

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2025-07
April 1, 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
Robert Meffley, Council 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 April 1, 2025, was called to order by Council President Miller at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

OPENING PRAYER/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Reverend David Burke of Mt. Pleasant Church, Colora, Maryland offered the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS AMENDED

On motion made by Councilwoman Branch, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the revised agenda of April 1, 2025 to reflect the introduction of Bills 2025-01, 2025-02 and 2025-03 and Resolution 30-2025. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION

National Child Abuse Prevention Month – Presented to Director of Social Services Lisa Beeman and Assistant Director of Social Services Sarah Shrewsbury.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

This agenda item was overlooked. Approval of March 18, 2025 Legislative Session Day 2025-05 minutes will occur during Legislative Session Day 2025-07 on April 15, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Teresa DiFabbio discussed meditation.

Mr. Sean Brimm discussed parameters of public comments at Council and School Board meetings.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Branch stated she attended County Executive Streight's FY26 Budget presentation at 2:00 p.m. on April 1st.

Vice President Meffley stated he attended the Cecilton Fire Company banquet on March 29th, where Jason Ramey was inducted into the Cecil and Harford County Firemen's Hall of Fame.

Vice President Meffley announced the following events: Rising Sun Little League Parade, April 5th at 10:00 a.m.; Rising Sun Fire Company banquet, April 5th at 5:00 p.m.; Teacher of the Year, April 3rd at 5:00 p.m., Elkton's Annual Fishing Rodeo, April 26th at 8:00 a.m., and the Arts Council Golf Outing, April 25th.

Vice President Meffley noted he has received citizen queries regarding proposed solar fields on farmland. Administrator Schneckenburger stated that the County Administration has received 3 Public Service Commission notices in the last 6 weeks regarding fields that are above the 2-megawatt maximum permitted under Cecil County's Ordinance. Discussion ensued regarding the State Legislature's current review and potential amendments to the currently proposed solar legislation.

Councilwoman Hamilton announced that the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) will host a call on April 2nd at 4:00 p.m. regarding the proposed solar bill and related proposed amendments. Councilwoman Hamilton stated she attended Executive Streight's FY26 Budget presentation at 2:00 p.m., on April 1st, adding that she was glad to hear State Enterprise Zone designations will remain Cecil County.

Councilwoman Hamilton stated the Cecil County Chorale Society will perform on April 5th and 6th at West Nottingham Academy and Immaculate Conception Church, respectively.

Councilwoman Culberson reported intel for the past week, including 231 calls, 12 of which were mental health related, 32 of which were domestic calls, and 10 overdoses, 3 of which resulted in fatalities. She noted that a new drug, Medetomidine, is being used, which is more potent than Xylazine.

President Miller stated he attended the Cecilton Fire Company on March 29th, and congratulated Mr. Ramey for induction into the Firemen's Hall of Fame.

President Miller announced Ag Day will take place on April 9th at Patsy DuPont's farm. He stated the event will provide education regarding best management practices used on Cecil County farmlands.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Bill No. 2025-01 – Capital Improvement Program FY2026-2030

A Bill to approve the Capital Improvement Program for Cecil County for Fiscal Years 2026 through 2030.

Introduced, read for the first time and order posted on April 1, 2025, scheduled for Public Hearing on May 22, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on June 3, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted this is the bill for the annual Capital Improvement Program.

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Bill No. 2025-02 – Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance - FY 2026

A Bill to adopt the County Budget including the Current Expense Budget, Capital Budget, Special Purpose Budgets and Grants Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and to appropriate funds for all expenditures for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025.

Introduced, read first time and ordered posted on April 1, 2025, scheduled for Public Hearing on May 22, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on June 3, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted this is the bill for the annual budget.

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Bill No. 2025-03 – Authorization of Lease Purchase Equipment Financing

A Bill authorizing and empowering Cecil County, Maryland to enter into new financing under a lease purchase agreement or similar arrangement in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000) for Fiscal Year 2026 for the purpose of financing the acquisition of certain necessary and essential vehicles and equipment for use in the County's governmental programs; providing that the obligations of the County under the agreement shall not be a general obligation of the County, shall not constitute a pledge of the full faith and credit or the taxing power of the County and shall not constitute a debt of the County within the meaning of any statutory or constitutional provision, but shall be subject to appropriation in each and every fiscal year during the term of the agreement; empowering the County Executive to execute and deliver an executive order prior to the execution and delivery of the agreement in order to award the agreement to the successful bidder and to fix, prescribe and determine the details of such financing; and relating generally to such financing.

