

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2021-14
July 20, 2021

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:

Robert Meffley, Council President
Jackie Gregory, Vice President
William H. Coutz, Council Member
Al Miller, Council Member
George Patchell, 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 July 20, 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.

OPENING PRAYER

Councilman Miller introduced Pastor Steve Dixon from Porters Grove Baptist Church in Conowingo who led the opening prayer.

Councilman Patchell requested a moment of silence in memory of Cathy Haley who served as the receptionist for Cecil County Government for 36 years.

Councilman Coutz requested a moment of silence in memory of Roger McCardle who was a longtime volunteer and professional firefighter in the community.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve the legislative agenda of July 20, 2021. Motion was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES

Councilman Miller presented a proclamation to Don Moore, fair board president, in recognition of the 67th Cecil County Fair and congratulated the volunteers who have made the Fair the largest event in Cecil County.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of July 6, 2021. Motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, commented on the North East Library facility.

Tony Nonn, Elkton, commented in opposition to the wastewater connection increase.

Steve Nichols, Elkton, commented in opposition to the wastewater connection increase.

Mike Palmisano, Elkton, commented in opposition to the wastewater connection increase.

David Strouss, Elkton, commented in opposition to the wastewater connection increase.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice President Gregory attended the groundbreaking for the Great Wolf Lodge and commented on the number of jobs that will bring to Cecil County. She commended Diane Battaglia from the Town of Perryville for her successful efforts in bringing this attraction here. She stated that the public library is a world class facility and that the Port Deposit Library was planned to be closed.

Councilman Coutz thanked the audience for their comments. He attended a tour of the Plumpton Park Zoo with Secretary of Commerce, Kelly Schulz. Secretary Schulz led discussion with business leaders about bringing new businesses to the County. He reported on statistics from the Sheriff's Intel meeting regarding calls for service and noted that calls for service have significantly increased. He expressed his concern that the public has concerns about the cut in library hours and services.

Councilman Patchell stated that he was back from vacation and was glad to be back with the Council.

Councilman Miller attended the school board meeting and encouraged the public to watch Dr. Lawson's explanation of the recent public hearing. He attended the Farm Bureau meeting and commended Dan Schneckenburger for his attendance. He encouraged everyone to go to the "best nine days of summer" at the Cecil County Fair.

Council President Meffley attended the Firemen's Association meeting and commented on their discussion on Cecil County being moved from the Fire Marshall's northeast regional office to the eastern shore regional office for fire investigations. He participated in interviews for the new Social Services Director. He stated that he has lobbied with the administration to postpone the wastewater connection fee increase.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 42-2021 Appointment - Council Attorney – MacLeod Law Group and Victor R. Jackson, LLC

A Resolution to appoint Charles MacLeod and MacLeod Law Group LLC, and Victor R. Jackson, LLC as council attorneys for general legal opinions and advisor, beginning July 1, 2021.

There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time, and order posted on July 20, 2021. The Resolution will be scheduled for consideration on August 3, 2021.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 43-2021 Appointment - Historic District Commission – Nancy Simpers

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment of Nancy Simpers made by the County Executive to the Historic District Commission, to a three-year term to expire August 3, 2024.

Dan Schneckenburger, Director of Administration, provided comments. Councilman Coutz requested an updated application of Ms. Simpers.

Introduced, read first time, and order posted on July 20, 2021. The Resolution will be scheduled for consideration on August 3, 2021.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 35-2021 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation – Application Finalists – FY 2022

A Resolution to approve twelve applications as FY 2022 Application Finalists to be submitted to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

The Resolution was introduced and posted on July 6, 2021 and scheduled for consideration on July 20, 2021.

Steve O'Connor, Director of Land Use and Development Services, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Vice President Gregory moved to approve Resolution No. 35-2021, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

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

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 36-2021 Appointment—Bainbridge Development Corporation – Toni Sprenkle

A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Toni Sprenkle as the Executive Director of the Bainbridge Development Corporation.

Dan Schneckenburger, Director of Administration, provided comments. Council questions and comments ensued. Councilman Coutz and President Meffley commended the BDC for their progress.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on July 6, 2021 and scheduled for consideration on July 20, 2021.

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

Councilman Coutz moved to approve Resolution No. 36-2021, 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.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 38-2021 Appointment - Historic District Commission – Karl Fockler

A Resolution to confirm the County Executive's appointment of Karl H. Fockler made by the County Executive to the Historic District Commission, to a three-year term to expire July 20, 2024.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on July 6, 2021 and scheduled for consideration on July 20, 2021.

