

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2024-14
August 6, 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 August 6, 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 Daniel Hodge of Charlestown Missionary Baptist Church in Charlestown gave the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, the Council moved to approve the agenda of August 6, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.

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 July 16, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sean Brimm of North East spoke on education issues.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Culberson reviewed the intel numbers for the past week. She also noted that the Healthy 55+ Expo will be on August 8 at Elkton High School and encouraged everybody who is eligible to register for this event.

Councilman Miller noted that the Cecil County Fair was very successful and thanked everybody who participated, especially the sponsors, businesses, 4H and Future Farmers. He also noted the livestock show was very successful and that Vice President Meffley participated in showing the pigs.

Vice President Meffley also noted that the Fair was successful and noted, that along with pig showing, he also was a judge at the baby contest and helped at the Rotary stand and Chicken Dinner. He also noted he was working with Congressman Andy Harris's staff on the Earleville Post Office issue. He thanked Virginia Smith in the Executive Office for assisting him with a water issue at Hacks Point. He also noted the need for building permit information packets to help people through the process. He also attended the Ribbon Cutting for Flowers by Lisa on August 2 and announced an All You Can Eat Crabs Fundraiser at Mick's on August 8 to benefit Meeting Grounds.

Councilwoman Hamilton noted she and President Gregory attended the Perryville Branch Library Reopening Event on July 27 and that the updated facility is fantastic.

President Gregory noted she attended Corporal Chris Lewis walkout ceremony on July 30. She also attended the Drug Court Graduation and noted that this program is making a difference in people lives. She also noted she supports Renee Dixon on the School Board and that she assists a lot of people in the community. She also noted she attended an Eastern Shore Delegation Meeting and the teacher shortages were noted in several counties and Cecil County vacancies is in line with other counties.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Bill 2024-14 - Supplemental Appropriation – Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2025 – Fiscal Year 2029 Capital Improvement Program – Construct Bainbridge Outfall.

A Bill to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, to add the Construct Bainbridge Outfall project, to the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget and to move expenditure authority from the Bond Fund to the Construct Bainbridge Outfall project in the amount of \$1,900,000. Project cost in FY25-FY26 is \$3,800,000 with the Bainbridge developer and/or firm(s) contributing half of the project construction cost.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on August 6, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on September 3, 2024 and consideration on September 17, 2024.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted this is a new project for an upgrade at Bainbridge to assist the development in discharging of water. Director Overbay noted the total project is about 3.8 million dollars, of which the County would pay about 1.9 million dollars and the remainder would come from the tenants and developer of the site. He noted that an agreement is currently being negotiated for the developer's contribution. Councilman Miller confirmed that \$300,000 could be spent in FY25 and the project construction would begin in FY26 and Director Overbay noted that was correct but also contingent on the developer entering into an agreement on funding.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Bill 2024-15 - Supplemental Appropriation – Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2025 – Fiscal Year 2029 Capital Improvement Program – Expand Port Deposit WWTP, Project Number 55079

A Bill to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, to provide supplemental expenditure authority from the bond Fund for the Expand Port Deposit WWTP project, Project Number 55079 in the amount of \$8,750,000. The Port Deposit WWTP needs to be expanded to provide additional capacity in support of future development at Bainbridge. The approved capacity will increase from 250,000 Gallons per Day (GPD) to a maximum of 750,000 GPD. Project cost in FY25 and FY26 is \$8,750,000; the County will pay half of the remaining project cost (\$4,375,000) with Bainbridge developer and/or firms(s) contributing the other half of the project construction cost.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on August 6, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on September 3, 2024 and consideration on September 17, 2024.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that this project is current funded in the CIP, however based on potential new tenants at Bainbridge and advances in technology, it may be possible to upgrade the plant to be able to process up to 750,000 gallons of wastewater per day. He noted that the current cost for the upgrade is \$4,500,000, however, with the potential developer agreement to upgrade capacity, the County cost would actually go lower to \$4,375,000 dollars and the developer at Bainbridge would fund the \$4,000,000 for the additional upgrade. President Gregoy noted it is wonderful that the plant could expand more and cost less for Cecil County. Vice President Meffley also endorsed the idea of a package plant that could be expanded as the need arises.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Bill 2024-16 - Supplemental Appropriation – Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2025 – Fiscal Year 2029

Capital Improvement Program – Extend Water Service to Wilson Road.

