of Lease Purchase Equipment Financing

A Bill authorizing and empowering Cecil County, Maryland to enter into new financing under a lease purchase agreement or similar arrangement in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000) for Fiscal Year 2025 for the purpose of financing the acquisition of certain necessary and essential vehicles and equipment for use in the County's governmental programs; providing that the obligations of the County under the agreement shall not be a general obligation of the County, shall not constitute a pledge of the full faith and credit or the taxing power of the County and shall not constitute a debt of the County within the meaning of any statutory or constitutional provision, but shall be subject to appropriation in each and every fiscal year during the term of the agreement; empowering the County Executive to execute and deliver an executive order prior to the execution and delivery of the agreement in order to award the agreement to the successful bidder and to fix, prescribe and determine the details of such financing; and relating generally to such financing.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on April 2, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on May 23, 2024 and consideration on June 4, 2024.

Director of Finance Shon McCollum noted this bill will authorize the lease and purchase of vehicles and equipment for FY25. Councilman Miller clarified this was only for large pieces of equipment and not fleet vehicles and Director McCollum indicated that is the case.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Bill 2024-12, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

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 Vice President Meffley, President Gregory adjourned the meeting at 7:42 pm.

Council President Gregory announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 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