

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2025-15
August 5, 2025

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, Vice President
Rebecca Hamilton, Council Member
Donna Culberson, Council Member
Dawn Branch, 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 August 5, 2025, was called to order by Council President Miller at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

OPENING PRAYER/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Council President Al Miller offered the Opening Prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, the Council moved to approve the agenda of August 5, 2025. The motion was approved unanimously. President Miller, noting that the Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #137 was rescheduled for the August 19, 2025 Legislative Session, requested a motion to move the item to the August 19, 2025 Legislative Session Agenda.

On a motion made by Councilwoman Hamilton, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, the Council approved moving the Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #137 to the August 19, 2025 Legislative Session Agenda.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION

Department of Social Services – 50th Anniversary U.S. Child Support Program

PUBLIC HEARING

Bill No. 2025-08 – Bond Authorization – General Obligation Project Bonds

President Miller opened the Public Hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

An Act authorizing and empowering Cecil County, Maryland (the "County"), to borrow from time to time not more than Fifty-Six Million Dollars (\$56,000,000) for the purpose of financing the costs of certain public facilities within the County described herein, and to effect such borrowing by the issuance and sale of its general obligation bonds in one or more series from time to time; empowering the County Executive to execute and deliver one or more Executive Orders prior to issuing the bonds in order to fix, prescribe and determine the details of the bonds and the issuance and sale thereof; empowering and directing the County to levy ad valorem taxes in rate and amount sufficient to provide funds for the payment of the maturing principal of and interest on the bonds; exempting the bonds from the provisions of Sections 19-205 and 19-206 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended, or successor provision; authorizing the County to issue and sell bond anticipation notes in one or more series

pursuant to the authority of Sections 19-211 through 19-223 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended, or successor provision, prior to and in anticipation of the sale of the bonds; providing that the County may issue and sell all or any portion of the bonds, the interest on which is excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes; authorizing the County to issue bonds for the purpose of refunding any bonds issued pursuant to this Act in one or more series pursuant to the authority of Section 19-207 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended, or successor provision; and relating generally to the issuance and sale of such bonds.

Introduced and order posted on July 1, 2025; Public Hearing scheduled on August 5, 2025; and consideration scheduled on August 19, 2025.

Director of Finance Raymond Hamm introduced Ms. Jennifer Dierksen, representing Davenport, the County's Financial Advisor, and Ms. Anna Horevay, representing McGuire Woods, the County's Bond Council. He stated Ms. Dierksen and Ms. Horevay were attending the meeting virtually to address Council's questions.

Director Hamm stated the County will issue \$53 million in bonds in the fall of 2025 to finance Capital Improvement Program Projects.

Director Hamm stated the issuance of \$53 million in bonds will bring the County's general bond obligation to \$261 million, adding that the annual debt service will be \$22 million. He noted that 85% of the bonds will be retired in the first 20 years of the bond term, and 15% of the bonds will be retired in the final 10 years.

Ms. Horevay stated that Bill No. 2025-08 authorizes the actual borrowing of the funds, adding that the bond issuance will be provided via a subsequent Executive Order.

President Miller queried Council for questions or comments.

Councilwoman Culberson requested a worksheet to provide project status and remaining balance detail.

President Miller queried members of the audience for comments in favor of Bill No. 2025-08.

Mr. Sean Brimm spoke in favor of Bill No. 2025-08.

President Miller queried members of the audience for comments opposed to Bill No. 2025-08.

There were no comments in opposition to Bill No. 2025-08.

President Miller closed the Public Hearing at 7:21 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Legislative Session of July 15, 2025. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Sean Brimm spoke of diversity on County Council and in support of solar energy.

Ms. Michelle Ravert spoke in support of a referendum to abolish at-large voting.

Ms. Teresa DiFabbio spoke of Aquarius.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Culberson provided Emergency Services intel for the week ending July 31st, stating that responders handled 267 calls, 25 of which were mental-health related; 41 domestic calls, 20 of which were physical; 7 overdoses, 2 of which resulted in fatalities.

Councilwoman Culberson stated she participated in the commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of General LaFayette's visit to Port Deposit, adding that the National Guard band provided music, and several citizens participated in the event wearing period clothing.

Councilwoman Hamilton thanked those in attendance for participating in the meeting.

Councilwoman Hamilton stated her appreciation to be home after vacation.

Councilwoman Hamilton stated she was a judge in the Cecil County Fair Pretty Baby contest, adding her appreciation to all who participated.

