

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2024-03
February 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 February 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 Shawn Taylor, Youth Director at Porters Grove Baptist Church in Rising Sun gave the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, the Council moved to amend the legislative agenda to move President and Council Comments to the second to the last agenda item and Public Comments to the final item and to approve the agenda of February 6, 2024 as amended. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Bill 2024-01 - Establishment – Commission on Veterans Affairs

To establish a Cecil County Commission on Veteran Affairs for the purpose of advancing the general welfare of our veterans through the advocacy and advisement of our veteran programs at the local, State and Federal level. These activities will help promote the health and wellness of our veterans as well as provide education about programs, resources, and opportunities for economic assistance

to our veterans and their spouses. The Commission will help promote employment opportunities and encourage local businesses to hire and retain veterans and to educate businesses in workforce development initiatives intended to foster and develop gainful employment opportunities for all veterans of Cecil County.

Introduced by the Council President Gregory, Vice President Meffley, Councilwoman Hamilton and Councilwoman Culberson.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on January 16, 2024, postponed to January 23, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on February 6, 2024 and consideration on February 20, 2024.

President Gregory noted this would establish a Commission on Veteran affairs to assist our veteran community.

No Public Comments were offered.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Bill 2024-02 - Amendment – Zoning Ordinance – Critical Area – Definitions, and Official Critical Area Maps.

An Act to amend the Cecil County Zoning Ordinance, Article II, Part I, Section 12, Article XI, Part 1, Section 191.11, and Article XI, Part 1, Section 192; Definitions in order to update Critical Area Statewide Base Map and All Areas.

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

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on January 16, 2024, postponed to January 23, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on February 6, 2024 and consideration on February 20, 2024.

Director of Land Use Stephen O'Connor noted that this would update the Zoning Ordinance to match the newly adopted Maryland Critical Area Commission maps. He noted that the maps would become the official maps for Cecil County for the Critical Areas. He noted this was part of the Critical Area legislation that was passed by the Council last year. He also noted the Planning Board recommended approval of this change.

No Public Comments were offered.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Bill 2024-03 - Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation – Mary Ann Thompson and James K. MacDonald, and Meulenberg Enterprises, LLC.

A Bill to approve the application of Mary Ann Thompson and James K. MacDonald for the property of 360 Joseph Biggs Memorial Highway (Tax Map 10F, Grid 21, Parcel 32) and Meulenberg

Enterprises, LLC for the property of 2159 Principio Road (Tax Map 18, Grid 8, Parcel 10) requesting a recommendation of approval to submit an application for the purchase of an easement to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation.

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

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on January 16, 2024, postponed to January 23, 2024 and scheduled for public hearing on February 6, 2024 and consideration on February 20, 2024.

Director of Land Use Stephen O'Connor noted that these two farms located at 360 Joseph Biggs Highway and 2159 Principio Road that are requesting to sell the development rights to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) program. As part of this easement sale, the properties must have a public hearing and be part of an agricultural district. Director O'Connor noted that these two farms are first time participants in the program and this bill will serve as the needed public hearing for the application.

No Public Comments were offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of January 23, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 09-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Roads Division – Department of Public Works – Asphalt Overlay.

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, to move expenditure authority from the fund balance to the Roads Division – Department of Public Works in the amount of \$3,000,000, for the benefit of additional asphalt overlay of county roads.

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

County Attorney Lawrence Scott noted no further comments on this resolution.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 10-2024 - Appointment— Administrative Charging Committee – John Ronald Stricklett.

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of John Ronald Stricklett to replace Rodney W. Heinze on the Administrative Charging Committee.

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

County Attorney Lawrence Scott noted no further comments on this resolution.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 06-2024 - Budget Amendment - Fund Balance - Department of Emergency Services – Purchase of Used Ambulance.

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 appropriate a total of \$25,000 of additional expenditures for the purchase of (1) one used ambulance from the General Fund to the Department of Emergency Services budget.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on January 16, 2023 postponed to January 23, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on February 6, 2024.

County Attorney Lawrence Scott noted no further comments on this resolution.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 06-2024, 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 07-2024 - Appointment—Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board – Nathan Stewart, Melissa Kinsler, and Robert Muller.

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Nathan Stewart filling the vacancy of Stephen Cummins III, representing IAFF Local 4645, Melissa Kinsler filling the vacancy of Rodney Heinze, representing Councilmanic District 2, and Robert Muller filling the vacancy of Richard Collins, representing Cecil County Firemen's Association (Ex-Officio), to the Cecil County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board, which will expire on June 1, 2024.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on January 16, 2023 postponed to January 23, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on February 6, 2024.

