

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2022-06
March 15, 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:

Jackie Gregory, Vice President
William H. Coutz, Council Member
Al Miller, Council Member
Donna Culberson, Council Member
Absent: Robert Meffley, Council President

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 15, 2022, was called to order by Vice President Gregory at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Council Member Miller introduced Pastor Steve Dixon of Porters Grove Baptist Church in Conowingo, who led the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the legislative agenda of March 15, 2022. Motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2022-01 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Health Department – Roof Replacement

A Bill to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, to appropriate expenditure authority within the Health Department Roof Capital Projects Budget in the amount of \$30,000 from the fund balance.

The Bill was introduced on February 15, 2022, advertised on March 2, 2022 and March 9, 2022; and scheduled for public hearing on March 15, 2022.

James Appel, Finance Director, offered to answer any questions. Councilman Coutz clarified additional funds were needed because of the increased cost of building materials.

Vice President Gregory opened the public hearing for public comments.
Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, commented in support of this legislation.

Vice President Gregory concluded the public hearing and announced that Bill No. 2022-01 will be considered for approval at the next legislative session on April 5, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 07-2022 Approval – Application – Enterprise Zone Expansion

A Resolution to expand the existing Cecil County Enterprise Zone by 391.86 acres, more or less.

The Bill was introduced on February 15, 2022, advertised on March 2, 2022 and March 9, 2022; and scheduled for public hearing on March 15, 2022.

Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. Councilman Coutz clarified that the county's tax credit portion and reimbursement from the State.

Vice President Gregory opened the public hearing for public comments.

Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, commented in support of this legislation specifically for Northrop Grumman.

Vice President Gregory concluded the public hearing and announced that Resolution No. 07-2022 will be considered for approval at the next legislative session on April 5, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of March 1, 2022. Motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Heidi Gaultney, Elkton, commented on her concern over the budget and expenses.

Tanya Emkey, Churchville, commented that the County has given no response to her requests for information.

Christopher Abernethy, Chesapeake City, commented that the Cecil County Board of Education has denied him entrance or speaking at their board meetings.

Jennifer Adams, Elkton, commented on discrimination practiced by the Cecil County Board of Education.

Sandra Ward, Elkton, commented against the Cecil County Board of Education regarding their practices and leaving parents out of certain decisions.

Lisa Conley, Edgewood, commented that she was opposed to many of the school board policies and procedures.

Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, commented on comments made by Ms. Gaultney.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Culberson thanked the audience for attending and providing their comments. She toured the Voices of Hope and commended the organization for their services to alcoholic and opioid addicts. She toured the North East Library and commented on the programs for all ages and their community involvement of youth.

Councilman Miller thanked the audience for attending. He clarified that there is only one Cecil County farm that has avian flu but cautioned other chicken growers of the spread of this disease. He attended the A Taste of Maryland Agriculture dinner held at the Live casino in Hanover and commented on its success. He attended North East Elementary School and read to children as part of National Education Week. He participated in the Rooted in our Community program that was sponsored by the Economic Development Agriculture Office. He attended 4H Achievement Night and congratulated the participants. He served as judge for the Drugfree Cecil Science Fair for the School of Technology Future Farmers of America.

Councilman Coutz thanked the audience for attending. He participated in Leaders for Readers at North East Elementary School during National Education Week. He attended the Arrow of Light ceremony and congratulated the boys and girls who were being promoted to Scouting. He reported on statistics from the Sheriff's Office Intel meeting and commented on a significant increase in overdose incidents and fatalities. He expressed his hope that the recent opioid drug manufacturers settlement will provide funding for local prevention and treatment programs.

Vice President Gregory participated in Readers for Leaders at the North East Elementary School. She attended an agriculture symposium on the effects of COVID on ag business. She attended Red Scarf Day in Annapolis with the Women's Republican Club. She participated in a health assessment survey of needs at Union Hospital. She attended the Early Childhood Education Committee and commented on Thrive through Five program for children experiencing trauma and mental health issues. She attended a drug prevention program, sponsored by Drug Free Cecil and Youth Empowerment Source, with the faith-based community.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 12-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Parks and Recreation – Elkton High School Stadium and Field.

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 \$1,100,000 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund- Parks and Recreation, to record a grant awarded from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to be used to renovate the stadium and field at Elkton High School.

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

Introduced, read first time, order posted on March 15, 2022, and scheduled for consideration on April 5, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 13-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Parks and Recreation – Pickle Ball Court and Sensory Playground

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 \$400,000 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund- Parks and Recreation to record the grant awarded from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, to be used to improve the quality of parks and recreation in Cecil County by constructing a pickle ball court at Cecil Arena (\$160,000) and a sensory playground at Calvert Regional Park (\$240,000).

James Appel, Finance Director, provided comments. Councilman Coutz clarified that installation is scheduled in the spring.

Introduced, read first time, order posted on March 15, 2022, and scheduled for consideration on April 5, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 14-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Older Americans Act Activities.

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 \$323,991 to the Community Services Grants Fund – Department of Community Services, to record a 3-year grant awarded through the Maryland Department of Aging to carry out activities under the Older Americans Act of 1965.