Introduced, read for the first time and order posted on April 1, 2025, scheduled for Public Hearing on May 22, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on June 3, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted that this bill will authorize the lease and purchase of vehicles and equipment for FY26.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 25-2025 – Appointment – Planning Commission – James Perry and Gary Rasnake

A Resolution to confirm the appointment of James Perry, who is replacing Bryan Duggar with a term to expire on July 16, 2027, and Gary Rasnake who is replacing A. Chad Johnston with a term to expire on July 1, 2026, to the Cecil County Planning Commission.

Introduced and order posted on April 1, 2025, scheduled for consideration on April 15, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger stated Mr. Perry will replace Mr. Duggar with a term to expire July 16, 2027 and Mr. Rasnake will replace Mr. Johnston with a term to expire July 1, 2026.

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 26-2025 Appointment—Board of Appeals – Devon Perry

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Devon Perry, who is replacing John Thompson, to the Cecil County Board of Appeals with a term to expire on August 15, 2026.

Introduced and order posted on April 1, 2025, scheduled for consideration on April 15, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger stated Mr. Perry will replace Mr. Thompson, who resigned.

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 27-2025 Appointment – Commission on Veterans Affairs – Elisabeth Cortese

A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Elisabeth Cortese to replace Jackie Gregory, for a term to expire October 1, 2027, to the Commission on Veterans Affairs.

Introduced and order posted on April 1, 2025, scheduled for consideration on April 15, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger stated the members of this new commission will conduct their first meeting with Executive Streight.

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 28-2025 – Appointment – Police Accountability Board – John Thompson and Devon Perry

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of John Thompson to fill a three-year term that will expire on December 31, 2027, and to confirm the appointment of Devon Perry, to fill a three-year term that will expire on April 15, 2028, to the Police Accountability Board.

Introduced and order posted on April 1, 2025, scheduled for consideration on April 15, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger stated Mr. Perry will fill a vacancy on the Board, the term of which expires April 15, 2028. Councilwoman Culberson queried if Mr. Perry can serve two Boards. Director Schneckenburger answered in the affirmative, stating there is no conflict with the meeting schedules.

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 29-2025 Appointment - Local Management Board – Arsalan Sheikh

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Arsalan Sheikh, who is replacing Sharon Kurfuerst, to the Local Management Board with a term to expire on April 1, 2026.

Introduced and order posted on April 1, 2025, scheduled for consideration on April 15, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger stated Ms. Kurfuerst previously represented Union Hospital on the Local Management Board, adding that her departure left a vacancy which Mr. Sheikh's appointment will fill.

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 30-2025 Adoption - Real Property and Personal Property Tax Rates - Fiscal Year 2026

A Resolution to levy and impose a property and income tax for the fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026; setting the tax rates for property and providing for the collection of the property tax.

Introduced and order posted on April 1, 2025, scheduled for Public Hearing on May 22, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on June 3, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger stated this is the last piece of legislation regarding the FY26 Budget.

CONSIDERATION 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, order posted on March 18, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on April 1, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger stated the grant was received by the Department of Community Services on behalf of Voices of Hope, Inc. for acquisition of a property to serve women and children.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 20-2025, 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.

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

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

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, order posted on March 18, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on April 1, 2025.

Deputy Director of Finance Ondish stated that this resolution pertains to a sixth amendment of a lease associated with Suite 124, adding that a subsequent resolution will be introduced for the fourth amendment associated with Suite 134.

Discussion ensued regarding a previously submitted amendment that contained an error associated with renewal dates. Discussion continued regarding re-submittal of the sixth amendment for Suite 124 in addition to a new submittal for the fourth amendment regarding Suite 134.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to table Resolution No 21-2025, 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 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, order posted on March 18, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on April 1, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger stated Resolution No. 22-2025 provides funding for the Enterprise Fund which was previously under-funded, adding that the FY26 Budget appropriates the funds correctly, negating the need for a future supplement appropriation.

Councilwoman Hamilton questioned where the appropriation is located within the FY26 Budget. Deputy Director Ondish stated the appropriation will be clarified during the Finance Department FY26 Budget presentation.

Councilwoman Branch made a motion to approve Resolution No. 22-2025, which was seconded by President Miller. Councilwoman Hamilton and Councilwoman Culberson abstained from the vote. Roll call vote: Hamilton – Abstain, Culberson – Abstain, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller – Y
The motion was approved 3 Ayes – 2 Abstained

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, order posted on March 18, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on April 1, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger stated there were no further comments.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 20-2025, 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.

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, April 15, 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