

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2021-17
September 7, 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
Councilman Al Miller, 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 September 7, 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.

Council President Meffley asked for a moment of silence in memory of the soldiers killed in Afghanistan this week.

OPENING PRAYER

Council President Meffley introduced Pastor Charles Rossiter of Baldwin United Methodist Church in Elk Mills, who led the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve the legislative agenda of September 7, 2021. Motion was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS/ CERTIFICATES

Council President Meffley introduced Tanya Adams, Recycling Program Manager, and David Horn, Chief of Solid Waste Division, who presented the 2020 Recycling Awards. Recycling awards were presented in each category as follows: #1 Residential Recycling Hauler to MPK Services, #1 Large Commercial Recycling Hauler to Waste Management, #1 Small Commercial Recycling Hauler to Waste Masters Solution, #1 MRA Metal Recycler to Elkton Recyclers, Inc., #1 Non-MRA Metal Recycler to Elkton Recyclers Inc., #1 Recycling Business to W.L. Gore & Associates, #1 Recycling Municipality to Town of Chesapeake City, #1 Recycling Apartment Building or Condominium to Riverwoods at North East, #1 Recycling and Source Reduction Award to West Nottingham Academy.

The Council presented a proclamation for Suicide Prevention Month to Sheila Murphy, Chief, Community Wellness, and members of the Cecil County Families and Communities Experiencing Suicide.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 47-2021 Approval – Annexation – Town of Elkton – Belle Hill Road et al – Zoning Designation

A Resolution to approve the request from the Town of Elkton that the zoning of the property, located on Belle Hill Road, Swallow Drive, and Elkton Road; also known as the Preston and Laetitia Ayars Property, which is being annexed into the Town, be changed from High Density Residential (RM) to the Town's Highway Interchange Commercial (C-3) zone.

The Resolution was introduced on August 3, 2021, advertised on August 25, 2021 and September 1, 2021, and scheduled for public hearing on September 7, 2021.

Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, stated that the administration was opposed to this legislation. There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comments. There were no public comments.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing and announced that Resolution No. 47-2021 will be considered for approval at the next legislative session on September 21, 2021.

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 August 17, 2021. Motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Duane Maester, Edgewood, commented on problems with Indian Acres management.

Jim Megilligan, Georgetown, comments on problems with Indian Acres management.

Joe McDevitt, Elkton, comments in support of raising backyard chickens.

Lisa Conley, Elkton, commented on the need for a town hall to address citizen grievances.

Ryan Wasilewski, Perryville, comments in support of raising backyard chickens.

Heather Lyons, North East, commented in support of raising backyard chickens.

Barb Cox, North East, president of Whitaker Woods, commented in support of raising backyard chickens.

Maria Gamble-Farkas, North East, commented in support of raising backyard chickens.

Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, commented on the Charter's redistricting procedure.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Miller thanked the audience for attending and commended the recycling award recipients. He attended the MACo summer conference and its value to him as an elected official.

Councilman Coutz thanked the audience for attending and their comments. He attended the MACo conference and stated his concern for the impact of recent police legislation. He attended the ribbon cutting for the new Chesapeake City Elementary School.

Councilman Patchell attended the MACo summer conference and commented on worthwhile programs. He also attended the Tap of the Tavern that supports the Rodgers Tavern.

Councilman Miller thanked the audience for attending. He stated that it was the best MACo conference that he has attended and took advantage of the opportunity to meet and discuss county issues with other Maryland county officials. He learned of other biodigester projects being operated in other counties. He attended a banquet for Senator Jason Gallion and the Voices of Hope candlelight vigil in North East. He also attended the Maryland State Fair for a luncheon with Governor Hogan and other agricultural officials.

Council President Meffley thanked the audience for attending and providing comments. He stated that he spends his free time helping constituents with problems and speaking to civic groups. He attended the MACo conference and enjoyed several programs on leadership, innovation and dealing with COVID. He attended the ribbon cutting for Chesapeake City Elementary School and the blessing of the school ceremony. He attended the new teacher reception and banquet for Senator Jason Gallion. He stated that he met with Crystal Beach residents to discuss problems in the neighborhood with law and justice officials. He said that he continues to work to resolve problems in Indian Acres. He discussed the damage caused by flooding in the county and the effects of Conowingo Dam on the Bay.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2021-13 Amendment – Zoning Ordinance – Solar Related – Definitions, Permissible Uses, and Power Generating Facilities

An Act to amend the Cecil County Zoning Ordinance, Article II, Part I, Section 12, Definitions in order to add and define solar generation terms; Article IV, Section 54.4 Table of Permissible Uses in order to add solar related uses; and Article IV, Part XII, Section 156 Power Generating Facilities; and to add Section 162 Solar, Community Based; and Section 163 Solar, Accessory in order to differentiate Non-Solar power generating facilities; Solar, Community Based; and Solar.

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

Introduced, read first time, and order posted on September 7, 2021. The Bill will be scheduled for public hearing on October 5, 2021.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 52-2021 Appointment – Redistricting Commission -2021

A Resolution to appoint members and the chair to the Redistricting Commission for 2021 to develop and present a councilmanic redistricting based on the 2020 Census by November 15, 2021.

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

Introduced, read first time, and order posted on September 7, 2021. The Resolution will be scheduled for consideration on September 21, 2021.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 53-2021 Appointment—Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board- Paul Drummond

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Paul Drummond to the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board, for a five year term to expire on August 1, 2026.

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

Introduced, read first time, and order posted on September 7, 2021. The Resolution will be scheduled for consideration on September 21, 2021.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 50-2021 Approval – IT Protection Services – Multiple Year Contract

A Resolution to approve a five (5) year agreement between the County and AccessIT Group, Inc. to purchase Checkpoint Director Infinity Protection Services in the amount of \$1,250,000 that will advance the County's security architecture and threat protection.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on August 17, 2021 and scheduled for consideration on September 7, 2021.

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

Councilman Coutz moved to approve Resolution No. 50-2021, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory

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

The motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 51-2021 Appointment – Ethics Commission – Francis Peterson, Jr.

A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Francis Peterson, Jr. made by the County Executive to the Cecil County Ethics Commission, term to expire December 19, 2023.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on August 17, 2021 and scheduled for consideration on September 7, 2021.

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

Councilman Miller moved to approve Resolution No. 51-2021, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory.

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

The motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Council President Meffley announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, September 21, 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