Councilwoman Hamilton stated the North East branch of the Cecil County Library will host a public workshop to discuss bike trails on August 28th, and added that the annual Unicorn Quest will take place in North East on August 23rd.

Councilwoman Branch noted National Night Out events were being held until this evening at the North East Town Park, the Rising Sun Fire Company, and the Cecilton Carnival Grounds. She stated that National Night Out events bring the community together with law enforcement and first responders.

Councilwoman Branch stated she attended ribbon cuttings at North East Fire Protection in North East on July 25th and Bings Bake and Brew in Elkton on July 29th.

Vice President Meffley stated he attended the Cecil County Fair, which is always a great event.

Vice President Meffley stated he was contacted by a resident who was having issues obtaining a building permit, adding that he subsequently attended a meeting that was coordinated with the citizen, Administrator Schneckenburger and County staff, during which the issues were addressed. Vice President Meffley commended everyone for working toward a positive outcome.

Vice President Meffley commended Public Works for quickly addressing issues with drainage ditches near the Crystal Beach pavilion.

Vice President Meffley stated the Upper Bay Regional Council (UBRC) budget has been reduced by 30%.

Vice President Meffley noted that the Fair Hill Races will take place this year.

President Miller thanked the members of the audience for attending the meeting.

President Miller stated the Cecil County Fair was a great success and thanked the many volunteers for their hard work.

President Miller stated that the Health Department, Emergency Services and Shock Trauma coordinated to provide a "Stop the Bleed" course during Ag Day at the Fair. He stated the purpose of the course was to teach farmers and others how to administer first aid to themselves when in the field, adding that 50-60 people participated.

President Miller thanked Councilwoman Hamilton for judging the Pretty Baby Contest, noting that there were approximately 300 participants.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 2025-09

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Bill No. 2025-09 – Amendment – Cecil County Code – Chapter A385 – Purchase of Development Rights Program and Fund.

An Act to amend the Cecil County Code, Chapter A385, Purchase of Development Rights Program and Fund – by adding a new Section C to Section A385-2, Funding, for the purpose of developing a new funding source for the County Purchase of Development Rights Program and County Purchase of Development Rights Fund, for the purpose of providing an additional funding source to assist landowners wishing to retain their properties in agricultural use.

Introduced and ordered posted on August 5, 2025; Public Hearing Scheduled on August 19, 2025; and consideration scheduled on September 2, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger stated Bill No. 2025-09 was the result of several meetings between County Administration and President Miller. He stated the purpose of Bill No. 2025-09 was to protect the County's agricultural resources, adding that funds collected under Bill No. 2025-09 will be directed to the County's Purchase of Development Rights Program.

Councilwoman Hamilton questioned who is responsible for payment of permitting fees. Director of Land Use and Development (LUDS) Stephen O'Connor stated the project developer or entitlement company would be responsible for payment, which is payable at permit issuance.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 50-2025

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 50-2025 – Appointment – Board of Zoning Appeals – Mark Saunders, Donald Harmer Jr, Norman Anderson and Jennifer Callaghan

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Mark Saunders and the appointment of Donald Harmer, Jr. to terms which expire August 15, 2027 and to confirm the reappointment of Norman Anderson and the appointment of Jennifer Callaghan as the Alternate to terms which expire August 15, 2028, to the Cecil County Board of Appeals.

Introduced and ordered posted on August 5, 2025; consideration scheduled on August 19, 2025.

Director Schneckenburger stated Administration acted to reappoint Mark Saunders and Norman Anderson, appointing Mr. Donald Harmer as a full voting member, and appointing Jennifer Callaghan as the Alternate Member.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 48-2025

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 48-2025 – Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Sheriff’s Office – Warrant Apprehension

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2026, in order to provide a total of \$12,500.00 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund – Sheriff’s Office - to record a grant awarded from the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) for the purpose Overtime and Fringe, in the amount of \$12,500.00.

Introduced and order posted on July 15, 2025; consideration scheduled on August 5, 2025.

Director Schneckenburger stated that Administration had no additional comments.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 48-2025, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

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

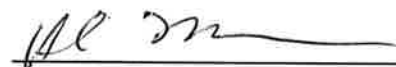
The motion was approved 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley and approved by all present, President Miller adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Council President Miller announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 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:



Al Miller, Council President

Attest:



L. Michelle Henson, Council Manager