

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2024-13
July 16, 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 July 16, 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

Councilwoman Hamilton 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 July 16, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilman Miller, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of July 2, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sean Brimm of North East spoke on the Charter amendments and the HVAC replacement.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Miller thanked everybody for coming to the meeting and noted that the Cecil County Fair begins on July 19 and he hopes everybody will attend. He also noted that on July 16, Secretary Joshua Kurtz from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources was at the Tea Barn at Fair Hill and DNREC discussed possible future events at Fair Hill. He also noted that turnout for this was excellent and that bringing back the Fair Hill Races was a priority.

Councilwoman Culberson thanked everybody for attending and reviewed the intel numbers for the past week. She noted that so far this year out of 26 weeks, we did not have a drug overdose death in 16 of those weeks and again thanked the different agencies working in the community that helps people overcome addiction. She also noted she attended the Salute to Veterans Celebration on July 3rd at the North East Park and the event was fantastic.

Councilwoman Hamilton noted the WILMAPCO presentation on the East Elkton Traffic Circulation and Safety Plan from the Work Session today noted many great ideas for traffic improvements in this area and encouraged everybody to go to the WILMAPCO website to review and comment on the plan. She also noted the Perryville Branch Library Reopening Event is scheduled for July 27 and hopes everyone will attend.

Vice President Meffley thanked everybody for coming to the meeting. He noted he attended the Elkton Rotary Club 100th Anniversary celebration and thanked Delegate Jacobs for the proclamation from the House of Delegates and the Governor's Office, as well as the rest of Council for the proclamation for this event. He also noted he attended the Cecilton Town Meeting and that the Town recently completed a smoke test of the sanitary lines and will be correcting numerous leaks. He also attended the July 16 meeting with DNREC at Fair Hill and hopes that DNREC will work with Cecil County to bring back the Fair Hill Races. He also noted that he was disappointed that the Department of Land Use would not allow him to remain in a meeting with them and a local realtor on a flood plain issue and does not believe they are properly applying Section 212 of the Charter on non-interference. He also noted that many people from Cecil County attend the baseball games in Philadelphia and he enjoys meeting them.

President Gregory noted she also attended the Salute to Veterans Celebration on July 3rd at the North East Park and the event was very successful. She also noted that bricks can be purchased in North East from the VFW to be placed at the Veterans Memorial in Town. She also attended the July 16 meeting with DNREC at Fair Hill and thought the meeting was very productive. She also clarified how appointments are made and that people that are appointed should serve until a successor is appointed, unless they are unable.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 33-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance – Volunteer Fire Service – Vehicle Replacement Program – Community Fire Company of Rising Sun and Singerly Fire Company of Elkton

A resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, to provide the Volunteer Fire Service Department's budget within the General Fund expenditure appropriation to authorize \$450,000 to be expensed for the County's match portion towards the Vehicle Replacement Program, consisting of: \$325,000 to purchase a Fire Engine for the Community Fire Company of Rising Sun and \$125,000 to purchase an Ambulance for the Singerly Fire Company of Elkton. These vehicles were approved and ordered in FY23 but were not received in that fiscal year.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on July 16, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on August 6, 2024.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that these funds were appropriated in FY23, but because of the lead time, the vehicles are now being received. He noted this would provide partial funding for a new fire truck for Rising Sun and a new ambulance for Singerly. These funds are shown in the Assigned Fund Balance in the Budget.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 34-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Aging and Disabilities Division – Long Term Care and Dementia Care Navigation Program Grant

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, in order to provide a total of \$22,383.00 to the Community Services Grants Fund – Department of Community Services, Fund 109, Department 523, to record a Long-Term Care and Dementia Care Navigation Program Grant awarded from the Maryland Department of Aging to provide staffing support and direct and indirect services to individuals and families experiencing Dementia.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on July 16, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on August 6, 2024.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted this grant is for Community Services and will help provide funding for staffing and support services to individuals and families that may be experiencing dementia. He also noted that Community Services is always looking for grant funds to help supplement these programs.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 35-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Office of Economic Development – Maryland Department of Commerce Grant and Maryland 5 Star Partial Matching Grant

A resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, in order to provide a total of \$75,000 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund - Office of Economic Development to record the \$50,000 grant awarded from the Maryland Department of Commerce and the \$25,000 grant awarded from the Maryland 5 Star.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on July 16, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on August 6, 2024.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay thanked the Maryland Department of Commerce and the 5 Star organization for this matching grant. This grant will assist in the promotion of the 5 Star Event at Fair Hill. He noted the total for the grant will be \$100,000 with \$50,000 coming from the Maryland Department of Commerce, and matching funds of \$25,000 from 5-Star and \$25,000 from the Office of Economic Development for Cecil County. He noted these funds will help to promote and advertise the 5 Star event.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

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.

