

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2024-07
April 2, 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 April 2, 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

Reverend Shawn Johnson, Associate Pastor of New Life Faith Center in Port Deposit gave the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, the Council moved to approve the revised agenda of April 2, 2024 to reflect the introduction of Bills 2024-10, 2024-11 and 2024-12 and Resolution 17-2024. The motion was approved unanimously.

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, Council moved to move Council Comments and Public Comments to the end of the agenda of the revised agenda of April 2, 2024. The motion was approved 3 to 2 (Ayes - Hamilton, Culberson, Gregory; Nays – Miller and Meffley).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of March 19, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.

INTRODUCTION 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.

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 Finance Shon McCollum noted this is the bill for the annual budget.

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. Vice President Meffley noted that he just received the bills today and the budget book was not delivered to Council until after 4:00 pm on Monday, April 1. Councilman Miller questioned the committed fund balance for 8.2 million to buy out of the previous leases with Enterprise. Director McCollum noted this is the annual funding for vehicles and not specifically for Enterprise. Councilman Miller questioned if this is for more lease vehicles and Director McCollum noted it could be for the lease or purchase of vehicles. Vice President Meffley inquired if this funding will go to leasing with Enterprise and Director McCollum noted it is only to give the County flexibility to lease or purchase. Director Overbay clarified this is not to lease vehicles from Enterprise. Vice President Meffley noted that leased vehicles do not have resale value and Director Overbay noted the lease versus purchase of vehicle was being evaluated as it relates to resale and long-term maintenance cost of older vehicles. Councilman Miller noted the cost increase in lease vehicles and Director Overbay noted this was partly due to supply chain issues. Director Overbay also noted that many vehicles due for replacement are heavy equipment for roads and the landfill. President Gregory also noted this buyout is noted as a committed fund in the AFRA and gives the County option if rates get better. Director McCollum noted they do review the interest rates and make the determination on the lease versus the purchase of vehicle.

INTRODUCTION 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.

CONSIDERATION 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 Administration Steven Overbay noted this was to record three grants for the Department of Community Services.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 14-2024, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

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:

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 Trolie noted he had no further comments on the resolution.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 15-2024, 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.

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 reviewed the criteria for appointment to the PAB and noted Ms. Emmerich is well qualified and will help the board maintain its diversity that is required by the State.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 16-2024, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

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 2024-04 - 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 Bills 2024-04 to 2024-09 would update the 2018 International Building Code (IBC) to 2021 for building construction.

No further comments were made.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Bill 2024-04, 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.

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 on behalf 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 further comments were made.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Bill 2024-05, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

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 2024-06 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.

No further comments were made.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Bill 2024-06, 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.

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 further comments were made.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Bill 2024-07, 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.

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.

Vice President Muffley 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.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Bill 2024-08, 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.

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 further comments were made.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Bill 2024-09, 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.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice President Meffley noted he attended the Dimples Cheesesteak Shop in Elkton ribbon cutting and noted they relocated from North East after a fire destroyed the building in North East.

Councilman Miller thanked everybody for coming to the meeting and hoped they all had a Happy Easter.

Councilwoman Hamilton noted she attended the Health Departments listening session on March 27 at the Elkton Recreation Center and thanked all the various organizations and Voices of Hope for continuing the partnerships that helps out our community. She noted this cooperation amongst groups helps people beat addiction and lowers drug usage and deaths.

Councilwoman Culberson thanked everybody for attending. She noted that a lot of misinformation is circulated on social media sites and encouraged people to contact the Council or County Executive to discuss issues. She also noted that the Budget, Work and Legislative Sessions are live streamed and also on the website after the meetings. She also noted she firmly believes in parental rights and will not stop speaking for the rights of parents, children and the family.

President Gregory hoped that everybody had a Happy Easter. She also noted the Health Department listening session and the fantastic collaboration between the various groups in helping people with addiction and other mental health issues. She also noted the large task the Ethic Commission undertakes each year to review every ethic form. She also addressed misinformation on the Capital Improvement Plan and the bonding of large projects. She also noted the Council will continue to ask for and have presentations on various topics, such as bonding, at the Work Sessions and people should reach out to Council if they have concern on any topic.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sean Brimm of North East spoke on personal issues and education funding issues.

Phyllis Kilby of Colora spoke on educational funding issues and the budget.

Kathie Kennedy Stubbs of Elkton spoke in favor of the County Executive's budget proposal.

John McDaniel of Cherry Hill spoke in favor of the County Executive's budget proposal.

Michelle Ravert of Chesapeake City spoke on the budget and Charter.

Jutilia Wilson of Elkton spoke in favor of the County Executive's budget proposal.

Madison Rodgers of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.

Eric George of North East spoke on education funding issues.

Sami Hunter of North East spoke against the PAB appointment of Cynthia Emmerich.

Morgan Cooper of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.

Meagan Wiecek of Perryville spoke on education funding issues.

Corin Culver of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.

Shawna Miller of Conowingo spoke on education funding issues.

Jared Guardipee of Charlestown spoke on education funding issues.

Jordan Seguin of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.

Chris Malone of Perryville spoke on education funding issues.

Brian Hamton of Perryville spoke on education funding issues.

Harold McCanick of Elk Neck spoke on leasing vehicles in the budget.

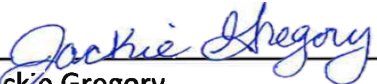
Shanan Mellott of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, President Gregory adjourned the meeting at 8:24 pm.

Council President Gregory announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, April 16, 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