

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2021-23
December 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
Al Miller, Council Member
Donna Culberson, 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 December 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.

OPENING PRAYER

Council Member Miller introduced Pastor Charles Rossiter from 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 December 7, 2021. Motion was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES

Councilman Miller presented a proclamation to Devon and Julie Price, in recognition of their gift of their 79-foot Norway spruce to be the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree.

Council Members recognized awardees from the Cecil County Sheriff's Office: Deputy First Class Ryan Stewart, Cecil County Sheriff's Office Deputy of 2019; Corporal Shelley Anne Craig Community Corrections Employee of 2019; First Class Richard Clayton, Cecil County Detention Center Employee of 2019; Senior Deputy First Class John Gray Weaver II, Cecil County Detention Center Employee of 2020; Deputy First Class Brian Bravo, Cecil County Sheriff's Office Deputy of 2020; and Deputy First Class David Paul Hager, Community Corrections Employee of 2020.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Redistricting Plan of 2021

Council Manager Massey provided comments. Ruie Lavoie, Election Director, commented on minimal impact to voters and minimal addition of cost. Councilman Coutz clarified that the

Commission's plan had the least financial impact of any of the plans considered by the Redistricting Commission.

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comments.

Joyce Bowlsbey, Elkton, commented in support of the plan.

Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, commented in opposition to the plan.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing and announced that the proposed redistricting plan becomes law on February 10, 2022, unless another redistricting plan is adopted by the Council by that date.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2021-15 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Roads and Bridges Capital Budget – Belvidere Road

A Bill to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, in order to appropriate expenditure authority within the Roads and Bridges Capital Projects Budget in the amount of \$750,000 from the General Fund – Assignment of Fund Balance.

The Bill was introduced on November 2, 2021, advertised on November 24, 2021 and December 1, 2021, and scheduled for public hearing on December 7, 2021.

James Appel, Finance Director, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

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

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing on Bill No. 2021-15 and announced that final consideration of this legislation will be held on December 21, 2021.

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 November 16, 2021. Motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Anna Maria Gorman, Elkton, commented on the public auction of properties in Indian Acres.

Tanya Emkey, Aberdeen, commented on the public auction of properties in Indian Acres.

Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, commented on Pearl Harbor Day, Union Hospital, and the Redistricting Commission.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Coutz thanked the audience for attending. He commended the law officers who were recognized at the Sheriff's Office awards banquet and thanked them for their service. He attended the North East Christmas parade and stated that it was the largest parade and crowd in memory.

He attended the Economic Development Commission and commented on the public library's exceptional career and business services. He reported on the Sheriff's Office intel meeting and voiced concerns for the continual high rate of drug related overdoses. He requested that the administration provide an accounting of Cares Act and American Rescue Plan Act funding. He asked Mr. Appel about an update of COVID expense plan that expired on December 30, 2020. Mr. Appel explained that the federal government had extended the plan through 2021. He also requested when the first quarter financial projections would be provided.

Vice President Gregory thanked the audience for attending and expressed her wishes that everyone had a nice Thanksgiving. She stated that it was a busy week of attending Cecilton's open house, North East's Christmas parade, Elkton's tree lighting, and Rising Sun's Extravaganza. She stated that Perryville's Christmas parade is this weekend. She stated that she would be attending the MACo conference. She stated that the General Assembly will approve a new congressional redistricting plan, which will likely be vetoed by Governor Hogan and the legislature will override.

Councilman Miller thanked the audience for attending and welcomed Councilwoman Culberson. He spoke to the Webelos about government. He participated in judging the North East Christmas parade. He attended the Rising Sun Extravaganza and Sheriff's Office awards banquet. He will be attending the Rising Sun Christmas caroling tonight.

Councilwoman Culberson stated that this was her first Council meeting and thanked Council Members and the audience for welcoming her. She participated in judging the North East Christmas parade. She said that she was looking forward to working with citizens and Council Members in solving problems.

Council President Meffley said that he hoped everyone had a nice Thanksgiving. He attended the Chesapeake City tree lighting and program. He attended the board meeting of the Department of Social Services and announced that additional board members are needed. He attended the Cecilton open house, Sheriff's Office awards banquet, North East Christmas parade, and Elkton's holiday party. He also attended the Elkton Rotary. He will be leaving for MACo winter conference tomorrow. He stated that he is sympathetic to the Indian Acres group but is unsure of any course of action to remedy the situation.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 59-2021 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Tourism – Winter Lights Cecil Nights

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 a total of \$10,000 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund- Office of Economic Development – Tourism, to record the grant awarded from the Upper Shore Regional Council, for the purpose of a "Winter Lights-Cecil Nights" Marketing Campaign in Cecil County.

James Appel, Finance Director, provided comments. Councilman Coutz stated that the event was well received and attracted visitors from outside the county.

Introduced, read first time and posted on December 7, 2021. This Resolution will be considered for approval on December 21, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, the Council President welcomed a group of Boys Scouts who were attending the session. They were introduced and questions asked.

The Council also recognized Hank Passi for his allegiance to the University of Maryland Terp teams.

On motion made by Vice President Gregory and seconded by Councilman Coutz. Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

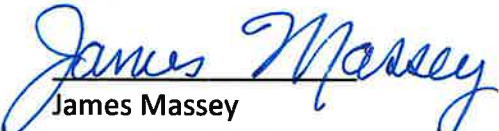
Council President Meffley announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building. The public may attend and participate. The legislative session will continue to be livestreamed in real time at 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.

Approved:



Robert Meffley
Council President

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager