

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2021-19
October 5, 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 October 5, 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

Council Member Miller introduced Pastor Kevin Brown from Wright's AME Church in Elkton, 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 October 5, 2021. Motion was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS/ CERTIFICATES

The Council presented a proclamation for Breast Cancer Awareness Month to Lauren Levy, Health Officer.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2021-13 Amendment – Zoning Ordinance – Solar Related – Definitions, Use and 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.

The Bill was introduced on September 7, 2021, advertised on September 22, 2021 and September 30, 2021, and scheduled for public hearing on October 5, 2021.

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

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comments.

Elke Binder, Conowingo, commented in support of the legislation.

Tyler Jones, SGC Power, Elkridge, supports the legislation but commented on the proposed amendments.

Bruce Wilson, SGC Power, Elkridge, supports the legislation but commented on the proposed amendments.

Anne Barker Fazio, Port Deposit, commented in support of the legislation.

Daniel Eder, Conowingo, commented in support of the legislation but opposed the amendments.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing and announced that Bill No. 2021-13 will be considered for approval at the next legislative session on October 19, 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 September 21, 2021. Motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

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

Monique Borda, Earleville, commented in support of raising backyard chickens.

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

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

Joe Millward, Elkton, President of Woodcrest Shores, commented in support of noise ordinance.

Marie Gamble-Farkus, North East, commented in support of raising backyard chickens.

Becca McCuna, Perryville, commented in support of backyard chickens.

Heather Lyons, North East, commented in support of raising backyard chickens on 20,000 sf parcel.

Taylor Wyatt, Elkton, commented in support of raising backyard chickens.

Ron McNeal, Elkton, commented in support of the noise ordinance.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Patchell thanked the audience for attending and stated that this was his last legislative session. He stated that he enjoyed working with people to solve their problems.

Councilman Miller thanked the audience for attending and providing comments. He stated that he received his new library card. He attended Sheriff Adams golf tournament. He stated that National 4-H week is October 3 to 9 and said that their motto is "to make the best better". He stated that he enjoyed working on the disc golf course at Calvert Regional Park during Cecil Cares Day. He commended the Parks and Recreation staff for their efforts to keep the parks well maintained. He said that he would miss Councilman Patchell.

Vice President Gregory thanked the audience for attending and providing their comments. She thanked Councilman Patchell for his service and said that she would miss him. She congratulated the School of Technology for their new training program. She thanked all the volunteers who participated in Cecil Cares Day and said that she helped with the cleanup at Hollingsworth Manor. She congratulated the VFW Post in North East on their 75th anniversary. She clarified her comments that her chicken legislation must go to the Planning Commission before it can be introduced to the Council. She also stated that the noise restrictions during daytime hours was removed from the residential noise legislation and that it does not apply to business zones.

Councilman Coutz thanked the audience for attending and providing comments. He participated in Cecil Cares Day at the Arts Council in cleaning up North and Main Streets. He expressed his concerns on the misinformation about the Elkton annexation legislation of Belle Hill Road. He stated that the properties being annexed included commercial businesses. He stated that there was no specific use of the property and that a traffic study would be required as part of the development. He said that the Council did not support tabling consideration of the annexation to wait on MDOT's decision to allow direct access on Route 279. He stated that the annexation will have a positive impact by decreasing the responsibility of the county and Sheriff's Office on the roads. He stated that the property has direct access to I-95 and will produce higher tax revenue for the county. He stated that there were unsubstantiated allegations of campaign contributions being accepted. He also said that there were no developers involved with this property.

Council President Meffley attended the ribbon cutting at the School of Technology for a new training program and stated that equipment was donated by W.L. Gore. He attended a strategic planning session with the Maryland Rural Development Corporation, which coordinates Head Start and other programs for low income families. He attended the opening of Alo-Bela Canvass, which is a large retail clothing distributor on the east coast. He attended the Gold Star Mothers event at Aberdeen Proving Ground to honor families who lost members who were killed. He attended the Elkton Rotary Club and participated in Cecil Cares Day at the community kitchen in Elkton Presbyterian Church. He is planning to attend the Harvest Dinner at the Wellwood.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 54-2021 Approval – Agreement – Cecil County Fraternal Order of Police

A Resolution to approve the collective bargaining agreement between Cecil County and the Sheriff of Cecil County and the Cecil County Lodge 2, Fraternal Order of Police, Inc., to be effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2025.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on September 21, 2021.

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

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 54-2021, 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.

CALL FOR FINAL READING OF BILLS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2021-12 Residential Noise Ordinance

An Act to add new Chapter 250, Noise in Residential Areas, of the Code of Cecil County; to prohibit certain noises in certain areas during specified hours; to establish certain exceptions to this prohibition; to establish fines for violating this prohibition; and generally relating to noise.

The Bill was introduced and posted on August 17, 2021; and public hearing held and concluded on September 21, 2021; and schedule for final consideration on October 5, 2021.

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

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Amendment No. 01 to Bill No. 2021-12

Synopsis: To delete any noise restrictions during the daytime hours between 6am and 11pm.

Introduced by: Council President Meffley

Page 2, 11-16

On page 2, lines 11-16, delete in its entirety.

Amendment No. 02 to Bill No. 2021-12

Synopsis: To revise the civil fine for violations of the residential noise ordinance that will be charged for the first, second and third and subsequent violations.

Introduced by: Council President Meffley

On page 3, line 32, delete line 32 in its entirety and insert the following:

“(1) \$50 for the first violation”

On page 3, line 33, delete line 33 in its entirety and insert the following:

“(2) \$100 for the second violation”

On page 3, line 34 delete line 34 in its entirety and insert the following:

“(3) \$300 for the third violation and each subsequent violation”

Amendment No. 03 to Bill No. 2021-12

Synopsis: To revise the nighttime noise restriction to begin at 10pm instead of 11pm.

Introduced by: Vice President Gregory

On page 2, lines 5-6, delete “11:00 P.M. and insert “10:00 P.M.”

Vice President Gregory made a motion to approve Amendment Nos. 1, 2, and 3 to Bill No. 2021-12, which was seconded by Councilman Coutz.

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

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

Vice President Gregory made a motion to approve Bill No. 2021-12 As Amended, which was seconded by Councilman Coutz.

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 8:17 p.m.

Council President Meffley announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, October 19, 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.

Approved:



Robert Meffley
Council President

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager