

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2026-16
August 18, 2026**

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:

Al Miller, Council President
Bob Meffley, Council Vice President
Rebecca Hamilton, Council Member
Dawn Branch, Council Member

NOTE: The recording of this meeting is available on the County website at cecilcountymd.gov

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the County Council of Cecil County of August 18, 2026, was called to order by Council President Miller at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Miller led all those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council Manager Henson called the roll and noted that four Council members were present.

OPENING PRAYER/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilwoman Hamilton offered the Opening Prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, the Council moved to approve the agenda of August 18, 2026. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

MD 250th Moment – Reading of “Relics Meet Progress!” – Vice President Bob Meffley

Vice President Meffley read “Relics Meet Progress!”, highlighting historical artifacts discovered throughout Cecil County.

Cecil County Historical Society Passport

Cecil County Historical Society (the Society) Director Paula Newton provided an overview of the Society’s events and programs commemorating the United States’ 250th Anniversary. Director Newton provided an overview of the Society’s Passport Challenge, which encourages participants to visit 27 sites throughout Cecil County.

Director Newton stated that the Society initiated a “Great Wooden Nickle Challenge” in which participants solve riddles to locate wooden nickels that have been hidden around Cecil County. Director Newton announced the Society’s Open House will take place on December 4th. She stated the Society is an all-volunteer organization and invited Council to join the Society and support its mission.

PUBLIC HEARING

File No. 2026-01

President Miller opened the Public Hearing at 7:09 pm.

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

FILE 2026-01 Applicant: Timothy & Lori Patterson – Property Location: 560 Blue Ball Road, Elkton, Maryland 21921 Election District 3, Tax Map 26F, Parcels 39 & 40 Property Owner Timothy & Lori Patterson – Presently Zoned Urbanized Residential (UR); Proposed Zoning Business General (BG). Director of Land Use and Development Services (LUDS) Stephen O’Connor stated that LUDS staff recommended disapproval of the rezoning, based upon the original application, and that the

Planning Commission recommended approval, pursuant to the applicant's presentation during a meeting before the Commission.

Attorney Eric Lawson, representing property owners Timothy and Lori Patterson, stated that Mr. and Mrs. Patterson currently operate a vehicle restoration and sales business under a Special Exception, and they are requesting to rezone the property from Urbanized Residential (UR) to Business General (BG) to continue operating the business and subsequently adding vehicle storage. He stated several neighbors support the rezoning application, adding that the current and proposed activities do not, and will not create noise or additional traffic.

Attorney Lawson reviewed zoning classifications of neighboring properties, stating that the requested rezoning is consistent with the neighborhood.

Ms. Lori Patterson stated that she and her husband own the property and business. She stated that the business purchases wrecked vehicles, which are restored and resold. She stated their plans to initiate a storage business which will be located at the rear of their property, adding that the area is secure and not visible from the road. She stated the activity on their property is consistent with activities on adjacent properties.

Vice President Meffley queried the number of entrances to the property. Ms. Patterson stated that there are 3 entrances, 2 for the house and 1 that goes to the rear of the property.

Councilwoman Hamilton queried if the house was built across property lines. Ms. Patterson answered in the affirmative.

Councilwoman Hamilton queried if the requested zoning designation would include the house. Ms. Patterson answered in the affirmative.

Councilwoman Hamilton queried if the current Special Exception was granted for as long as the Pattersons own the property. Ms. Patterson answered in the affirmative.

Councilwoman Hamilton noted that there has been 1 rezoning in the area since the County's Comprehensive Rezoning of 2011.

Ms. Nancy Carter stated she currently resides in Georgia however she owns the property at 592 Blue Ball Road. She stated she lived in the area most of her life, adding that the Industrial Park to which Attorney Lawson referred in his comparisons of adjacent properties had been in existence for many years. She stated that the address of the recycling business to which Attorney Lawson referred was located on Dogwood Road. Ms. Carter stated that there are residential properties remaining in the area and expressed concerns that those properties would be affected by the requested zoning change.

Attorney Lawson stated that Mr. & Mrs. Patterson are not planning to make changes to their current operations.

Councilwoman Hamilton queried the reason for the rezoning request if there are no planned changes to the operation. Ms. Patterson stated that the storage area was planned to provide additional income when vehicle sales were slow. Attorney Lawson stated that Mr. and Mrs. Patterson's children will eventually take over the property and operations, adding that they would have to start over with the Special Exception process if the property is not rezoned.

Councilwoman Branch queried if the planned storage area is inside or outside. Ms. Patterson stated the planned storage area will be outside in a fenced area. She stated the planned storage area has room for approximately 10 vehicles, campers or boats.

Vice President Meffley queried if vehicle repair is permitted in the BG Zone. Director O'Connor answered in the affirmative.

Attorney Lawson stated the Special Exception permits auto repair at the property.

Discussion ensued regarding the permissible uses regarding vehicle and boat storage in the UR and BG Zones.

Councilwoman Hamilton suggested that Mr. & Mrs. Patterson continue to operate their business under the current Special Exception and subsequently present their rezoning request during the County's next Comprehensive Rezoning.

Hearing no additional comments or questions, President Miller closed the Public Hearing at 7:39 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2026 Legislative Session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Sean Brimm spoke about redistricting and tariffs.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Branch thanked the audience for participating in the meeting.

Councilwoman Branch stated she attended the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Summer Conference in Ocean City from August 12th to 14th. She stated the conference provided information on several topics, including data centers and the Conowingo Dam.

Councilwoman Hamilton stated she attended the MACo Conference as well, noting that a session on data centers presented the topic from the perspective of energy providers. She noted that many speakers concluded that Maryland does not have the energy capacity to support data centers and noted that 40% of Maryland's electricity comes from the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant. Councilwoman Hamilton stated she attended a session regarding Maryland's Blueprint for Education, adding her desire to hear how the Blueprint has specifically impacted children. She stated that the conference provided an information-packed week.

Vice President Meffley stated he attended several sessions during the MACo Conference, including Comprehensive Plans, the Conowingo Dam Dredge Plan, Infrastructure, and Budgets. He stated he attended meetings with the Rural County Coalition, the Upper Shore Regional Council, Maryland Transportation Authority and the Farm Bureau, adding that the importance of Agriculture in Maryland is being recognized at the State level.

President Miller stated the MACo Summer Conference was a success. He commended Director of Administration Schneckenburger for his handling of the Conowingo Dam meeting.

President Miller stated that Rural County Coalition meeting provided information regarding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs).

President Miller commended the Cecil County display at the MACo Conference, which was created by the Departments of Economic Development and Tourism.

President Miller commended Parker Ness for his contribution to the Farm Bureau meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 44-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 44-2026 Approval – Axon Equipment Enhancement Package for Cameras, Tasers, Virtual Reality (VR) Training, License Plate Readers (LPR), Drone Support, etc. – Multiple Year Contract

A Resolution to approve a ten (10) year agreement between the County on behalf of the Cecil County Sheriff's Office, Detention Center, State's Attorney, Circuit Court, and Animal Services and Axon Enterprise, Inc. for Cameras, Tasers, Virtual Reality (VR) Training, Drone Support, etc.

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

Introduced and ordered posted on August 18, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on September 1, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger requested Council's approval for Resolution No. 44-2026 which provides for updated equipment as discussed on August 4th.

Councilwoman Hamilton noted that she listened to the recording of the August 4th presentation. Vice President Meffley expressed support for Resolution No. 44-2026 and consolidation of services with one company.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that the County's current provider cannot keep up with current technology.

President Miller stated that Director of Finance Raymond Hamm researched Axon Enterprise, Inc. (Axon).

Director Hamm stated that costs for the first year of the agreement are embedded in the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Budget, adding that subsequent FY costs are known upfront and will be budgeted accordingly.

Director Hamm stated that the proposed contract was revised to include the County's request for quarterly payments rather than annual, which results in approximately \$35,000 savings for the County. He stated the proposed agreement was reviewed and returned by Axon with no additional comments.

Resolution No. 45-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 45-2026 Approval – Application – Enterprise Zone Expansion

A Resolution to expand the existing Cecil County Enterprise Zone by 63.05 acres, more or less.

Introduced by Council President at the request of the County Council.

Introduced and ordered posted on August 18, 2026; Public Hearing scheduled on September 1, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on September 15, 2026.

Director of Economic Development Sandra Edwards stated that the property is not located within a municipality. She stated that Resolution No. 45-2026, if approved, expanded the County's Enterprise Zone to 8,283 acres.

Director Edwards stated that the properties are zoned Business General (BG) and Suburban Transitional (ST), adding that one property is located at 3040 Pulaski Highway and the other two are located to the east.

Director Edwards stated the property owners plan to create an innovation hub consisting of buildings varying in size from 8,000 square feet to 30,000 square feet for entrepreneurs to start their businesses. She said business opportunities include research, manufacturing and a commercial kitchen.

Councilwoman Hamilton confirmed that a Public Hearing is scheduled for September 1st.

Councilwoman Hamilton queried if Enterprise Zone tax credits would apply to the entire parcel.

Director Edwards responded in the negative, stating that Enterprise Zone tax credits apply only to the portion of the parcel utilized for the defined activity.

Vice President Meffley queried if the parcels will be served with water and sewer. Director O'Connor stated the parcels are located within the Elkton West service area as identified by Artesian Water.

Resolution No. 46-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 46-2026 Appointment - Planning Commission – John Mettee

Synopsis: A Resolution to confirm the appointment of John Mettee, to the Planning Commission, to a term which expires August 17, 2029.

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

Introduced and ordered posted on August 18, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on September 1, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger requested Council's consideration of the appointment of John Mettee to the Planning Commission to a term which expires August 17, 2029, stating that Mr. Mettee is a highly recommended candidate.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS**Resolution No. 40-2026**

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 40-2026 Appointment – Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board – Paul Drummond

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment of Paul Drummond to the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board, to a term which expires on August 1, 2031.

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

Introduced and ordered posted on August 4, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on August 18, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that Administration offered no further comments.

President Miller requested a motion to approve Resolution No. 40-2026.

Councilwoman Branch made a motion to approve Resolution No. 40-2026, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley.

Roll Call Vote: Hamilton – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 4-0.

Resolution No. 41-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 41-2026 Appointment – Susquehanna Workforce Network Board – Lisa Beeman
A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Lisa Beeman to the Susquehanna Workforce Network Board to a term which expires June 30, 2029.

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

Introduced and ordered posted on August 4, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on August 18, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that Administration offered no further comments.

President Miller requested a motion to approve Resolution No. 41-2026.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Resolution No. 41-2026, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

Roll Call Vote: Hamilton – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 4-0.

Resolution No. 42-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 42-2026 Appointment – Commission for Women – Sally Kilby Dulin

A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Sally Kilby Dulin who is completing the term of Jennifer Cooper, with a term to expire on March 3, 2029 to the Commission for Women.

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

Introduced and ordered posted on August 4, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on August 18, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that Administration offered no further comments.

Councilwoman Hamilton suggested that the Commission for Women change its meeting time to open its membership up to women who work during the day.

President Miller requested a motion to approve Resolution No. 42-2026.

Councilwoman Branch made a motion to approve Resolution No. 42-2026, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley.

Roll Call Vote: Hamilton – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 4-0.

Resolution No. 43-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 43-2026 Appointment – Building Board of Appeals – Christopher Bradley

A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Christopher Bradley to the Building Board of Appeals, to a term which expires on August 19, 2031.

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

Introduced and ordered posted on August 4, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on August 18, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that Administration offered no further comments.

President Miller requested a motion to approve Resolution No. 43-2026.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Resolution No. 43-2026, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

Roll Call Vote: Hamilton – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 4-0.

CALL FOR FINAL READING OF BILLS

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Bill No. 2026-06 Establishment of the Sanitary Sewer Benefit Assessment for the Little Elk Creek Sanitary Subdistrict

An Act to establish the Sanitary Sewer Benefit Assessment for the Little Elk Creek Sanitary Subdistrict in the amount of \$35,265 per Equivalent Living Unit (ELU) which shall be applied to all sewer connections in the Little Elk Creek Sanitary Subdistrict commencing July 1, 2027 and continuing through June 30, 2057.

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

Introduced and ordered posted on July 21, 2026; Public Hearing scheduled on August 4, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on August 18, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that concerns voiced by property owners were addressed and have been resolved.

President Miller requested a motion to approve Bill No. 2026-06.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Bill No. 2026-06, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

Roll Call Vote: Hamilton – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 4-0.

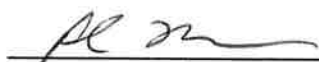
ADJOURNMENT

President Miller requested a motion to adjourn the Legislative Session.

On motion made by Councilwoman Branch, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, President Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:12 pm.

Council President Miller announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton. The Legislative Session will be livestreamed at the county's webpage at cecilcountymd.gov. The recording will be uploaded to the county's website as soon as possible.

Approved:



Al Miller

Council President

Attest:



L. Michelle Henson

Council Manager