

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2025-11
June 3, 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 June 3, 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

President Miller requested a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, the Council moved to approve the agenda of June 3, 2025. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Councilwoman Branch, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of May 20, 2025. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Sean Brimm spoke about national budget and trade issues.
Ms. Teresa DiFabbio spoke about Stoic Philosophy

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Branch stated she attended the North East High School Awards Ceremony on May 21st, during which she presented the Cecil County Council Scholarship to Avery Browne, whose textbook expenses will be covered during his attendance at Cecil College over the next 2 years. Councilwoman Branch stated she attended the Rising Sun High School Commencement on May 29th and the North East High School Commencement on May 30th.

Vice President Meffley stated he attended the North East High School and Rising Sun High School Commencements as well.

Vice President Meffley, referring to citizens who utilize the portal for permit applications, requested a follow up review process to ensure the applicant is aware of additional requirements. He noted that the permit application process is improving.

Vice President Meffley stated he attended the FOP Lodge 2 Golf event at Patriots Glen and the Chesapeake City Fire Company Awards Banquet on May 31st.

Vice President Meffley stated he attended the Bohemia Manor High School Awards Ceremony on May 29th, during which he presented the Council Scholarship Award to Kayla Plank. He expressed appreciation to the community-based groups that support students via scholarships, including

the Elkton Rotary, the Lions Club, Retired Teachers Association and the Democratic Club, as well as private individuals. He stated it is a positive experience when the community comes together, regardless of affiliation or other differences, in order to support students.

Vice President Meffley stated he attended the Bohemia Manor High School Commencement on May 29th, during which he had the privilege to present his grandson's diploma.

Councilwoman Hamilton stated she attended the Elkton High School Commencement on May 30th and Awards Ceremony on May 21st, during which she presented the Council Scholarship to Madelyn Foley.

Councilwoman Hamilton offered congratulations to all graduates who received their education publicly, privately, or via home schooling.

Councilwoman Hamilton stated she visited the Chesapeake Farm to Table Chef and Grower's Festival at the Sonetta Community Market on June 1st.

Councilwoman Culberson welcomed all in attendance.

Councilwoman Culberson provided Emergency Services Intel for the week of May 20th – May 26th, stating Emergency Services responded to 252 calls, 7 of which were mental-health related; 54 domestic calls, 27 of which were physical; 3 overdoses, none of which resulted in fatality. She noted that the overdose response represented a significant decline.

Councilwoman Culberson stated she attended the Voices of Hope Banquet on May 16th and the Perryville High School Awards Ceremony on May 22nd.

Councilwoman Culberson stated the CHEP Outpost Thrift Store held its grand opening on June 1st. She stated the business, located at Route 1 just before the Pennsylvania line, operates to benefit Veterans, adding that donations are accepted.

President Miller stated he attended the Cecil County School of Technology Awards Ceremony on May 27th during which he presented the Council Scholarship to Aysia Askew. He added that he attended the Rising Sun High School Commencement on May 29th, and commended Valedictorian Katelynn Callaghan for maintaining a GPA of over 5. President Miller offered congratulations to all graduates.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 41-2025

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 41-2025 – Annexation – Town of Elkton – 812 and 814 East Pulaski Highway (Tax Map 033C, Parcels 0607 and 0608) and 344 Maloney Road (Tax Map 033C, Parcel 0077)

A Resolution to approve the request of the Town of Elkton for a waiver of the five-year hold in accordance with § 4-416 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The request from the Town of Elkton is regarding property owned by Concetta L. Groves and John S. LaMonica, located on the east side of Maloney Road and south of Route 40, consisting of approximately 9.9736 acres, identified on Tax Map 033C, Parcels 0607, 0608 and 0077, which is being annexed into the Town of Elkton pursuant to Town of Elkton Annexation Resolution A1-2025. The property's proposed rezoning from Cecil County's High Density Residential District (RM) to the Town of Elkton's Business and Industrial (BI) zoning upon its annexation will result in substantially different uses, or substantially higher density, exceeding 50%, than could be granted for proposed development under the County's RM zoning.

Introduced and order posted on June 3, 2025 and Public Hearing scheduled on June 17, 2025. Council Manager Henson stated the applicant requested consideration on the date of Public Hearing.

County Administrator Dan Schneckenburger stated Administration will reserve comment until the Public Hearing.

Resolution No. 42-2025

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 42-2025 – Appointment – Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board – Wayne Tome, Sr.

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Wayne Tome, Sr., who is replacing Jeffrey Hennemuth, to the Cecil County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board for a three (3) year term to expire June 1, 2027.

Introduced and order posted on June 3, 2025; scheduled for consideration on June 17, 2025.
Administrator Schneckenburger stated that the Port Deposit (Water Witch) Fire Company has the choice to as to whom will represent the fire company on this Board, and they requested Mr. Tome.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 30-2025 AS AMENDMENT

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 30-2025 – Adoption – Real Property and Personal Property Tax Rates – Fiscal Year 2026 – Amendment No. 1

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 by the Council President at the request of the County Executive.

