

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2023-06
March 21, 2023**

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, Council President
Robert Meffley, Vice President
Rebecca Hamilton, 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 21, 2023, was called to order by Council President Gregory at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Councilman Miller introduction Pastor Robert Tucker from Five Rivers Church in Elkton who gave the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley, the Council moved to approve the legislative agenda of March 21, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS

Council President Gregory noted that March is Endometriosis Month and introduced Shannon Hannawald of the Endo Warriors of the Eastern Shore. Councilwoman Culberson presented the proclamation and Ms. Hannawald gave a brief presentation on endometriosis and its treatment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of March 7, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jonathon Peery of Elkton noted the need to hire and fund pay increases for detention center employees.

David Trauffer of North East commented on the school budget and the need for additional funding.

Scott Carlson of Elk Neck thanked Public Works for some recent tree trimming and noted disappointment in the Parks and Recreation's decision to remove the swing set at the Elk River Park and the overall lack of maintenance at County parks.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice President Meffley noted he attended the By-Way Alliance Meeting in Galena which gave a presentation on the proposed rebranding of Route 213. The alliance would like to direct more tourism to the Towns and he noted that both agriculture and water features are important for tourism. He also attended the St. Patty's Day Parade in Chesapeake City on March 18. He also attended the Bainbridge Development Corporation Meeting on March 20 and noted that the first warehouses were nearing completion.

Councilwoman Hamilton noted the Drug Free Cecil Youth Coalition Rally on Fighting Drug Addition is on April 3rd and all 5 high schools will be presenting the drug free advertisements they created. She also noted on April 15 the Cecil Pregnancy Center Walking in Faith Event will be at the Chesapeake Inn Ballroom.

Councilman Miller noted he met with Michelle Cooper from the Franklin Graham organization and noted that they are seeking volunteers to assist with the event on May 2. He also noted that the Secretary of Agriculture Kevin Atticks toured Cecil County on March 20 and thanked York Building Products for sponsoring the lunch with the Secretary. He also noted Secretary Atticks attended the Farm Bureau meeting that evening. He noted the Farm Bureau Banquet is March 25.

Councilwoman Culberson gave the Intel Report for the previous week. She also will be participating in the Principal for the Day event at two elementary schools.

Council President Gregory noted she attended Drug Court graduation on March 3 and that 3 people successfully completed the program. She also attended the St. Patty's Day Parade in Chesapeake City on March 18. She noted the upcoming Adopt a Pig Fund Raiser to help battle kids cancer. She also noted that MACo last legislative meeting for this session is on March 22 and she would be attending.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Bill No. 2023-03 Agricultural Land Preservation District- Estate of Joan McKeown, John McKeown, Jr.

A Bill to approve the petition for Estate of Joan McKeown, John McKeown, Jr. property located at 20 Blair Shore Road, Elkton, MD. 21921, (Acreage 108.032, Election District 2, Tax Map 38, Grid 14, Parcels 269, 442 and 472), requesting the establishment of an agricultural preservation district.

Introduced and order posted on March 21, 2023 with a Public Hearing on April 18, 2023 at 7:00 pm and consideration scheduled on May 9, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted the support to preserve farms and green space and that this district will be over 500 acres once these parcels are added. Councilwoman Culberson

inquired if this was a permanent easement and Director Overbay noted that this is adding to the district and the development rights would still need to be purchased for permanent preservation. Councilman Miller noted the district is good for 5 years and the owner could bid the development rights to the State for purchase. Director Overbay also noted that once the rights are purchased you cannot buy them back but the land could be sold. President Gregory asked if they received tax credit and Director Overbay noted they would just continue to receive the ag assessment.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution No. 16-2023 – Sheriff of Cecil County – Salary

A Resolution to adjust the salary of the Sheriff of Cecil County beginning in Fiscal Year 2024.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on March 21, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on April 4, 2023.

President Gregory noted that in 2016 HB0816 gave Council the authority to adjust the pay for the Office of Sheriff. Councilman Miller asked if this would be shown in the FY24 Budget and Director Overbay noted that, if passed, it would.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 17-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance – Additional Utility Funding – Facility Management - Budget Amendment

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$79,000 from the General Fund Balance to Facility Management to mitigate higher than budgeted electricity costs.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on March 21, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on April 4, 2023.

Director Overbay noted that the cost of electricity has gone up during this fiscal year and this would cover the cost for the remainder of FY23.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution No. 18-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Office of Economic Development – MARBIDCO Matching Grant

A resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 in order to provide a total of \$32,000 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund- Office of Economic Development to record the cost share grant awarded from the Maryland Agricultural & Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) for the purpose of matching funds towards the Micro Ag-Grant program in Cecil County.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on March 21, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on April 4, 2023.

Director Overbay noted the value of this grant program for the micro ag program. Councilman Miller noted that 18 grants were awarded this year.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution No. 19-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Economic Development – Upper Shore Regional Council – Agricultural Microgrant Program

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for fiscal year ending June 30, 202, in order to provide a total of \$33,000 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund – Office of Economic Development, in order to record the grant awarded from the Upper Shore Regional Council, for the purpose of an Agriculture Microgrant Program in Cecil County.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on March 21, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on April 4, 2023.

