

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2025-01
January 7, 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
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 7, 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 four members were present and one absent, Bob Meffley.

OPENING PRAYER/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Pastor Bob McKnight of United Redeemed Church in Elkton gave the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, the Council moved to approve the agenda of January 7, 2025. The motion was approved 4 to 0 with 1 absent.

PUBLIC HEARING

Resolution 67-2024 - Grant Application – Community Development Block Grant – Recovery Housing Program – Voices of Hope, Inc.

A Resolution to authorize the Cecil County Department of Community Services, Housing and Community Development Division, to apply for funding not to exceed \$521,180.00 from the Maryland Community Development Block Grant – Recovery Housing Program through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to acquire property on behalf of the proposed subrecipient, Voices of Hope, Inc. Grant funds will support property acquisition, closing costs, appraisal and inspection, minor renovations and administrative support.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on December 17, 2024, with a Public Hearing scheduled for January 7, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on January 7, 2025

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted this resolution is seeking permission to apply for a CDBG grant in the amount of \$521,180 to purchase and renovate a property for a women and children shelter that will be operated by Voices of Hope, Inc.

Sean Brimm of North East spoke in favor of the grant application.
Jennifer Turk of North East spoke in favor of this grant application and the services it will provide.
Erin Wright of Elkton spoke in favor of this grant application and the need for this service.
Aaron Wright of Elkton spoke in favor of this grant application.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Councilwoman Branch, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of December 17, 2024. The motion was approved 4 to 0 with 1 absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sean Brimm of North East spoke on the IT Budget.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Branch hoped that everyone had a great holiday season and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilwoman Hamilton thanked everybody who spoke at the Public Hearing on Resolution 67-2024 and noted that this grant is much needed for Cecil County. She noted that the Marland Assembly will go into session on January 8, 2025 and that she will be working with the MACO Legislative Committee on tracking bills and urged all citizens to bring any bill to the attention of Council that they may want to see the Council taken action on during the process.

Councilwoman Culberson also hoped everyone had an enjoyable holiday and wished everyone a Happy New Year. She also noted the intel numbers for the previous week. She noted that no overdose deaths occurred during this period and out of 51 weeks this year 30 had no overdose deaths and this is credit to the various organizations. She also noted she attended the Sheriff's Office Banquet and congratulated the Deputy and Correction Officers of the Year.

President Miller noted the Young Farmers Breakfast was moved to Monday, January 13, 2025 because of the snow event. He also noted that the Cecil Chamber Night in Annapolis is on January 9, 2025 and encouraged everybody to attend. He also noted the Cecil Soil Banquet is on January 17.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 01-2025 - Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance – Department of Information Technology – ISF – 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 \$724,759 in additional funding request to the budget of the Department of Information Technology – ISF to fund the Internal Service Fund that had been under funded and un-reconciled for the current fiscal year.

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

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted that this budget amendment was necessary to correct the FY25 Budget to cover additional costs for the IT Department. He noted many of these costs were previously covered by CARES Act funding and this additional amount would reconcile the IT ISF Budget. He requested that Council take action on this Resolution this evening since this budget amendment would allocate funds so IT could continue to pay invoices.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Resolution 01-2025, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – A, Miller - Y
The motion was approved 4 to 0 with 1 absent.

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.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted these appointments were recommended by the Bainbridge Development Corporation, the Town of Port Deposit and the Maryland House of Delegates. Councilwoman Culberson inquired if they were all reappointments except Robert Ashby and Director Schneckenburger noted that was correct.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 60-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Office of Economic Development – MARBIDCO – Agriculture Microgrant 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 \$39,000 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund, Office of Economic Development in order to record the cost share grant awarded from the Maryland Agricultural & Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) for the purpose of matching funds towards the Agriculture Microgrant program in Cecil County.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on December 17, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on January 7, 2025.

No additional comments were offered.

Councilwoman Branch made a motion to approve Resolution 60-2024, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – A, Miller - Y
The motion was approved 4 to 0 with 1 absent.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 61-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Office of Economic Development – Upper Shore Regional Council – Agricultural Microgrant Program

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, in order to provide a total of \$40,000.00 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund, Office of Economic Development, in order to record the grant awarded from the Upper Shore Regional Council, for the purpose of an Agriculture Microgrant Program in Cecil County.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on December 17, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on January 7, 2025.