On Line 21 delete:

District at the rate of \$371.96 per parcel.

On Line 21 Add:

District at the rate of \$325.88 per parcel.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 30-2025 Amendment No. 1, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 5-0

Resolution No. 30-2025 AS AMENDED

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 30-2025 – As Amended – 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.

There were no additional comments from Administration.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 30-2025, as amended, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Absent, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 5-0.

Resolution No. 40-2025

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 40-2025 – Appointment – Electrical Examiners Board – Joseph Johnson, Steve Moon, Richard LeBrun III and Donald Hicks.

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment of Joseph Johnson and Steve Moon, and to confirm the appointment of Richard LeBrun III, to fill terms that will expire on June 3, 2028, and the reappointment of Donald Hicks, to fill a term that will expire on January 4, 2028 to the Electrical Examiners Board.

Introduced and order posted on May 20, 2025; scheduled for consideration on June 3, 2025.

There were no additional comments from Administration.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 40-2025, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Absent, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 5-0.

CALL FOR FINAL READING OF BILLS

Bill No. 2025-01

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

There were no additional comments from Administration.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Bill No. 2025-01, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Absent, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 5-0.

Bill No. 2025-02

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

There were no additional comments from Administration.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Bill No. 2025-02, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Absent, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 5-0.

Bill No. 2025-03

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

There were no additional comments from Administration.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Bill No. 2025-02, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Absent, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 5-0.

Bill No. 2025-04

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 1, 2025; scheduled for Public Hearing on May 22, 2025 and consideration on June 3, 2025.

There were no additional comments from Administration.

Councilwoman Branch made a motion to approve Bill No. 2025-02, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Absent, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 5-0.

Bill No. 2025-05

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 1, 2025; scheduled for Public Hearing on May 22, 2025 and consideration on June 3, 2025.

There were no additional comments from Administration.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Bill No. 2025-02, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Absent, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 5-0.

Bill No. 2025-06

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Bill No. 2025-06 Amendment – Adoption of National Electric Code

A Bill to amend Chapter 191, Adoption of National Electric Code, of the Code of Cecil County by recommending the adoption of the 2023 National Electric Code (NEC) and amending 191-2 (D) Amendments, Clarifications, and Deletions.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on May 6, 2025; scheduled for Public Hearing on May 20, 2025 and consideration on June 3, 2025.

There were no additional comments from Administration.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Bill No. 2025-02, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Absent, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 5-0.

Bill No. 2025-07 AMENDMENT

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Bill No. 2025-07 – Amendment – Zoning Ordinance – Definitions, Districts, Permissible Uses, Utilities, and Industrial Users – Amendment No. 1

An Act to amend the Cecil County Zoning Ordinance, Article II, Part I, Section 12, Definitions in order to insert Agritourism, insert Home Office, and amend Home Occupations; to amend Article III, Part III, Section 32, Employment Mixed Use, in order to insert Employment Element; Part V, Section 34, Business Local, in order to amend General Requirements; Section 35, Business General, in order to amend General Requirements; Article III, Part V, Section 37, Maritime Business, in order amend General Requirements; Article IV, Section 54, Permissible Uses Table, in order to amend Section 115 Communications Towers by adding MEA Zone, Section 164A Cannabis Growers, and Section 164B Cannabis Processor, by adding NAR and SAR Zones, and Section 164C Dispensary in order to amend permitted operations and zones.

Introduced by the Councilwoman Hamilton and Councilwoman Culberson

Strike lines 139 through 151

Add lines 139-140

The proposed amendments to Amend Article V, Part XII, Section 164C of the Cecil County Zoning Ordinance is hereby adopted as follows:

Administrator Schneckenburger stated the Administration has no opposition to this amendment. Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 30-2025 Amendment No. 1, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 5-0

Bill No. 2025-07 As Amended

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Bill No. 2025-07 – Amendment – Zoning Ordinance – Definitions, Districts, Permissible Uses, Utilities, and Industrial Users – Amendment No. 1

An Act to amend the Cecil County Zoning Ordinance, Article II, Part I, Section 12, Definitions in order to insert Agritourism, insert Home Office, and amend Home Occupations; to amend Article III, Part III, Section 32, Employment Mixed Use, in order to insert Employment Element; Part V, Section 34, Business Local, in order to amend General Requirements; Section 35, Business General, in order to amend General Requirements; Article III, Part V, Section 37, Maritime Business, in order amend General Requirements; Article IV, Section 54, Permissible Uses Table, in order to amend Section 115 Communications Towers by adding MEA Zone, Section 164A Cannabis Growers, and ~~Section 164B Cannabis Processor, by adding NAR and SAR Zones, and~~ Section 164C Dispensary in order to amend permitted operations and zones.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 30-2025 Amendment No. 1, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, President Miller adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Council President Miller announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, June 17, 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