

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2024-06
March 19, 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 March 19, 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 Brian Hamson, Area Director of Fellowship of Christian Athletic in Cecil County gave the opening prayer. He also announced the annual Fellowship Banquet is on April 8, 2024.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley, the Council moved to approve the agenda of March 19, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Vice President Meffley read the proclamation congratulating Jack Foreaker on his career and retirement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Council Manager Culver Stated for the record:

Bill 2024-04 - Amendment – Building Construction – Building Code

A Bill to amend certain provisions of the Cecil County Code, Chapter 157, Building Construction to add references to the Division of Water and Sewer Planning; to clarify administration of floodplain in

municipalities; and to update to the editions of the International Building Code and International Residential Code to 2021.

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

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on February 20, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on March 19, 2024 and consideration on April 2, 2024.

Director of Administration Steve Overbay noted that this would update the 2018 International Building Code (IBC) to 2021 for building construction.

No Public Comments were made

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Bill 2024-05 - County Code Adoption – Swimming Pools and Spas

A Bill to amend the Cecil County Code by creation of a new Chapter, Chapter 333, Swimming Pools and Spas to adopt the Maryland Swimming Pool and Spa Standards that came into effect January 1, 2024.

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

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on February 20, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on March 19, 2024 and consideration on April 2, 2024.

No Public Comments were made

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Bill 2024-06 Amendment — HVAC Standards

A Bill to amend certain provisions of the Cecil County Code, Chapter 229, HVAC Standards to update the edition of the International Mechanical Code to 2021.

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

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on February 20, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on March 19, 2024 and consideration on April 2, 2024.

Vice President Meffley noted that the IBC Codes are adopted in many jurisdictions and this ensures the trades are consistent in construction and homeowners are kept safe in each jurisdiction. He also noted that the local jurisdictions can make minor amendments to address local needs.

No Public Comments were made

Council Manager Culver Stated for the record:

Bill 2024-07 - Amendment — Energy Conservation Standards

A Bill to amend certain provisions of the Cecil County Code, Chapter 195, Energy Conservation Standards to update the edition of the International Energy Conservation Code to 2021.

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

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on February 20, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on March 19, 2024 and consideration on April 2, 2024.

No Public Comments were made

Council Manager Culver Stated for the record:

Bill 2024-08 - Amendment — Plumbing Code

A Bill to amend certain provisions of the Cecil County Code, Chapter 270, Plumbing to update the edition of the International Plumbing Code to 2021.

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

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on February 20, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on March 19, 2024 and consideration on April 2, 2024.

No Public Comments were made

Council Manager Culver Stated for the record:

Bill 2024-09 - Amendment – Electrical Standards

A Bill to amend Chapter 191 - Electrical Standards - of the Code of Cecil County by amending local electrician licensing requirements in accordance with state law; amending the references from Department to Division of Permits & Inspections to the Department of Land Use and Development Services; and amending references from the Board of Electrical Examiners to Board of Electricians.

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

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on February 20, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on March 19, 2024 and consideration on April 2, 2024.

No Public Comments were made

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 March 5, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sean Brimm of North East spoke on education funding issues.

Ashlee Groce of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.

Kelly Riser of Bel Air spoke on education funding issues.

Jennifer Berkey of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.

Jennifer Altvater of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.

Harold McCanick of Elk Neck spoke on education funding issues and balanced budgets.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Hamilton wished everybody a Happy Spring. She noted she attended the Chamber's Government Relations Committee with President Greogory on March 14 and reviewed how Council takes positions on bills. She also attended the Cecil County Choral Concert on March 16. She noted on March 27 the Health Department will be having a listening session at the Elkton Recreation Center at 6:00. She also noted that Palm Sunday is March 24.

Vice President Meffley thanked everybody for attending. He noted he attended the Weed Control Board Meeting and the cost for this year spraying services were set and that anyone who is interested in spraying can contact Public Works. He also noted the Town of Elkton and Chesapeake City had St. Patrick's Days Event on March 16 and both were well done and well attended. He also attended the Farm Bureau Meeting on March 18 and noted the Young Farmers are having a Clay Pigeon Shooting Event in Harford County. He also noted that on March 18 he attended the MRDC Board Meeting, and it was announced the Paris Foundation received its building permit and will begin construction on its new center shortly.

Councilman Miller thanked the staff at Union and Christiana Care hospital, the EMS employees the Fire Companies crews for the hard work they do and the care they gave to his father Grove Miller.

Councilwoman Culberson thanked everybody for attending. She noted the intel numbers from the previous week and noted that unfortunately Cecil County had one overdose death, and this was the first one in 6 weeks. She thanked all the organizations that are helping people overcome addiction.

