

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2021-06
March 16, 2021**

The County Council of Cecil County met in legislative session in an online virtual meeting because of the current health crisis and based on the Governor's orders to avoid public meetings. Council Members, presenters and members of the public participated in this meeting by going online to www.ccgov.org/council and selecting "livestream".

The following members of the Council were present:

Robert Meffley, Council President
Al Miller, Council Member
Jackie Gregory, Vice President
William H. Coutz, Council Member
George Patchell, Council Member

NOTE: The video and audio recording with transcription of this meeting is available on the County website at www.ccgov.org.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the County Council of Cecil County of March 16, 2021 was called to order by Council President Meffley at 7:00 p.m. Council President Meffley led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council President Meffley asked for a roll call of attending Council Members. The Council Manager called the roll and recorded the following Council Members in attendance:

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-Present, Miller-Present, Patchell-Present, Gregory-Present, Meffley-Present.

Council President Meffley announced that there were five Council Members present, which constitute a quorum.

SUSPENSION OF RULES

Councilman Coutz made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Council Members who are connected to participate and vote in this legislative session, because of the current health crisis and orders by the Governor to avoid public meetings. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y
The motion was approved unanimously.

OPENING PRAYER

Councilman Miller introduced Reverend Sean Hurm from Hart's United Methodist Church in North East who led the opening prayer. Council President Meffley asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Bill Manlove. Council President Meffley, Councilman Patchell and Councilman Coutz related memories about Mr. Manlove. Dan Schneckenburger, Director of Administration, stated that the County Executive has order that the county flag will be at half-mast in honor of Mr. Manlove.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilman Miller, the Council moved to approve the legislative agenda of March 16, 2021. Motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Coutz, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of March 2, 2021. Motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice President Gregory attended the Opioid Operational Command Center's Best Practices Conference and commented that increase in overdose fatalities during the pandemic. She stated that Cecil County's overdose fatality rate has increased by 48%.

Councilman Coutz thanked the audience for attending. He attended the viewing of Michael Steele who had been very active with the Singlerly Fire Company. He attended the retirement ceremony for Mayor Robert McKnight and commented on his many years of service. He also welcomed Mayor Kline, the newly elected Mayor of North East. He stated his concern that Xylazine, an animal tranquilizer, is being used as a cutting agent for heroin. He stated that there have been eleven overdoses in Cecil County this month and two fatalities.

Councilman Miller attended the Cecil County Fair board meeting and stated that they hope that the fair can be held this year. He also stated that Maryland 4H activities will be opening. He congratulated the Health Department for their efforts to begin vaccination of Phase 3 businesses.

Councilman Patchell attended the Parks and Recreation board meeting. He announced that the ribbon cutting for the disk golf course at Brantwood Park will be held on April 25. He also stated that spring registration for teams is exceeding previous numbers. He stated that the Calvert Park parking lot will be done by May 1. There is also a new parking lot opening at Brantwood Park. Calvert Park tournaments will begin soon. He thanked the audience for attending.

Council President Meffley thanked the audience for attending. He participated in the State of the County event and gave the legislative address. He attended the Cecil County Firemen's Association and commented on the fire companies' support for the vaccination clinics. He has been working to address complaints on broadband service, road conditions, and roadside trash. He visited Brantwood Park recently and commented on its heavy use by the public.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 21-2021 Appointment – Board of Library Trustees – Ravi Gupta

A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Ravi Gupta to the Cecil County Board of Library Trustees, to a five year term to expire on April 6, 2026.

Introduced, read first time, order posted and scheduled for public hearing on April 20, 2021.

Dan Schneckenburger, Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 22-2021 Appointment – Board of Parks and Recreation – Don Harmer

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Don Harmer to the Board of Parks and Recreation for a three (3) year term to expire April 6, 2024.

Introduced, read first time, order posted and scheduled for consideration on April 6, 2021.

Dan Schneckenburger, Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 20-2021 Establishment – Redistricting Commission - 2021

A Resolution to establish the Redistricting Commission that will present a new councilmanic redistricting plan that is based on the 2020 Census.

The Resolution was introduced on January 19, 2021; advertised on February 3, 2021 and February 10, 2021; public hearing held and concluded February 16, 2021; and scheduled for consideration on March 2, 2021.

Council Manager Massey provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 20-2021, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory.

Roll call vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y
The motion was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Rezoning Case # 2021-02 APPLICANT: EJP, LLC., REQUEST: Request to rezone 34.1 acres from Business General (BG) to Heavy Industrial (M2). **PROPERTY LOCATION:** 875 West Old Philadelphia Road, North East, MD 21901. **Election District:** 5, **Tax Map:** 31A, **Parcel:** 558.

There were no administration comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilman Coutz made a motion to deny the application of EJP, LLC, to rezone 34.1 acres located at 875 West Old Philadelphia Road, North East, MD from Business General (BG) to Heavy Industrial (M2) based upon no convincing evidence of a mistake in the zoning classification of the property during the last comprehensive rezoning; and based upon no convincing evidence of a change in the character of the neighborhood since the last comprehensive rezoning.

The motion was seconded by Vice President Gregory.

Roll call vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y
The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Cecil County Public Schools – Budget Amendment #84

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #84, in the amount of \$54,355 for February 2021, which was seconded by Councilman Miller. The Council unanimously approved the motion by a voice vote of 5 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

The next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., which is planned as a virtual meeting because of the current health crisis. The session will be livestreamed on the County Council's webpage. Members of the public who do not have broadband access should contact the Council Office for instructions to be connected via telephone.

Attest:

James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:

Robert Meffley
Council President