COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2025-08
April 15, 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 April 15, 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
Pastor Eric Warner, Elkton United Methodist Church, offered the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS AMENDED
On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, the Council moved to approve the amended agenda of April 15, 2025 to reflect the addition of a Proclamation recognizing National Telecommunicator Week; and moving New Business Items, including Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #134, and update to Council regarding scheduling of Public Hearing associated with Rezoning file 2025-01. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES
a. National Infertility Awareness Week – Read by Councilwoman Branch and presented to Ms. Andrea Sengstock
b. 2025 Small Business Appreciation Week – Read by Councilwoman Hamilton and presented to Director of Economic Development Sandra Edwards
c. 2025 Small Business Appreciation Month – Read by Councilwoman Culberson and presented to Director of Economic Development Sandra Edwards
d. National Telecommunicator Week – Read by Vice President Meffley and presented to Director of Emergency Services Patrick Campbell

NEW BUSINESS
Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #134
Cecil County Public Schools Chief Financial Officer Denise M. Sopa noted this budget amendment was for $438,097. Ms. Sopa reviewed the items associated with Budget Amendment #134.
Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #134 in the amount of $438,097. The motion was seconded by Vice President Meffley. The motion was approved 5 – 0.

PUBLIC HEARING
President Miller opened the Public Hearing at 7:25 p.m.
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 and order posted on March 18, 2025; Public Hearing scheduled on April 15, 2025; consideration scheduled on May 6, 2025.
Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated there were no further comments from the Administration.
Mr. Sean Brimm spoke in favor of the Resolution.
Hearing no additional comments, President Miller closed the Public Hearing at 7:28 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
President Miller noted that, during the legislative session of April 1, 2025, approval of the minutes of the March 18, 2025 Legislative Session was overlooked.
On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of March 18, 2025. The motion was approved unanimously.
On a motion made by Councilwoman Hamilton, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of April 1, 2025. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Mr. Sean Brimm spoke about candidates for the Cecil County Board of Education.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS
Councilwoman Branch stated she attended the Teacher of the Year Gala, adding that Cecil County Honoree Ms. Taylor Shafer, Social Studies teacher at North East Middle School, will be among 22 nominees for Maryland Teacher of the Year. Councilwoman Branch noted that she attended the Cecil County Chamber Legislative Wrap Up breakfast earlier today, during which Cecil County's Delegation provided legislative session updates, including a potential Special Session in October.

Vice President Meffley noted that he attended the Teacher of the Year Gala, adding that music was provided by Perryville and Rising Sun High School students. Vice President Meffley stated that he attended other events including the Rising Sun Little League Parade; Rising Sun Fire Company Banquet; and the Cecil County Citizen Program at Elk Neck Elementary. Vice President Meffley stated he attended the Cecil County Chamber Legislative Wrap Up breakfast, at which the Cecil County Delegation stated that Agriculture was supported this session, specifically regarding placement of solar arrays on farmland. He stated the proposed FAMLI Act will increase state spending and hiring.

Councilwoman Hamilton noted that she was recently on a flight that included veterans of the Korean Conflict and Vietnam War, adding that the group was met with applause from airport patrons upon arrival, and added that it was an honor to experience the event. Councilwoman Hamilton stated she attended the Cecil County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Wrap Up breakfast, noting that Delegate Hornberger reported that surrounding states were experiencing budget surpluses while Maryland is the only state with a deficit.

Councilwoman Culberson provided Emergency Services intel for the past two weeks, stating that two weeks ago responders handled 285 calls, 15 of which were domestic-related; 55 mental health related calls, 27 of which were physical; 10 overdose calls, none of which involved fatalities. She stated intel for last week included response to 252 calls, 10 of which were mental health related, 27 domestic calls, 17 of which were physical; 12 overdose calls, 1 of which resulted in a fatality.

President Miller stated he attended the Rising Sun Fire Hall banquet, during which Bill Eyler and Joe Gilbert were inducted into the Firemen's Hall of Fame. President Miller stated he attended Ag Day at Patsy DuPont's farm, adding that Mrs. DuPont directed that the farm would be used for educational purposes. He noted that he also attended the Point-to-Point event at Mt. Harmon.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS
Council Manager Henson stated for the record:
Bill No. 2025-04 Taxation – Tax Credit – Senior Citizens and Veterans

A Bill to amend the Cecil County Senior Citizens and Veterans Tax Credit Program to expand the eligibility criteria.
Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on April 15, 2025; Public Hearing scheduled on May 22, 2025; and scheduled for consideration on June 3, 2025.
Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger asked Director of Finance Raymond Hamm to comment on Bill 2025-04. Director Hamm stated that Bill 2025-04 and 2025-05 are presented as a package, as both Bills are an expansion of existing tax credit programs, adding that the changes in the eligibility criteria include lowering of the minimum number of years of an applicant's residency; increasing the base assessment value of the applicant's home; and increasing the base income of an applicant.