County Attorney Lawrence Scott noted no further comments on this resolution.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Resolution 07-2024, 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 08-2024- Tax Credit - Historic Property – Schoolhouse known as Town Point School.

A Resolution to approve a property tax credit of 10% of the documented expenses spent by the owner-taxpayer for the restoration and preservation of the Schoolhouse known as Town Point School, a historic designated structure in Cecil County.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on January 16, 2023 postponed to January 23, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on February 6, 2024.

County Attorney Lawrence Scott noted no further comments on this resolution.

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

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Culberson thanked everybody for attending. She noted the intel numbers from the previous week. She also noted she toured Cecil Manor Elementary School on February 5. She also attended the Freedom Hills Gala on February 3 and it was a great event.

Councilman Miller noted he, Vice President Meffley and Jennifer Kidd from Charlestown Elementary attended the Taste of Maryland on February 1. He also noted that Ms. Kidd received a grant to teach an agriculture program at Charlestown Elementary. He also thanked everybody that attended the rally and Council Meeting.

Councilwoman Hamilton also thanked everybody for coming out to the meeting.

Vice President Meffley also thanked everybody for attending and noted he has been receiving many calls to discuss the upcoming budget. He also noted he attended the Taste of Maryland Dinner on February 1 and it was a nice event. He also noted he was helping a constituent on some old deed records and that Councilmembers often get involved in a variety of issues.

President Gregory also thanked everybody for coming out to the meeting. She noted the system of government in Cecil County and that in this form the County Executive rarely attends meetings because of the separation of powers. She noted the County Executive will have a public budget workshop on February 29. She also reviewed the budget process with Council receiving the budget by April 1 and having budget hearings with all Departments prior to voting on the budget. She also noted that Cecil County is ranked 16 out of the 24 counties and Baltimore City in wealth in Maryland and the funding levels for education are on par with this rank.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Madison Rogers of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.
Hanna Finley of Rising Sun spoke on education funding issues.
Ekdcep Ghuman of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.
David Foye of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.
Daniel Katz of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.
Jim Leitgib of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.
Nathan Ollis of Perryville spoke on education funding issues.
David Hastings of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.
Jena McCartan of Rising Sun spoke on education funding issues.
Raissa Moore of Perryville spoke on education funding issues.
Sean Brimm of North East spoke on education funding issues.
Amy Ocasio of North East spoke on education funding issues.
Ed Slaughter of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.
Christian Miller of North East spoke on education funding issues.
Jake Zebley of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.
Ryan Wasileaski of Perryville spoke on education funding issues.

President Gregory asked Council for a motion to recess and to clear the Chamber because of violations of County Code A387-25(D) and (E). Motion was made by Councilwoman Hamilton, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson to recess the meeting and clear the chambers because of violation of A387-25(D) and (E). The motion passed 3 to 2 (Ayes - Gregory, Hamilton, Culberson, Nays – Meffley, Miller). The Meeting recessed at 7:55 pm.

President Gregory asked Council for a motion to end recess and go back into session. Motion was made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice president Meffley to end the recess and go back into session. The motion passed unanimously. The Meeting resumed at 8:20 pm.

Gracelynn Cochran of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.
Dawn Guevara of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.
Jeremy Gross of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.
Olivia Brand of Rising Sun spoke on education funding issues.
Scarlett Brand of Rising Sun spoke on education funding issues.
Gemma Brand of Rising Sun spoke on education funding issues.
Hunter Miotla of Port Deposit spoke on education funding issues.
Morrigan Ayres of Port Deposit spoke on education funding issues.
Aryanna Lawson of Charlestown spoke on education funding issues.
Grace Ternoski of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.
Cassie Crowley of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.
Sarah Jensen of Earleville spoke on education funding issues.
Alena Calm of Perryville spoke on education funding issues.
Ella Baldwin of Earleville spoke on education funding issues.
Anna Malone of North East spoke on education funding issues.
Doris Obenshain of Cecilton spoke on education funding issues.
Samantha Peterson of Perryville spoke on education funding issues.

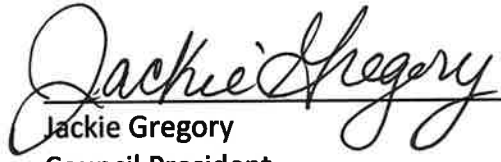
Ashley Bradford of Warwick spoke on education funding issues.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, President Gregory adjourned the meeting at 8:54 pm.

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