

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2025-06
March 18, 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 March 18, 2025, was called to order by Council President Miller at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

OPENING PRAYER/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Reverend Cheryl Snyder from Leeds and Union Church offered the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Miller noted tonight's agenda was amended to provide for presentation of a Proclamation commemorating National Ag Day. On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, the Council moved to approve the amended agenda of March 18, 2025. The motion was approved 5 to 0.

PROCLAMATION

Council presented a Proclamation commemorating National Ag Day to Mr. Mike Kincaid, President, Cecil County Farm Bureau.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Councilwoman Hamilton, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of March 4, 2025. The motion was approved 5 to 0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Sean Brimm presented a written statement regarding terms associated with the County Ethics Board.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Culberson stated Emergency Services responded to 228 calls; 13 of which were mental health related, 46 domestic, 17 overdoses, which is the highest this year, adding that 2 of which resulted in fatalities.

Councilwoman Hamilton noted that she attended the recent Government Relations Committee, adding that the weekly, virtual meeting is hosted by the Cecil County Chamber of Commerce.

Councilwoman Hamilton stated Sen. Alsobrooks provided an overview of her first 100 days in office.

Councilwoman Branch noted that the direction of the Legislature is currently uncertain. She expressed hope that lawmakers will not make broad decisions without considering individuality of counties.

Councilwoman Branch noted that a large amount of paper is used during meetings.

Vice President Meffley stated he attended a recent meeting of the Cecil County Board of Education. He stated that the American Legion was recognized for a \$15,000 donation in 2024 and \$20,000 this year to support Cecil County Public Schools sports programs. Vice President Meffley stated various awards were presented at the meeting, including fine arts, music, theater and athletics. He noted the Rising Sun High School student Zach Garvin obtained the 2A/1A championship in wrestling.

Vice President Meffley stated the Rotary Club conducted a food drive at Big Elk Mall, resulting in full shelves at ICA.

Vice President Meffley noted the various events held throughout the weekend for St. Patrick's Day in Chesapeake City and Elkton.

Vice President Meffley stated he recently participated in a meeting concerning a property on Route 40. He stated the owner of the property was able to come to a consensus with County staff. He expressed appreciation for the positive interaction between the property owner and staff.

President Miller noted that March 18, 2025 is National Ag Day, and provided the following agriculture related data: the average person eats 124 lbs. of potatoes annually, which is mostly in the form of French fries; there are currently 900 million acres of farmland in the U.S.; each farmer provides enough food and fiber for 165 people each year; the Ag economy is responsible for 10% of the United States' employment.

President Miller stated the theme for National Ag Day is "Agriculture: Together We Grow".

President Miller stated he attended Gov. Moore's recent Cabinet Meeting at Great Wolf Lodge. He stated he had the opportunity to speak with Gov. Moore and staff regarding the issue of placing soil equipment on Class 1 soils.

President Miller stated his appreciation that Administration included Council on Gov. Moore's visit.

President Miller stated he attended the Farm Bureau meeting on March 17, 2025, and commended Bureau President Mike Kincaid for his leadership.

President Miller stated he and Mrs. Miller visited Bay View Elementary School to read "Before We Eat", a book about food from the farm to the table.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 20-2025 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Community Development Block Grant – Recovery Housing Program – Voices of Hope, Inc.

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, Department of Community Services, Housing and Community Development Division, Fund 111, Department 534 for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 2025, in order to provide a total of \$514,180.00 to the Emergency Shelter Grants Fund; to record a grant awarded from the Maryland Community Development Block Grant program through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to acquire property on behalf of the proposed subrecipient, Voices of Hope, Inc.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on March 18, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on April 1, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted this grant had been applied approximately one month ago and was already awarded. He stated the Department of Community Services will continue to work with Voices of Hope, Inc. to acquire the property and convert it to a recovery house.