A Bill to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, to add the Extend Water Service to Wilson Road project, to the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget and to record private funding from Southern States LLC for the design and construction of the project in the amount of \$4,300,000. This project will extend public water service to Wilson Road to serve homes in the vicinity of the former Southern States facility having high levels of nitrates in the water wells. Southern States has agreed to fund design and construction costs, meaning that there will be no impact on the County's Fund Balance.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on August 6, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on September 3, 2024 and consideration on September 17, 2024.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that this project has been in negotiations with MDE and Southern States LLC for numerous years to provide water to 17 homeowners along Wilson Road whose wells have been contaminated by the Southern States facility. As part of the settlement, this project, currently projected to cost about \$4,300,000, would be entirely funded by Southern States and Cecil County would not be responsible for any of the cost. Vice President Meffley noted that this has been an issue for many years and is hopeful this will resolve the issue. President Gregory agreed this issue needs to be resolved for these residents. Councilwoman Culberson inquired on the time frame and Director Overbay noted MDE is nearing the final stages and they will begin the engineering work on the routing and size of the waterline.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Bill 2024-17 - Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2025 – Fiscal Year 2029 Capital Improvement Program – Public Safety Training Center, Project Number 51030 and Paramedic Station #2, Project Number 50051

A Bill to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, to revise the funding sources for the Public Safety Training Center project, Project Number 51030 and Paramedic Station #2, Project Number 50051. The Public Safety Training Center will see an increase in Bond funding of \$270,000 while seeing a decrease in ARPA funding of \$270,000. The Paramedic Station #2 will see a decrease in Bond funding of \$270,000 while seeing an increase in ARPA funding of \$270,000.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on August 6, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on September 3, 2024 and consideration on September 17, 2024.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted this amendment is to move the timing of bond expenditures with APRA funding to ensure the APRA funding is spent by the end of 2026. This is moving \$270,000 between the two projects which are located on the same site but have different construction timelines.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 36-2024 - Appointment – Electrical Inspection Agencies - Bay Area Inspection Agency and American Inspection Agency

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Bay Area Inspection Agency and American Inspection Agency, Inc. to be the electrical inspection agencies in Cecil County, term to expire on July 31, 2025.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on August 6, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on August 20, 2024.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that the County received two proposals for electrical inspections and both firms are being utilized. He noted both of these firms have been providing this service for over a decade to Cecil County. Vice President Meffley noted that is good to have multiple inspectors so that the contractors can choose which service to use.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 37-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – FY2025 - General Fund Balance – Cecil County Public Schools – Rising Sun High School Water Line Replacement.

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 Board of Education budget with additional expenditure appropriation authority to utilize \$100,600 in funds from the General Fund Balance to finish the Rising Sun High School Water Line Replacement. This Project was budgeted in Fiscal Year 2024 but was not completed in that Fiscal Year.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on August 6, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on August 20, 2024.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted this project was approved in FY24 but is still being completed so the funds need to be reallocated in FY25.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 38-2024 - Amend – Solid Waste Management Plan 2016-2025

A resolution to amend the Cecil County Solid Waste Management Plan to include the addition of Choice MedWaste, LLC as a proposed special medical waste processing facility and transfer station and updates on the expansion of the Cecil County Central Landfill and a proposed landfill gas-to-energy facility at Cecil County Central Landfill.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on August 6, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on September 3, 2024 and consideration on September 17, 2024.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted this amendment would allow a private medical waste facility to operate in the Town of Elkton, allow the gas to energy project at the Central Landfill to continue and also makes changes as it relates to the design and construction of the new cell at the Central Landfill. He noted that any change to the Solid Waste Management Plan, such as adding a new waste facility, requires the plan to be updated as per the COMAR regulations.

CONSIDERATION 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.

No further comments were made.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 33-2024, 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.

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.

No further comments were made.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 34-2024, 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.

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 and Sandy Turner in the Tourism Office that is coordinating this effort.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Resolution 35-2024, 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #125

President Gregory noted that the Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #125 is for \$125,019. She noted she will abstain from this vote on her concern that these amendments may not be in compliance with the proper accounting procedures.

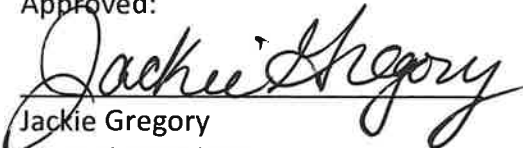
Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #125 in the amount of \$125,019. The motion was seconded by Vice President Meffley. The motion was approved 4 to 0 with 1 abstention (Yea – Hamilton, Miller, Culberson, Meffley, Abstain – Gregory).

ADJOURNMENT

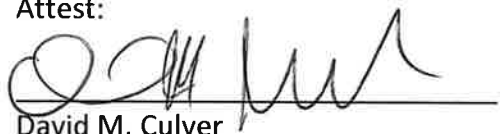
On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, President Gregory adjourned the meeting at 7:44 pm.

Council President Gregory announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, August 20, 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