No additional comments were offered.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 61-2024, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – A, Miller - Y
The motion was approved 4 to 0 with 1 absent.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 62-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grants – Economic Development – Supplement Marketing Costs

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 \$126,018 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund- Office of Economic Development, to record the grant awarded from the Maryland Department of Commerce, for the purpose of allowing the County to supplement marketing costs and to increase the effect and impact of marketing activities beyond the ability of local funds

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on December 17, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on January 7, 2025.

No additional comments were offered.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Resolution 62-2024, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – A, Miller - Y
The motion was approved 4 to 0 with 1 absent.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 63-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Department of Information Technology – State and Local Cybersecurity Grant 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 \$212,152 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund, Department of Information Technology awarded from the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) for the purpose of cybersecurity software purchases, in the total amount of \$212,152

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on December 17, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on January 7, 2025.

No additional comments were offered.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 63-2024, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – A, Miller - Y
The motion was approved 4 to 0 with 1 absent.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 64 -2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Opioid Affected Youth Initiative Grant

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 \$741,981.00 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund – Fund 198, Department 536 to record a 3-year, Federal grant awarded from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Grant to provide trauma therapy services for children and their caregivers, bereavement support, parenting classes, substance use prevention activities and administrative support.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on December 17, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on January 7, 2025.

No additional comments were offered.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 64-2024, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – A, Miller - Y
The motion was approved 4 to 0 with 1 absent.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 65-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – Motor Vehicle Fund – Cecil Transit

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 \$623,279.00, of which \$273,000.00 is carryover funding and \$350,279.00 is an additional funding request, in expenditure authority for the Motor Vehicle Fund 750 for Transit Busses, Vans & Equipment within the Motor Vehicle Fund.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on December 17, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on January 7, 2025.

No additional comments were offered.

Councilwoman Branch made a motion to approve Resolution 65-2024, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – A, Miller - Y
The motion was approved 4 to 0 with 1 absent.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 66-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Cecil Transit Division – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

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 \$2,314,256.00 to the Community Services Grants Fund – Department of Community Services, Fund 109, Department 522, to record an ARPA Grant awarded from the Federal Transit Administration through the Maryland Transit Administration to provide operational support.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on December 17, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on January 7, 2025.

Councilwoman Culberson inquired if these funds needed to be spent by FY29 and Director of Community Services David Trolio noted they did, but because of the changes at the federal level they are accelerating the expenditures in case the federal government voids the remaining funds.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 66-2024, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – A, Miller - Y
The motion was approved 4 to 0 with 1 absent.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 67-2024 - Grant Application – Community Development Block Grant – Recovery Housing Program – Voices of Hope, Inc.

A Resolution to authorize the Cecil County Department of Community Services, Housing and Community Development Division, to apply for funding not to exceed \$521,180.00 from the Maryland Community Development Block Grant – Recovery Housing Program through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to acquire property on behalf of the

proposed subrecipient, Voices of Hope, Inc. Grant funds will support property acquisition, closing costs, appraisal and inspection, minor renovations and administrative support.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on December 17, 2024, with a Public Hearing scheduled for January 7, 2025 and scheduled for consideration on January 7, 2025

Councilwoman Hamilton noted she supported this grant application and Voices of Hope and inquired on the timing of the grant award. Director of Community Services David Trolio noted this is a special grant fund and is hoping to hear the results of the grant application by February. Councilwoman Culberson inquired on when the grant application would be submitted and Director Trolio noted by January 10.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Resolution 67-2024, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – A, Miller - Y
The motion was approved 4 to 0 with 1 absent.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 68-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Sheriff’s Office – Medication Supported Recovery Project

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 \$320,000.00 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund, Sheriff’s Office in order to record the grant awarded from the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention for the purpose of Medication Supported Recovery.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on December 17, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on January 7, 2025.

No additional comments were offered.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 68-2024, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – A, Miller - Y
The motion was approved 4 to 0 with 1 absent.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 69-2024 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Sheriff’s Office – MOUD in Detention Centers

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 \$ 689,975.00 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund, Sheriff’s Office in order to record the grant awarded from the Cecil County Health Department, LBHA, State Opioid Response IV.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on December 17, 2024 and scheduled for consideration on January 7, 2025.

No additional comments were offered.

Councilwoman Branch made a motion to approve Resolution 69-2024, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – A, Miller - Y
The motion was approved 4 to 0 with 1 absent.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilwoman Hamilton, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, President Miller adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm.

Council President Miller announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, January 21, 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