

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2022-05
March 1, 2022

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 March 1, 2022, was called to order by Council President Meffley at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Council Member Miller introduced Pastor Steve Nissley of Mercy Baptist Church in North East, who led the opening prayer.

Council President Meffley asked for a moment of silence for the Ukrainian people and the vicious attacks and invasion that they are living through.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve the legislative agenda of March 1, 2022. Motion was approved unanimously.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Major General Robert Edmonson, Senior Commander at Aberdeen Proving Ground thanked Cecil County residents for their support of the army base and summarized the activities of his operations.

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 February 15, 2022. Motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marcus Webster, Elkton, representing Voices of Hope, commented on the mission of their organization as advocates.

Aaron Wright, Elkton, representing Voices of Hope, commented on their outreach to the community.

Jerah Griffith, Elkton, Voices of Hope, commented on her recovery and advocacy.

Tanya Emkey, Churchville, commented that the management at Indian Acres has not responded to her requests for information.

Dwayne Maeser, Edgewood, commented on President Zelenskyy's heroism in Ukraine and the Indian Acres management bullying owners.

Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, commented on county bonuses, General Edmonson, Hal Passi, and Al Reasin's contributions to Cecil County.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Culberson thanked the Voices of Hope speakers and commended them for their recovery. She attended the Cecil Pregnancy Center for the dedication of a new ultrasound machine.

Councilman Miller thanked the audience for attending. He attended the celebration of the Elkton Colored School, Museum and Cultural Center at Wright's AME Church. He attended the Elkton Alliance roast of Roger Owens. He attended Winter Nights, Cecil Lights in North East and thanked the Fair board for allowing use of their farm wagon for the tour.

Councilman Coutz thanked the Voices of Hope presenters, Tanya Emkey and Harold McCanick for their comments. He attended the celebration for the Elkton Colored School, Museum and Cultural Center. He attended the Planning Commission and commented on the Preston Farm that is being proposed for agricultural preservation. He attended the retirement of Sgt. Michael Smart from the Maryland State Police. He attended the ribbon cuttings for Harbor Freight and State Farm office. He also attended the Ice Splash that raises funds for Cecil County youth organizations. He attended a charity benefit at a hair salon to raise funds for a county child suffering from cancer. He also attended the Cecil Pregnancy Center for the dedication of a new ultrasound machine. He reported on the Sheriff's Office intel meeting that there were eight overdose incidents last week, including two fatalities.

Vice President Gregory thanked the audience for attending and their presentations. She participated in serving lunch at the Elkton Community Kitchen with the Republican Women's Club of Cecil County. She attended the Elkton Colored School, Museum and Cultural Center celebration and commented on its history and graduates. She also attended the Aberdeen Proving Ground New Years celebration. She attended the dedication of a new ultrasound machine at the Cecil Pregnancy Center with Congressman Harris.

Council President Meffley stated that he went to Savannah last week to attend a family wedding.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2022-02 Agricultural Land Preservation District – Marybeth and William Preston - Preston Farm

A Bill to approve the petition of Marybeth and William Preston for property located at 160 Spence Road, North East, MD 21901, (Acres 46.004, Election District 5, Tax Map 36, Grid 24, Parcels 153 and 577), requesting the establishment of an agricultural preservation district.

Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions. Councilman Coutz commented on the preservation program's value.

Introduced, read first time, order posted on March 1, 2022, and public hearing scheduled on April 5, 2022.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 08-2022 Requested Expedited Legislation – Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Solid Waste Management DPW – Agriculture Tire Collection

A Resolution, requested to be expedited, to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, to provide a total of \$87,500 to the Solid Waste Management Division – Department of Public Works, to record grant funding from the Maryland Environmental Service to be used to cover costs associated with conducting an agricultural tire collection event.

Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. He stated that the state program is scheduled on March 7-19, which is why the administration is asking for this legislation to be expedited.

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 08-2022 for expediting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

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

Council President Meffley stated that Resolution No. 08-2022 will be considered for approval later in the session.

Introduced, read first time, order posted on March 1, 2022, and approved for expedited consideration on March 1, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 09-2022 Supplemental Appropriation and Budget Transfer – Debt Service - Salaries and Fringe Benefits

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 \$2,815,266 to the General Fund-Salaries and Fringe Benefits 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 Salaries and Fringe Benefits Allocation.

Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, provided comments. Council questions and comments ensued.

Councilman Coutz clarified that the Sheriff's Department, both law enforcement and corrections, union employees and the non-union employees received the COLA. He clarified that COLAs were not given at the same time, but all COLAs were retroactive to the same date.

Council President Meffley clarified that each department received a minimum 6% COLA, some departments received bonuses and retention grants, some departments received step increases, and also raised the minimum wage for incoming dispatchers.

Introduced, read first time, order posted on March 1, 2022, and scheduled for consideration on March 15, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 10-2022: Appointment—Weed Control Advisory Board

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Monty Johnson, Jim Calao, Lane Heimer; and the appointment of Ryan Fisher, Kenneth Newcomb, Robert Weaver, Doris Behnke, and Charles Herzog to the Cecil County Weed Control Advisory Board for a one (1) year term, to expire March 15, 2023.

Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time, order posted on March 1, 2022, and scheduled for consideration on March 15, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 11-2022 Appointment—Adult Public Guardianship Review Board

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Erin Bird and E. Sean Poltrack to the Cecil County Adult Public Guardianship Review Board, for a three-year term to expire on March 15, 2025.

Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time, order posted on March 1, 2022, and scheduled for consideration on March 15, 2022.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 04-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – DPW Roads Division – Road Maintenance and Repair

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, to provide the Department of Public Works, Roads Division

budget within the General Fund expenditure appropriation authority to authorize \$3,000,000 to be expended for additional paving and patching of County roads.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on February 15, 2022, and scheduled for approval on March 1, 2022.

Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution No. 04-2022, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

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

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 05-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – The Bridge and Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center

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 \$55,000 to the Community Services Grants Fund – Department of Community Services, to record a grant awarded through the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence to The Bridge/Cecil County Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center to cover costs associated with personnel and staffing.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on February 15, 2022, and scheduled for approval on March 1, 2022.

Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Vice President Gregory made a motion to approve Resolution No. 05-2022, which was seconded by Councilman Coutz.

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

Resolution No. 06-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Trauma and Substance Use

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 \$1,295,121 to the Community Services Grants Fund – Department of Community Services, to record two 3-year grant awards, which includes \$533,057 from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), and \$762,064 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, in order to address trauma and substance use in Cecil County.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on February 15, 2022, and scheduled for approval on March 1, 2022.

Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Vice President Gregory made a motion to approve Resolution No. 06-2022, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

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

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 08-2022 Requested Expedited Legislation – Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Solid Waste Management DPW – Agriculture Tire Collection

A Resolution, requested to be expedited, to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, to provide a total of \$87,500 to the Solid Waste Management Division – Department of Public Works, to record grant funding from the Maryland Environmental Service to be used to cover costs associated with conducting an agricultural tire collection event.

Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution No. 08-2022. The motion was seconded by Councilman Coutz.

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

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Vice President Gregory, seconded by Councilman Coutz, Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Council President Meffley announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 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