

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2025-02
January 21, 2025

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
Bob 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.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the County Council of Cecil County of January 21, 2025, 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 Richard Burns of Wrights AME Church in Elkton gave the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the agenda of January 21, 2025. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Brittany Rigdon – 2024 Teacher of the Year

President Miller read the proclamation for Brittany Rigdon being named Teacher of the Year and one of the seven state finalists for State Teacher of the Year. Ms. Rigdon thanked the Council and noted the accomplishments of the ag program at the School of Technology.

Candice Magaw - 2024 School Based Support Staff Member of the Year

Councilwoman Branch read the proclamation for Candice Magaw as school-based support staff member of the year. Ms. Magaw thanked Council and noted how enjoyable her tenure has been at North East Hight School.

Thomas Frick - 2024 District Based Support Staff Member of the Year

Vice President Meffley read the proclamation for Thomas Frick as district-based support staff member of the year and noted he has known Mr. Frick for many years and he does field layout for not only the schools but also the other sport leagues. Mr. Frick thanked Council and noted how luck he has been to be able to help all the schools and sports leagues over the years.

James Phillips - Conowingo Elementary

Councilwoman Culberson read the proclamation for James Phillips from Conowingo Elementary that saved a fellow student who was choking at lunch and noted he was a hero and has inspired his fellow classmates.

PUBLIC HEARING

Bill 2024-24 – Expedited Legislation – Public Safety Pension Plan- Amendment 10 – Deferred Retirement Option Plan

A Bill to approve the 10th amendment to the Cecil County Pension Plan for Public Service Employer to provide for changes to the Deferred Retirement Option Plan.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on December 17, 2024, with a Public Hearing scheduled for January 21, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on January 21, 2025

Vice President Meffley noted this is good program for the Sheriff's Office, Detention Center and Emergency Management employees who are part of that pension system and supports its passage.

No public comments were made and President Miller closed the Public Hearing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of January 7, 2025. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sean Brimm of North East spoke on the budget issues for IT and the Board of Education.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Branch attended the Soil Conservation Cooperator Banquet on January 17 and congratulated Phillip Meck and his family on being named the cooperator of the year.

Vice President Meffley noted he also attended the Soil Conservation Banquet. He also noted he was a flag bearer at the Eagles game on January 19 and it was an amazing experience.

Councilwoman Culberson thanked everybody who came to the meeting and noted she would provide an update on the intel numbers at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Hamilton noted she also attended the Soil Conservation Banquet. She also attended the Marting Luther King, Jr. event on January 18 at the Five Rivers Church and noted it was inspiring and inspirational. She also attended the Presidential Inauguration events in Washington DC. She also noted the County Executives Budget Town Hall on January 16 and thanked everybody for offering comments on the budget and budget process.

President Miller attended the the West Coast Mushroom meeting in Rising Sun on January 15. He also attended the County Executive Budget Town Hall on January 16, the Soil Conservation Banquet on January 17 and the MLK event at Five Rivers on January 18. He noted all events were well attended and well done.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 03-2025 - Supplemental Appropriation - Grant Funds - Emergency Services - Mobile Integrated Healthcare 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 \$75,000 to the Department of Emergency Services, Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program Fund to record a Community Investment Fund awarded from ChristianaCare to support the salary of a Paramedic who will be dedicated to coordinate a new Mobile Integrated Healthcare program in cooperation with ChristianaCare, Cecil County Health Department and West Cecil Health.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on January 21, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on February 4, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted this grant is from Christiana Care and it will fund a paramedic position that would visit homes that had multiple calls for service to assist the

family in providing the needed care to reduce calls. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired when the new position will start and Director Schneckenburger noted he would let Council know.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 04-2025 - Appointment – Board of Parks and Recreation – Megan Coleman, Donald Harmer, Kristen Lehr, and Bernard Brown

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Megan Coleman, to the Board of Parks and Recreation for a three-year term that will expire on December 31, 2026, Donald Harmer, to a three-year term that will expire on December 31, 2027, and Kristen Lehr and Bernard Brown, to a three-year term that will expire on December 31, 2028.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on January 21, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on February 4, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted all these individuals are being reappointed and are excellent board members. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if this would fill all vacancies on this Board and Director Schneckenburger noted it would. Councilwoman Culberson inquired how the vacancies are being filled and Director Schneckenburger reviewed the procedure and that the County Executive makes the decision on what names are submitted to Council.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 05-2025 - Appointment - Soil Conservation Board - Bruce Yerkes