Director Overbay noted this is a grant from Upper Shore Regional Council to match the MARBIDCO grant. Councilwoman Culberson inquired if these were competitive grants with Economic Development and Director Overbay noted they were both competitive and had matching funds.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution No. 20-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Human Services Division – Domestic Violence/Child Advocacy Center

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, in order to provide a total of \$40,304 to the Community Services Grants Fund – Department of Community Services, to record a Regional Navigators Crime Victim Assistance Grant awarded from the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victims Services to supplement efforts in responding to human trafficking in Cecil County.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on March 21, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on April 4, 2023.

Director Overbay noted this grant will help Community Service to train staff and assist victims of human trafficking.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution No. 21-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance – Motor Vehicle Internal Service Fund – Budget Amendment

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, in the amount totaling \$530,000 from the General Fund Balance to the Motor Vehicle Internal Service Fund. The repairs and maintenance budget was reduced for anticipated cost savings from the Enterprise contract; however, due to the supply chain issues, Enterprise was not able to provide new vehicles and the anticipated savings were not realized.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on March 21, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on April 4, 2023.

Director Overbay noted that the lease program will continue but the program did not realize the projected savings this year because new vehicles were unavailable to replace older vehicles. He also noted the Annual Comprehensive Final Report did assign fund balance for the purchase of new vehicles to allow the ability to purchase instead of lease if that becomes more cost effective. Vice President Meffley asked what percent is set for maintenance and Director of Finance Shon McCollum indicated 10%. Councilman Miller stated that the documents indicate 16% for maintenance. Vice President Meffley opined that this lease should be cancelled and alternatives sought. President Gregory asked why did maintenance go up this much and Director Overbay indicated that the age of the vehicles have increased costs. He also noted that Enterprise does the vehicle maintenance and First Vehicle Service does the heavy equipment maintenance. Councilman Miller and Vice President Meffley both noted the county maintenance shop and employees may have been more cost efficient than the current operation model. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if the current cost were as high when we had new vehicles and Director Overbay noted it was about \$200,000 less with new vehicles and expects the same savings when new vehicles are available.

CONSIDERTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution No. 12-2023- Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Department of Public Works – Roads Division – Lighting Improvement Southern Yard

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, in order to provide a total of \$10,681 to the Special Revenue other Grants, Department of Public Works, Roads Division, to record a grant awarded from Delmarva Power for lighting improvements at the Southern Yard.

This Resolution was introduced on March 7, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on March 21, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay thanked DELMARVA Power for the grant.

There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 12-2023, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Miller -Y, Culberson – Y, Meffley – Y, Gregory- Y
The motion was approved unanimously.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution No. 13-2023 - Budget Amendment – Special Revenue Other Grants – Grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Waterway Improvement Funding – Parks and Recreation

A resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, to provide a total of \$2,196,750 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund- Parks and Recreation to record the grant awarded from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Water Way Improvement to be used for the Engineering, Inspection, and Construction of the Stoney Run, Route7, DMP site (\$2,196,750).

This Resolution was introduced on March 7, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on March 21, 2023.

Director of Administration Steve Overbay noted that this grant was for the dredge spoil site for the North East River project. The dredge site will be prepared this spring and summer and the Army Corps of Engineers will be dredging in December and January to minimize environmental concerns.

There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 13-2023, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Miller -Y, Culberson – Y, Meffley – Y, Gregory- Y
The motion was approved unanimously.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution No. 14-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – Parks and Recreation – Program Revenue and Self-Funded Program Expense.

A resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, in order to increase revenue and offsetting expenses by \$25,000 for Cecil County Parks and Recreation.

This Resolution was introduced on March 7, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on March 21, 2023.

Director of Administration noted that this is to cover additional costs of programs and that the costs are offset by fees charged for the programs.

There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Resolution 14-2023, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Miller -Y, Culberson – Y, Meffley – Y, Gregory- Y
The motion was approved unanimously.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution No. 15-2023 – Reappointment - Board of Appeals – Mark Saunders

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment of Mark Saunders to the Cecil County Board of Appeals for a three-year term to expire on August 6, 2025.

This Resolution was introduced on March 7, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on March 21, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that Mr. Saunders is being reappointed and has been doing an excellent job on this board.

There were no Council questions or comments.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Resolution 15-2023, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Miller -Y, Culberson – Y, Meffley – Y, Gregory- Y
The motion was approved unanimously.

CALL FOR FINAL READING OF BILLS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

- a. Bill No. 2023-01- Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance to Capital Projects – Renovate State’s Attorneys Offices.

A Bill to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, to move expenditure authority from the fund balance to the Capital Projects - Renovate State’s Attorneys Offices capital project in the amount of \$250,000.

Director Overbay noted that the funding would cover the needed improvements for the State’s Attorney office project at the courthouse. Of note, \$135,000 is to cover the remainder of the contract, \$30,000 would be for inspection and engineering services and \$85,000 is for contingency items. The improvements will include upgrades to HVAC and electrical systems.

There were no Council questions or comments

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Bill 2023-01, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley.

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

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Cecil County Public Schools – Budget Amendment #108

President Gregory noted the Budget Amendment was for \$97,939 for February.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #108 in the amount of \$97,939 for February expenses. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson. The motion was approved by voice vote of 5 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley, Council President Gregory adjourned the meeting at 8:09 pm.

Council President Gregory announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building. The legislative session will be livestreamed 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:



Jackie Gregory
Council President

Attest:



David M. Culver
Council Manager