President Gregory noted she attended Daffodil Day that is sponsored by the Cecilton Lions Club. During this event they harvest and deliver daffodils to nursing homes, Perry Point and shut ins so they may have some fresh spring flowers. She also thanked the teachers and everybody for coming out to the meeting and noted the teachers' jobs are hard and valuable to our school system. She also noted the past funding to the BOE and that the school administration failed to deliver on the promises made during Covid on how the funds would be spent on more teachers.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 14-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Community Partnerships and Cecil Transit Divisions.

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 \$241,955 to the Community Services Grants Fund. Specifically, \$127,955 – Cecil Transit Division, Fund 109, Department 522, to record a Statewide Transit Innovation Grant awarded by the Maryland Transit Administration; \$105,000 - Community Partnerships Division, Fund 109, Department 536, to record a grant awarded by the Maryland Community Health Resource Commission; and \$9,000 – Community Partnerships Division, Fund 109, Department 163, to record a grant awarded by the Maryland State Department of Juvenile Services. Funding awarded through these grants will be used to support a routing software system in Cecil Transit, employ a contractual family navigator to work with the County's Local Care Team and offset expenses associated with the Department's Neighborhood Youth Panel Program, respectively.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on March 19, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on April 2, 2024.

Director of Community Services David Trolio noted this resolution addressed 3 separate grants that are all in Fund 109 of the Community Services Budget. The first grant is for \$127,955 that will go to the Cecil Transit Division to record a Statewide Transit Innovation Grant awarded by the Maryland Transit Administration to update the trip software the County uses. Director Trolio noted the other two grants one for \$105,000 for the Community Partnerships Division for a grant awarded by the Maryland Community Health Resource Commission that would allow them to employ a contractual family navigator to work with the County's local care program, and a \$9,000 grant to the Community Partnerships Division from the Maryland State Department of Juvenile Services to help with expenses associated with the Department's Neighborhood Youth Panel Program. Councilman Miller thanked Director Trolio for getting these grants. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired on the fund program for these grants and Director Trolio noted they were all in the 109 Fund for grants. Vice President Meffley inquired if Cecil Transit would expand and Director Trolio noted this should help them to expand services because it will make the system more efficient and thus allow them to be able to serve more people.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 15-2024 - Amendments – Opioid Litigation Settlement Trust Fund Trust Agreement

A Resolution to amend the Opioid Litigation Settlement Trust Fund Trust Agreement as established through Legislative Bill No. 2020-12, approved on October 27, 2020.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on March 19, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on April 2, 2024.

Director of Community Service David Trolio reviewed the history of the opioid settlement. Director Trolio noted that Bill 2020-12 was passed to address the opioid settlement with the various pharmaceutical companies, drug stores and State of Maryland. He noted at the time of the original settlement it was anticipated that the settlement would be a lump sum to the various jurisdictions, however after the settlement occurred it was changed to be paid out over 18 years, in part by outright payment and in part by grants from the State. The original Trust Agreement that was created, but never adopted, was for how to handle the lump sum payment and with the changes to the program and in the State administration, the agreement needed to be revised prior to it being adopted. He noted that any changes to the Trust Agreement needed a 2/3 agreement among the 8 members, who hold various job titles in the State and County, and Council consent. Director Trolio also reviewed the changes to create a grant administrator that could allocate the funds to various organizations.

Councilwoman Hamilton inquired on the grant administrator and if this is a person or committee and Director Trolio noted it could function either way but will most likely will be a committee. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if the Trustees would be accountable for the expenditures and Director Trolio noted they would approve the grants awarded by the grant administrator. Councilwoman Hamilton asked if the grants would be done annually, and Director Trolio noted that it how it is being envisioned. Vice President Meffley inquired on the amount of settlement funds received so far and Director Trolio noted it was \$700,000 and that grants will be submitted to the State for additional funding. Councilman Miller inquired on how the funds are currently invested and Director Trolio noted the funds are currently invested in the Maryland Local Government Investment Pool.

Resolution 16-2024 - Appointment—Police Accountability Board – Cynthia Emmerich

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Cynthia Emmerich to the Police Accountability Board.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on March 19, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on April 2, 2024.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted Ms. Emmerich is well qualified for the Board and she would be fulfilling the term of Ronald Stricklett who was appointed to the Administrative Charging Committee. Director Overbay also reviewed the criteria for appointment to the PAB.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 13-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – Wastewater Fund Balance – Wastewater Division – Department of Public Works – Washington Street Force Main Repair

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, to provide additional \$200,000 expense authority to the Wastewater Enterprise Fund – Department of Public Works Facilities Maintenance – I&I Repair account for expenses related to the emergency repair of the Washington Street Force Main.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on March 5, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on March 19, 2024.

Director of Administration Steve Overbay noted that this amendment is needed because of an emergency repair on the Washington Street Force Main from January 14 to 19. This main is 24 inches and a major transmission line and the County needed to pump and haul the sewage from this lift station during the repair.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 13-2024, 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #121

President Gregory noted that the Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #121 is for \$111,436.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #121 in the amount of \$111,436. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilman Miller, President Gregory adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm.

Council President Gregory announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, April 2, 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