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 21-2025 - Approval – Sixth Amendment of Lease Agreement – Multiple Year Contract – Amedisys

A Resolution to approve a Sixth Amendment of Lease Agreement to extend the Lease for three (3) years between Cecil County, Maryland and Amedisys Maryland, L.L.C.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on March 18, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on April 1, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger stated the Lease amendment provides for a 3-year term regarding leased space at 107 Chesapeake Boulevard.

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 22-2025 - Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance – Department of Finance – Transdev Non-Contract PO – Budget Amendment

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 \$453,156 in additional funding request to the budget of the Department of Finance – Transdev Non-Contract PO 20250016 to fund the Enterprise Fund that had been under-funded for the current fiscal year.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on March 18, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on April 1, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger stated that the requested amount will provide funding for the Enterprise Fund, especially as it relates to fleet maintenance, to the end of the Fiscal Year.

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 23-2025 - Appointment - Local Management Board – Mary Bolt, Joshua Lewis, John Ness and Rachel Wright

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment of Mary Bolt, Joshua Lewis, and John Ness for four-year terms to expire on April 1, 2029, and to confirm the appointment of Rachel Wright to replace Morgan Miller, for a term to expire on April 1, 2026, to the Local Management Board.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on March 18, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on April 1, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger stated the first three individuals are new appointments, and the fourth individual is being appointed to fill a vacancy.

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 24-2025 - Approval – Franchise Agreement – Talkie Communications (IPTV Cable Franchise)

A Resolution to execute the cable service franchise agreement by and between Cecil County, Maryland, and Talkie Communications (IPTV Cable Franchise) for the installation, operation, maintenance and extension of the cable system for subscribers within the County, upon the terms and conditions and subject to the agreement.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on March 18, 2025 and scheduled for Public Hearing on April 15, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on May 6, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger stated that the franchise agreement will permit Talkie Communications to install cable infrastructure in the unincorporated areas of Cecil County. He noted that this is a 10-year agreement.

Councilwoman Culberson noted that language contained in Resolution No. 24-2025 indicates action by County Council and questioned if management of the agreement should actually be at the direction of the County Executive. Administrator Schneckenburger stated the resolution was written to provide Council with approval authority.

Councilwoman Branch expressed appreciation to GIS and Broadband Manager David Black for the information he provided regarding the Franchise Agreement.

Vice President Meffley stated that citizens now have choice of cable providers.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 17-2025 - Supplemental Appropriation – Donation – Department of Parks and Recreation – Facilities Maintenance Account

A resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, to provide a total of \$10,000 to the General Fund – Facilities Maintenance Account for the Department of Parks and Recreation to record a \$10,000 donation by W.L. Gore & Associates.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on March 4, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on March 18, 2025.

No additional comments were offered.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Resolution 17-2025, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

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

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution 18-2025 – Appointment—Adult Public Guardianship Review Board - Lisa Beeman, E. Sean Poltrack, Erin Bird, Stacy Kortas and Mary Falkenstein

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of the reappointment of Lisa Beeman and E. Sean Poltrack, to fill a three-year term that will expire on April 1, 2028 and, Erin Bird and Stacy Kortas, to fill a two-year term that will expire on April 1, 2027 and, Mary Falkenstein, to fill a one-year term that will expire on April 1, 2026, to the Cecil County Adult Public Guardianship Review Board.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on March 4, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on March 18, 2025.

No additional comments were offered.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 17-2025, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley.

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

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 19-2025 Appointments—Department of Social Services Board – Glenn Jensen, Berkeley Orr, and Abigail Hooper

A Resolution to confirm the appointments of Glenn Jensen, Berkeley Orr, and Abigail Hooper, to the Department of Social Services Board for three-year terms to expire June 30, 2028.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on March 4, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on March 18, 2025.

No additional comments were offered.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Resolution 17-2025, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #133

Councilwoman Branch made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #133. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilwoman Hamilton, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, President Miller adjourned the meeting at 7:36 pm.

Council President Miller announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, April 1, 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:



L. Michelle Henson
Council Manager