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Bruce Yerkes to the Cecil County Soil Conservation Board to a five-year term to expire on January 21, 2029.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on January 21, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on February 4, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted Mr. Yerkes is a reappointment and that he has also been an excellent board member. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired on the terms for various boards and Director Schneckenburger noted it depends on the legislation when they were created.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 06-2025 - Appointment – Board of Library Trustees – Shirley McCrary-Simmons, Joanne Morton, Jonathan Stauffer

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Shirley McCrary-Simmons to the Board of Library Trustees, for a five-year term that will expire on January 7, 2029, Joanne Morton, to a five-year term that will expire on December 3, 2028, and Jonathan Stauffer, to a five-year term that will expire on September 3, 2029.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on January 21, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on February 4, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted these individuals were recommended by the Board of Library Trustees and that they serve staggered terms

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 07-2025 - Appointment - Local Government Justice Reinvestment Commission – Captain William Jolly

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Captain William Jolly to the Local Government Justice Reinvestment Commission, which is to expire September 31, 2028.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on January 21, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on February 4, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted that Captain Jolly has been serving on this Commission, but no resolution was ever introduced. Councilwoman Culberson inquired on the mission of this State Commission and Director Schneckenburger noted they review programs and oversee grant funding. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if Sheriff Scott Adams had anything else to offer on this Commission and Sheriff Adams noted this Commission has been around for several years but only meet on a limited basis since the State funding has been reduced for these programs.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 08-2025 - Appointment – Public Safety Pension Plan Board of Trustees – Dan Schneckenburger, Patrick Campbell, and Sally Dulin

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Dan Schneckenburger to a three-year term, which will expire on December 31, 2027, Patrick Campbell, and Sally Dulin, serve until their appointment ends or if such Trustee has been designated by a County Officer, until the term of office or appointment of the county officer who appointed such trustees ends to the Public Safety Pension Plan Board of Trustees.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on January 21, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on February 4, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted these appointments are based on the Code language on who shall serve on the Pension Board. Councilwoman Culberson inquired on other members and Director Schneckenburger noted other positions on this Board. Councilwoman Hamilton requested that the Board members and duties of the Board be sent to Council and Director Schneckenburger noted he would send the information.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 09-2025 - Supplemental Appropriation – FY25 - General Fund Balance – Cecil County Public Schools – Small Capital Investment Projects

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 Small Capital expenditure appropriation authority to utilize \$1,787,727 in funds from the General Fund Balance to complete the small capital investments as attached on Exhibit 1.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on January 21, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on February 4, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted that the projects listed in the exhibit were based upon discussions with the Board of Education and reflect projects that have been deferred during the prior several budget cycles. He also noted that they are being added so the BOE can bid the projects now so they can be done in the summer months.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 02-2025 - Appointment - Bainbridge Development Corporation Board of Directors – Martha Barchowsky, Mario Gangemi, David Rudolph, Carl Roberts, James Reynolds, Raymond Hamm Jr, Joseph Brant, and Robert Ashby

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Martha Barchowsky, and Mario Gangemi, as recommended by The Maryland House of Delegates, David Rudolph, as recommended by the Mayor and Town Council of Port Deposit, for a four-year term to expire October 1, 2026 and to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Carl Roberts, James Reynolds, Raymond Hamm Jr, and Joseph Brant, as recommended by the Mayor and Town Council of Port Deposit, and to approve the appointment of Robert Ashby as recommended by The

Maryland House of Delegates, to the board of Directors of the Bainbridge Development Corporation for a four-year term to expire October 1, 2027.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on January 7, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on January 21, 2025.

Councilwoman Culberson inquired why the terms expirations did not match the appointments and Director Schneckenburger noted that was because some terms were already expired and the new term picks up the time from the expiration date.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 02-2025, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

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

CALL FOR FINAL READING OF BILLS

Bill 2024-24 – Expedited Legislation – Public Safety Pension Plan- Amendment 10 – Deferred Retirement Option Plan

A Bill to approve the 10th amendment to the Cecil County Pension Plan for Public Service Employees to provide for changes to the Deferred Retirement Option Plan.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on December 17, 2024, with a Public Hearing scheduled for January 21, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on January 21, 2025

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Bill 2024-24, 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #131

President Miller noted that the Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #131 is for \$522,895.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #131 in the amount of \$522,895. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, President Miller adjourned the meeting at 7:49 pm.

Council President Miller announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 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:



Al Miller
Council President

Attest:



David M. Culver
Council Manager