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:
Bill No. 2025-05 Taxation – Tax Credit – Sworn Officers
A Bill to amend the Cecil County Sworn Officers Tax Credit Program to expand the eligibility criteria.
Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on April 15, 2025; Public Hearing scheduled on May 22, 2025; and scheduled for consideration on June 3, 2025.
Director of Finance Raymond Hamm stated Bill 2025-05 provides for expansion of participants to include all Police Officers, as well as the previously referenced changes to applicant criteria.

Vice President Meffley excused himself from the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS
Council Manager Henson stated for the record:
Resolution No. 31-2025 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Community Development Block Grant – Federal CARES Act Funding.
Introduced and order posted on April 15, 2025; Public Hearing scheduled on May 6, 2025; and scheduled for consideration on May 6, 2025.
Director of Community Services David Trolio stated Resolution No. 31-2025 provides the authority to amend the original grant, adding that the original grant agreement was attached for reference.

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:
Resolution No. 32-2025 Approval – Fourth Amendment of Lease Agreement – Multiple Year Contract – Amedisys
Introduced and order posted on April 15, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on May 6, 2025.
Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger stated that Council tabled the previously submitted Resolution regarding this lease amendment, and asked Deputy Director of Finance Andrew Ondish to provide further information. Deputy Director Ondish stated that the language in the previously submitted lease amendment was reviewed and clarified. He stated that the lease associated with the space referred to in the amendment before Council and a second leased space and subsequent amendment will not be combined but left as separate documents.

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:
Resolution No. 33-2025 Approval – Sixth Amendment of Lease Agreement – Multiple Year Contract – Amedisys
Introduced and order posted on April 15, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on May 6, 2025.
Deputy Director Ondish stated that the language of the lease was reviewed and clarified, adding that an incorrect date had been addressed.

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:
Resolution No. 34-2025 Appointment – Electrical Examiners Board – Joseph Johnson, Steven Moon, Donald Hicks and Richard LeBrun III
Introduced and order posted on April 15, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on May 6, 2025.
Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger asked Council to pull the Resolution to permit further review of nominees.

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:
Resolution No. 35-2025 Appointment – Economic Development Commission – Brook Somers and Jeffrey Martindale
Introduced and order posted on April 15, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on May 6, 2025.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger stated that the current appointments will leave just two more vacancies on the Economic Development Commission.
Councilwoman Hamilton questioned Mr. Martindale's residency. Director Schneckenburger stated Mr. Martindale serves as the Assistant Town Manager of Newark, Delaware and resides in the Elkton area.

CONSIDERATION 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 and scheduled for consideration on April 15, 2025.
No additional comments were offered by Administration.
Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 25-2025, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.
Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Absent, Miller – Y
The motion was approved 4-0 with 1 Absent.

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, 2025.
Introduced and order posted on April 1, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on April 15, 2025.
No additional comments were offered by Administration.
Councilwoman Hamilton expressed concerns regarding appointment of Mr. Perry to the Planning Commission as well as the Board of Zoning Appeals.
Councilwoman Branch made a motion to approve Resolution No. 26-2025, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.
Roll call vote: Hamilton – Nay, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Absent, Miller – Y
The motion was approved 3-0 with 1 Nay and 1 Absent.
Councilwoman Hamilton requested that the record stated that her opposition to Mr. Perry's appointment was not a reflection on Mr. Perry as an individual.

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 and scheduled for consideration on April 15, 2025.
No additional comments were offered by Administration.
Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 27-2025, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.
Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Absent, Miller – Y
The motion was approved 4 – 0 with 1 absent.

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.
No additional comments were offered by Administration.
Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 28-2025, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.
Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Absent, Miller – Y
The motion was approved 4 – 0 with 1 absent.

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.
Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger stated that the Local Management Board has one vacancy at this point.
Councilwoman Branch noted that the applicant's address is listed as 106 Bow Street, which is Union Hospital. Director Schneckenburger stated that Dr. Sheikh will represent Union Hospital on the Local Management Board.
Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 29-2025, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.
Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Absent, Miller – Y
The motion was approved 4 – 0 with 1 absent.

ADJOURNMENT
On a motion made by Councilwoman Hamilton, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, President Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Council President Miller announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, May 6, 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