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

Councilman Coutz moved to approve Resolution No. 38-2021, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

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

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 39-2021 Supplemental Appropriation – Debt Service Fund – Public Library

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, in order to provide an additional \$190,000 to the General Fund-Cecil County Public Library Allocation. The Resolution will reduce the General Funds' Inter-Operating Transfer to the Debt Service Fund, due to lower interest expense in FY2022 as a result of the refinancing of the County's debt. This decrease in the inter-operating transfer will provide the increase to the library's operating allocation.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on July 6, 2021 and scheduled for consideration on July 20, 2021.

James Appel, Finance Director, provided comments. Councilman Coutz stated that he is not in favor of spending funds that the County has not realized yet. Councilman Miller clarified that the library funding is provided on a monthly basis.

Councilman Miller moved to approve Resolution No. 39-2021, which was seconded by Councilman Patchell.

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

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 40-2021 Approval - Public Safety Radio System Maintenance – Multiple Year Contract

A Resolution to approve a ten (10) year agreement between the County and Motorola Solutions, Inc. to purchase Maintenance Support and Lifecycle Management services in the amount of \$4,531,955.43 to support the County's public safety radio system.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on July 6, 2021 and scheduled for consideration on July 20, 2021.

Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilman Coutz moved to approve Resolution No. 40-2021, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

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

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 41-2021 Amendment - Water and Sewer – Sewer Use – Connection Fee

A Resolution to amend the Water and Sewer policy to determine the wastewater connection charge from a subdivision proposal or approval at the time of issuance of the building permit.

The Resolution was introduced on July 6, 2021 and scheduled for final consideration on July 20, 2021.

Council President Meffley asked that Amendment No. 1 to Resolution No. 41-2021 be read into the record.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

TO RESOLUTION NO. 41-2021

Amendment – Water and Sewer – Sewer Use – Connection Fee

Synopsis: To clarify that the residential wastewater connection charge amount will be set at the time of the issuance of the building permit; to require connection fee payment before final inspection; and to provide interim provisions of the wastewater connection charge as it applies to building permits submitted prior to introduction of this resolution.

Introduced by: Council President Meffley

On Page 1, delete the synopsis in its entirety and insert the following:

“A Resolution to amend the Water and Sewer policy to determine the amount of the wastewater connection charge from a subdivision proposal or approval to be set at the time of issuance of the building permit; to require connection fee payment before final inspection; and to provide interim provisions of the wastewater connection charge as it

applies to building permits submitted prior to introduction of this resolution.”

On Page 2, lines 17-18, delete in its entirety and insert the following:

“that the determination of the amount of the wastewater connection charge from a valid subdivision proposal or approval to be set at the time of issuance of a valid building permit.”

On Page 2, line 19, insert the following:

“WHEREAS, any applicant that has a building permit application for a residential dwelling submitted prior to July 6, 2021 is entitled to a wastewater connection charge of \$6,000 conditioned on the building permit is issued prior to October 1, 2021.”

On Page 2, lines 19-21, delete in its entirety and insert the following:

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the determination of the amount of the wastewater connection charge from a valid subdivision proposal or approval shall be set at the time of issuance of the building permit; payment is required before final inspection; and a residential dwelling submitted prior to July 6, 2021 is entitled to a wastewater connection charge of \$6,000 conditioned on the building permit being issued prior to October 1, 2021.”

Lawrence Scott, Council Attorney, provided comments. Councilman Coutz stated that a gradual step increase would have lessened the impact on business. Council President Meffley stated that he had worked with the administration so that pending building permits can be offered the current fee amount until October 1, 2021. Vice President Gregory stated that the original legislation specified that the connection fee discount would sunset on July 31, 2021. Councilman Miller thanked the audience who had provided their comments on the impact of this legislation. Councilman Patchell stated that he had not been aware that the discounted connection fee would be ending as of the end of the month. Council President Meffley clarified that the average time to process a building permit is about ten days.

Vice President Gregory moved to approve Amendment No. 1 to Resolution No. 41-2021, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-N, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 1. Councilman Coutz was opposed.

Councilman Miller moved to approve Resolution No. 41-2021 as amended. The motion was seconded by Vice President Gregory.

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-N, Miller-Y, Patchell-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-Y

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 1. Councilman Coutz was opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

Cecil County Public Schools – Budget Amendment #88

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #88, in the amount of \$11,968,511 for June 2021, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory. The Council unanimously approved the motion by a voice vote of 5 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT

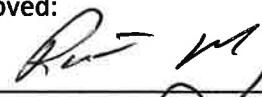
On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Council President Meffley announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building. The public may attend and participate. The legislative session will continue to be livestreamed in real time 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.

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager

Approved:


Robert Meffley
Council President