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

Introduced, read first time, order posted on March 15, 2022, and scheduled for consideration on April 5, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 15-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Emergency Rental and utility Assistance

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 \$4,783,126 to the Emergency Shelter Grants Fund – Department of Community Services; to record a grant awarded by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, for the purpose of providing emergency rental and utility assistance, other housing-related services and administrative support.

James Appel, Finance Director, provided comments. Councilman Miller clarified that 10% of the grant could be used for administration of program.

Introduced, read first time, order posted on March 15, 2022, and scheduled for consideration on April 5, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 16-2022 Supplemental Appropriation and Budget Transfer –Community Services Foundation –Animal Services

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 \$40,000 to the Foundation Funds – Department of Community Services; to record a transfer of funds between the Community Services Foundation of Cecil County Inc., and Cecil County, Maryland – Dept of Community Services – Cecil County Animal Services.

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

Introduced, read first time, order posted on March 15, 2022, and scheduled for consideration on April 5, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 17-2022 Appointment—Adult Public Guardianship Review Board

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Lisa Beeman, Mary Falkenstein, Shelly Gullede Sawyer, Stacy Kortas, Michael-Anne Mundy and Nancy Reasin to the Cecil County Adult Public Guardianship Review Board, for a three-year term to expire on April 1, 2025.

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

Introduced, read first time, order posted on March 15, 2022, and scheduled for consideration on April 5, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 18-2022 Appointment—Board of Parks and Recreation

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Matthew Morris and Bernard Brown III, to the Board of Parks and Recreation for a three (3) year-term to expire April 1, 2025.

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

Introduced, read first time, order posted on March 15, 2022, and scheduled for consideration on April 5, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 19-2022 Appointment—Human Services Agency

A Resolution to confirm the reappointments by the County Executive of Matthew Barrett, Suanne Blumberg, Shelly Gullede Sawyer, Betty Johnson, Morgan Miller, and George Stanko and to appoint Sharon Kurfuerst, John Roush, John Shitama and Stephen Yates, to the Human Services Agency, also known as Local Management Board, to a four-year term, to expire on April 1, 2026.

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

Introduced, read first time, order posted on March 15, 2022, and scheduled for consideration on April 5, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 20-2022 Appointment—Economic Development Commission – Jeffrey Emmons

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Jeffrey Emmons to the Economic Development Commission, for a three (3) year term, to expire April 1, 2025.

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

Introduced, read first time, order posted on March 15, 2022, and scheduled for consideration on April 5, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 21-2022 Appointment—Commission for Women

A Resolution to confirm the County Executive's appointment of Sheila Murphy, Kathleen Kennedy, Casie Goins, and Annette Brown to the Commission for Woman for a three (3) year term to expire April 5, 2025; and appointment of Tammy Perkins for a two (2) year term to expire on April 5, 2024.

Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. Councilwoman Culberson clarified that this commission has not be active since 2011.

Introduced, read first time, order posted on March 15, 2022, and scheduled for consideration on April 5, 2022.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

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 because 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.

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

Lawrence Scott, County Attorney, provided comments. Councilman Coutz questioned the origin of the funds and how the increases were given. He also questioned why the funds were not taken from the fund balance. Councilman Miller questioned why the Sheriff's Office received a smaller amount per employee than other departments. Mr. Scott responded to their questions.

Councilman Miller made a motion to table consideration. There motion died for lack of a second.

Councilman Coutz stated that Mr. Scott stated that the county would be okay with current funding until the end of May during the work session. Vice President Gregory stated that the savings in refinancing bonds is within the operating budget and the salaries and benefit increases are in the same operating budget. Councilman Miller objected that the term of the bond refinancing was 30 years, instead of 20 years, which will result in paying more. Mr. Scott stated that the interest rate was so low that the bond counsel advised that the term be extended to 30 years. Councilwoman Culberson stated that Council President Meffley had committed to the increase in salaries last November.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 09-2022, which was seconded by Vice President Gregory.

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-N, Miller-N, Culberson-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-A
The motion failed by a vote of 2 to 2. Councilman Coutz and Councilman Miller were opposed. Council President Meffley was absent.

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.

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

Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. He stated that there will be two additional nominees for reappointment who had failed to submit their application. There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution No. 10-2022, which was seconded by Councilman Coutz.

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Culberson-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-A
The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0. Council President Meffley was absent.

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.

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

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

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve Resolution No. 11-2022, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Roll Call Vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Culberson-Y, Gregory-Y, Meffley-A

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0. Council President Meffley was absent.

NEW BUSINESS

Cecil County Public Schools – Budget Amendment #96

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #96, in the amount of \$352,198 for February 2022, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

The Council approved the motion by voice vote of 4 to 0. Council President Meffley was absent.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilman Miller, Vice President Gregory adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

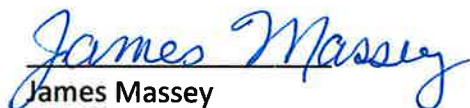
Council Vice President Gregory announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building. The public may attend and participate. The legislative session will continue to be livestreamed in real time at 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