

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY**  
**LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES**  
**LSD 2024-20**  
**December 3, 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:

Al Miller, Council President  
Robert 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](http://www.ccgov.org/council).

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the County Council of Cecil County of December 3, 2024, was called to order by Council President Miller at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**OPENING PRAYER/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

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

**APPROVAL OF REVISED AGENDA**

On motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the revised agenda of December 3, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.

**PRESENTATION**

Superintendent of the Year – Jeff Lawson

Council President Miller read the proclamation for Superintendent of the Year into the record. Superintendent Jeff Lawson thanked the Council for the proclamation and highlighted the accomplishments of the past year.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Rezoning File: 2024-01 APPLICANT: Robert J. Hodge. REQUEST: To Rezone 7.07 acres from Suburban Transition District (ST) to Heavy- Industrial District (M2) PROPERTY LOCATION: SE/S Side Pulaski Highway, West of North East, North East, MD, 21901. Election District: 5, Tax Map: 31A, Parcel: 863. PROPERTY OWNER: Robert J. Hodge. PRESENTLY ZONED: Suburban Transition Residential District (ST). PROPOSED ZONING: Heavy - Industrial District (M2).

Jay Emery, attorney for the applicant and the applicant Robert Hodge appeared before Council. Mr. Emery noted that Mr. Hodge was a County Commissioner during the last Comprehensive Rezoning when this property designation was changed. He noted the Planning Board did not make a recommendation on this request. Mr. Hodge noted the surrounding zoning and that this parcel is mostly wetlands. Mr. Emery inquired of Mr. Hodge if this property is suitable for residential, and Mr. Hodge noted it is not. Mr. Emery inquired if Mr. Hodge participated in the Comprehensive Rezoning in 2011 and Mr. Hodge noted he did, but not on the request for his property. Mr. Emery inquired if this was the same request as 2011 and Mr. Hodge noted it was. Mr. Emery inquired if the M2 designation is compatible with area and Mr. Hodge noted it was.

Vice President Meffley inquired on the ST use and uses in the M1 and M2 and Mr. Hodge noted the difference in the classifications with the largest difference being the outdoor storage allowance. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if it was M1 in 2011 before going to ST and Mr. Hodge reviewed

the site zoning and noted Comprehensive Rezoning process. Mr. Emery reviewed the minutes from 2011 on this parcel. Councilwoman Culberson inquired on why he waited so long to make this request and Mr. Hodge noted it has been pending for a while because he had other projects that were more pressing.

President Miller asked for the Department of Land Use and Development Services report. Director Stephen O'Connor reviewed the standards for the rezoning and Aaron Harding reviewed the finding of facts. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired on the current zoning and uses in the area and Director O'Connor reviewed the various districts. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired on the presumption of correctness on the Comprehensive Rezoning and Director O'Connor review those standards.

President Miller called for public comments and Sean Brimm of North East spoke in favor of the rezoning. No other comments were offered.

President Miller called for final comments and Mr. Hodge and Mr. Emery reviewed the standards and application and noted they met the standards. President Miller closed the Public Hearing.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion made by Councilwoman Hamilton, seconded by Vice President Meffley, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of October 15, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sean Brimm of North East spoke on the budget process.

#### **PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilwoman Hamilton thanked everybody for attending. She noted it has been a busy few months with meetings and events. She noted the upcoming MACO Conference, the State budget deficit and the upcoming State legislation on energy will all be discussed at the conference.

Councilwoman Branch thanked everyone who attended the inauguration. She noted she did attend the MACO Immersion Training Session and is looking forward to the upcoming sessions at the conference.

Councilwoman Culberson noted the intel numbers for the previous week. She noted that no overdose deaths occurred during this period. She also reminded everyone of the North East Christmas Parade on December 7. She also noted the Port Deposit decorating contest and events on December 6 and hoped everyone could attend.

Vice President Meffley noted he attended the First Responder Dinner and Cecil County Board of Realtors Dinner and both events were well done. He also noted he was a judge in the Chesapeake City animal parade. He also attended Adam Streight's walk out ceremony at the Sheriff's Office. He noted that MRDC is hiring a new director. He noted on December 5 Cecilton is hosting an Open House and encouraged everyone to attend. He also noted the Social Services Board is beginning to review the applications for its annual college scholarship. He also noted he hopes the new administration can make the permit process better.

President Miller noted he attended the Noxious Weed Meeting in November. He also noted Secretary of Agriculture Kevin Atticks visit and tour of Cecil and Harford County farms two weeks ago.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

**Resolution 56-2024** - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Sheriff Office- Warrant Apprehension

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 \$25,000.00 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund – Sheriff's Office - to record the grant awarded from the

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) for the purpose Overtime, in the amount of \$21,400.00 and the purchase of a 2 SWAT Ballistic Shield, in the total amount of \$3,600.00

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on December 3, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on December 17, 2024.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted this is an annual grant to the Sheriff's Office and helps offset additional overtime costs. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if this is annual grant or must be requested and Director Schneckenburger noted it must be requested. Councilwoman Culberson inquired if this is for additional overtime or part of the budget and Director Schneckenburger noted this will help offset additional overtime costs.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

**Resolution 57-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Department of Information Technology – State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program**

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 \$73,664.00 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund – Department of Information Technology - awarded from the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) for the purpose of cybersecurity software purchases, in the total amount of \$73,664.00

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on December 3, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on December 17, 2024.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted this grant is for Information Technology to help with cyber security with Emergency Management and the 911 system.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

**Resolution 58-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance – Department of Economic Development - Economic Development Study**

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, in amount totaling \$100,000 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the Department of Economic Development. This additional appropriation is needed to fund a study on Economic Development.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on December 3, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on December 17, 2024.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted this request is being made as part of the transition with the County Executive to help create a strategic plan for Economic Development. He noted that the last study was done over ten years ago and the data needs to be updated to reflect the current markets. Councilwoman Culberson inquired on the recent program they bought for Economic Development and Director Schneckenburger noted that was Salesforce and that helps tracks contracts with local businesses. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if the EDC will be part of the RFP process and Director Schneckenburger noted that the will be part of the process. Vice President Meffley inquired on the available fund balance and Director Schneckenburger noted they will get that information to Council.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

**Resolution 59-2024 – Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance – Department of Information Technology - Development of a new County Website**

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, in the amount totaling \$50,000 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the Department of Information Technology to develop a new County website.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on December 3, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on December 17, 2024.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted this amendment will be for the County to upgrade the website to provide more data, customer service and be compliant with all applicable regulations.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Appointments

1. County Administrator – Daniel E. Schneckenburger

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Daniel E. Schneckenburger as County Administrator, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

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

2. County Attorney – Keith A. Baynes

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Keith A. Baynes as County Attorney, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – A, Culberson – N, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller - Y  
The motion was approved 3 to 1 with 1 abstention.

3. Director of Human Resources – Sally Kilby Dulin

Councilwoman Branch made a motion to approve Sally Kilby Dulin as Director of Human Resources, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

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

4. Director of Economic Development – Sandra Edwards

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Sandra Edwards as Director of Economic Development, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

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

5. Director of Emergence Services – Patrick Campbell

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Patrick Campbell as Director of Emergency Services, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley.

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

b. Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #128

President Miller noted that the Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #128 is for \$512,543.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to table Budget Amendment #128 in the amount of \$512,543. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

The motion was approved unanimously.

c. Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #129

President Miller noted that the Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #129 is for \$1,275,342.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to table Budget Amendment #129 in the amount of \$1,275,342. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, President Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:23 pm.

Council President Miller announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, December 17, 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](http://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:



David M. Culver  
Council Manager