

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2024-04
February 20, 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 20, 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 Sean Hurm of Cherry Hill Church in Elkton 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 February 20, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sean Brimm of North East spoke on open meetings and education funding issues.
Sherri Isacc of North East spoke on education funding issues.
Brandi Forsmark of North East spoke on education funding issues.
Stuart Hutchinson of Have de Grace spoke on education funding issues.
Bob Castaldi of West Grove, Pennsylvania spoke on education funding issues.
Jen Eckman of Rising Sun spoke on education funding issues.

Arianna Fazzino of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.
Melissa Fazzino of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.
Shannan Mellott of Elkton spoke on education funding issues.
Amanda Vaughan of Rising Sun spoke on education funding issues.
Kevin Hoffman of Earleville spoke on education funding issues.
Madalyn Wilkinson of Perryville spoke on education funding issues.
Jim Miro of Newark, Delaware spoke on education funding issues.
Chris Malone of Perryville spoke on education funding issues.
Brian Hampton of Perryville spoke on education funding issues.
Chasi Haley-Malone of Perryville spoke on education funding issues.
Jared Guardipee of Charlestown spoke on education funding issues.
Phyllis Kilby of Colora spoke on education funding issues.
Kellen Short of North East spoke on education funding issues.
Russ Johnson of Elkton spoke in favor of Bill 2024-01 to create a Veterans Commission.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Culberson thanked everybody for attending. She noted the intel numbers from the previous week.

Councilman Miller noted he attended the Arts Council reception on February 15 and noted the impact the arts have on Cecil County. He also attended the Robert Burns Supper on February 16 and noted it was a great event. He also noted that on April 30 and May 1 and 2 all 7th graders will participate in the Agriculture Day event at Fair Hill.

Vice President Meffley also thanked everybody for attending. He noted he also attended the Robert Burns Supper. He also noted he attended the Chesapeake City Sip and Stroll on February 17, and the event was well attended. He also attended the Cecil County Firemans Association Meeting on February 19 and noted the importance of smoke detectors and they can be received at no charge from fire companies and the Red Cross. He also noted the School of Technology is sending three students to the national event in Atlanta. He also noted that County Executive Hornberger recently announced an increase for fire companies for additional equipment and also the County is still funding the Perryville Field House project in the capital budget. He also noted he has been receiving many calls to discuss the upcoming budget and that he welcomes the input. He also noted the Community College is not being fully funded under the Cade regulations and may need an additional 22 million in funding.

Councilwoman Hamilton also thanked everybody for coming out to the meeting. She also noted the ongoing conversation on budget issues and reminded everybody that civility should be shown by all parties. She also noted the need for meaningful debates and discussions based on facts and that people should not attack others on social media.

President Gregory also thanked everybody for coming out to the meeting. She also attended the Art Council reception. She also noted she is attending the MACo Legislative Meetings on Wednesdays and reviewing the State legislation. She also encouraged everybody to participate in the Ice Splash at the Wellwood in Charlestown on February 24 and that the proceeds from this event will help assist youth events and organizations.

INTRODUCTION 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 Land Use Stephen O'Connor noted that this would update the 2018 International Building Code (IBC) to 2021 for building construction. Vice President Meffley inquired if the code review was done by staff or a local committee of professionals and Director O'Conner noted by staff locally but the codes are reviewed by building officials throughout the State.

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.

Director of Land Use Stephen O'Connor noted that this would add a new section to County Code for pools and spas as recommended by the IBC.

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.

Director of Land Use Stephen O'Connor noted that this would update the 2018 International Building Code (IBC) to 2021 for HVAC standards in the International Mechanical Code. Vice President Meffley again noted the code review should be done by a local committee of professionals.

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.

Director of Land Use Stephen O'Connor noted that this would update the 2018 International Building Code (IBC) to 2021 for the energy conservation standards.

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.

Director of Land Use Stephen O'Connor noted that this would update the 2018 International Building Code (IBC) to 2021 for plumbing standards.

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 to the from Department to Division of Permits & Inspections; and amending references to 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.

Director of Land Use Stephen O'Connor noted that this is a significant upgrade based on changes in the electrical code by the State.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 11-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – Unassigned General Fund Balance – Roads Division – Department of Public Works – Snow Removal

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 \$300,000 for expenses related to the removal of snow from County roadways.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on February 20, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on March 5, 2024.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted this will add funds to the snow removal line item in the budget to help purchase additional salt and pay contractors in the event of further snow events. He noted \$200,000 will go for the purchase of additional salt and \$100,000 for contractor contracts. He noted any unspent funds will revert back to the general fund balance.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 12-2024 - Appointment – Public Safety Pension Plan Board of Trustees – Matthew Carr

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Matthew Carr, to a three-year term that will expire on December 31, 2026, to the Public Safety Pension Plan Board of Trustees.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on February 20, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on March 5, 2024.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted Mr. Carr is being reappointed as the representative of the Detention Center at the Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Adams concurs with this reappointment. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired on the role of the Pension Board and Director Overbay noted this board reviews the pension plan for our public safety employees and may make recommendation in the investments and benefits. He also noted this fund is 94% funded, which is one of the highest funded plans in the State.

CONSIDERATION 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.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay thanked Council for its support of the roads program since the Highway User Funds are declining.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 09-2024, 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 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.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted Mr. Stricklett is highly qualified and will be an asset on the Board. Councilman Miller again requested a presentation for the Police Accountability Board and Director Overbay indicated he would have County Attorney Lawrence Scott prepare the presentation.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 10-2024, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Miller -Y, Culberson – Y, Meffley – Y, Gregory- Abstain
The motion was approved 4 to 0 with 1 abstention.

CALL FOR FINAL READING OF BILLS

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.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Bill 2024-01, 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:

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.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Bill 2024-02, 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:

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.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Bill 2024-03, 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #120

President Gregory noted that the Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #120 is for \$292,850.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #120 in the amount of \$292,850. The motion was seconded by Vice President Meffley. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, President Gregory adjourned the meeting at 8:27 pm.

Council President Gregory announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, March 5, 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