Vice President Meffley noted he does not support this amendment but believes it should be put to the voters.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 20-2024 but did not receive a second.

The motion failed.

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 Culberson noted she is opposed to any increase in compensation for the Council and considers serving a civic duty. She also noted that Councilmembers can also hold full time jobs while in service. Vice President Meffley believes that the compensation should be increased, and this may help encourage other people to seek office. Councilman Miller noted he believes that the voters should decide if this is proper compensation.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Resolution 21-2024, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

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

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 election. 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 Culberson asked for clarification on the proposed language in the Charter and Council Manager Culver noted it is at the time of election.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Resolution 22-2024, which was seconded by President Gregory.

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

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.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 23-2024, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – N, Miller -Y, Culberson – Y, Meffley – Y, Gregory- N
The motion was approved 3 to 2.

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.

Vice President Meffley believes that the compensation should be increased, and this may help encourage other people to seek office.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 24-2024, 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:

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 election. 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 made a motion to approve Resolution 25-2024, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley.

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

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.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Resolution 26-2024, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

President Gregory proposed Amendment 1 to Resolution 26-2024:
Amendment No. 1 to Resolution 26-2024

Title: Charter Amendment — Appointment and Removal of Department Heads and Others — Executive

Synopsis: 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 30 days after introduction at a Legislative Session 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 by: President Gregory

On Page 4, line 60 strike:

after 2 consecutive Legislative Sessions

Add on Page 4, line 62 after the phrase "pursuant to this section".

within 30 days after introduction at a Legislative Session

On page 4, line 81 strike:

after 2 consecutive Legislative Sessions

Add on Page 4 line 84 after the phrase "pursuant to this section".

within 30 days after introduction at a Legislative Session

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Amendment 1 to Resolution 26-2024, 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.

Vice President Meffley and Councilman Miller agreed to the revised motion to approve Resolution 26-2024 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:

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.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 27-2024, 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.

Resolution 29-2024 - Approval – Schneider Electric Multi-Year Contract

A Resolution to approve a two (2) year agreement between the County and Schneider Electric to manage the Decarbonization Project which includes maximizing energy and utility efficiency, and a plan for compliance with the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2020; giving the public high-profile advances in sustainable energy and technology for healthier environments for citizens and employees; updating neglected, aging facilities and systems; and modernizing technology and improving maintenance efficiency. The total value of the contract is not to exceed four (4) million dollars and is being funded by the VLT Fund, which is already approved by the Council.

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

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted this is being funded as part of the Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) Grant. The approved three-year VLT program set aside funds for facility enhancements to help comply with the State's Climate Solution Now Act of 2020 that mandates local governments to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by 60%. He also noted the County has used some funds for various projects, but this two-year program will replace the Administrative

Building HVAC and assist in the reporting on the emissions reduction. President Gregory noted that this was a state mandate.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 29-2024, 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.

Resolution 30-2024 - Appointment—Police Accountability Board – John Gainey

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of John Gainey to the Police Accountability Board, completing the term of Stephen Miller, which will expire on December 31, 2025.

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

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that Stephen Miller is resigning as Chairman of the Police Accountability Board and Mr. Gainey will be the new chair. He noted that Mr. Gainey is highly qualified.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 30-2024, 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 31-2024 - Appointment—Planning Commission – Chad Johnston and Bryan Dugger

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Chad Johnston to the Planning Commission to a three-year term expiring July 21, 2026 and the appointment of Bryan Dugger to the Planning Commission, replacing Wyatt Wallace, to a three year term expiring July 16, 2027

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

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted Mr. Johnston is a reappointment and Mr. Dugger is a new appointment and both are well qualified candidates. He also thanked Wyatt Wallace for his many years of service.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Resolution 31-2024, 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.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 32-2024 - Appointment—Board of License Commissioners – Kristin Ortt

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Kristin Ortt to the Board of License Commissioners to a three-year term that will expire on June 30, 2027.

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

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted Ms. Ortt is a reappointment and has been an excellent Board member.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Resolution 32-2024, 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 Manger 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.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Bill 2024-13, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

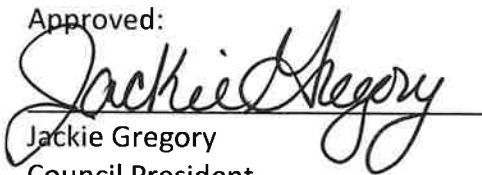
Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Miller -Y, Culberson – Y, Meffley – Y, Gregory- Y
The motion was approved 5 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT

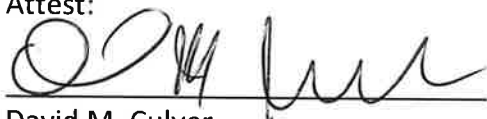
On motion made by Councilman Miller, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, President Gregory adjourned the meeting at 7:48 pm.

Council President Gregory announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, August 6, 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