

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2023-07
April 4, 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 April 4, 2023, was called to order by Council President Gregory at 7:02 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Councilman Miller introduced Pastor Karen Bunnell from Elkton United Methodist 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 April 4, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Wendy Holler of Rising Sun spoke for the need to provide more funding for schools.

Sean Brim of North East spoke for the need to provide more funding for schools.

Jordan Seguin of Elkton spoke for the need to provide more funding for schools.

Harold McCanick spoke to the need to lower taxes and First Amendment rights.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Hamilton noted she was Principal for the Day at Elkton High School on March 20 and noted that Elkton High is starting a museum on its history and requested anyone who would like to

donate memorabilia to contact the school. She also attended a meeting with Secretary of Housing and Community Development Jake Day and State Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Woods on April 3 and discussed the issue of homeless veterans. She also attended the Drug Free Cecil Youth Coalition Rally on Fighting Drug Addition on April 3 and noted all 5 high schools were very impressive in presenting the drug free advertisements they created.

Councilman Miller noted he attended the LEEDS event in Rising Sun that reviewed best practices for farm animal waste and renewable energy. On April 1 he attended the Cecilton Fire Company banquet. He also attended the Drug Free Cecil Youth Coalition Rally on Fighting Drug Addition on April 3 and noted the outstanding presentations by the 5 high schools.

Vice President Meffley noted he was Principal for the Day at Chesapeake City Elementary. He also attended the Town of Chesapeake City Comprehensive Plan Meeting. On March 31 he attended the Elkton Little League parade. He noted the CASA kickball fundraiser was moved because of weather. He also attended the Cecilton Fire Company banquet on April 1. He also noted the Elkton Rotary is planning its 100th anniversary celebration and is sponsoring a fishing derby on May 6.

Councilwoman Culberson gave the Intel Report for the previous week. She also attended the meeting with Secretary Day and Secretary Woods on how to further assist homeless veterans. On March 29 she was Principal for the Day at Gilpin Manor Elementary and on March 31 at Perryville Elementary.

Council President Gregory noted she was Principal for the Day at North East Middle School. She also attended the Cecilton Fire Company banquet on April 1. She also attended the Drug Free Cecil Youth Coalition Rally on Fighting Drug Addition on April 3 and noted the large number of students that participated in the event and the outstanding presentations.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Bill No. 2023-04 Capital Improvement Program FY2024-2028

A Bill to approve the Capital Improvement Program for Cecil County for Fiscal Years 2024 through 2028.

Introduced and order posted on April 4, 2023 with a Public Hearing on May 18, 2023 at 7:00 pm and consideration scheduled on June 6, 2023.

Director of Finance Shon McCollum noted that this is the bill for the FY24-28 Capital Budget and th. will set the projects the County will undertake during these years.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Bill No. 2023-05 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance - FY 2024

A Bill to adopt the County Budget including the Current Expense Budget, Capital Budget, Special Purpose Budgets and Grants Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and to appropriate funds for all expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023.

Introduced and order posted on April 4, 2023 with a Public Hearing on May 18, 2023 at 7:00 pm and consideration scheduled on June 6, 2023.

Director of Finance Shon McCollum noted that this is the bill for the FY24 Annual Budget and this will be discussed over the next several weeks at the budget meetings.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Bill No. 2023-06 Authorization of Lease Purchase Equipment Financing

A Bill authorizing and empowering Cecil County, Maryland to enter into new financing under a lease purchase agreement or similar arrangement in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000) for Fiscal Year 2024 for the purpose of financing the acquisition of certain necessary and essential vehicles and equipment for use in the County's governmental programs; providing that the obligations of the County under the agreement shall not be a general obligation of the County, shall not constitute a pledge of the full faith and credit or the taxing power of the County and shall not constitute a debt of the County within the meaning of any statutory or constitutional provision, but shall be subject to appropriation in each and every fiscal year during the term of the agreement; empowering the County Executive to execute and deliver an executive order prior to the execution and delivery of the agreement in order to award the agreement to the successful bidder and to fix, prescribe and determine the details of such financing; and relating generally to such financing.

Introduced and order posted on April 4, 2023 with a Public Hearing on May 18, 2023 at 7:00 pm and consideration scheduled on June 6, 2023.

Director of Finance Shon McCollum noted that this bill is for the FY24 Annual Budget lease programs. This program includes vehicles, heavy equipment as well as copiers and other leased items.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution No. 22-2023 – Reappointment and Appointment– Weed Control Advisory Board

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Robert Weaver, Jim Calao, Charles Herzog, Kenneth Newcomb, Doris Behnke, Ryan Fisher, Carroll Michael Scheeler, William Ewing, Jessica Edge, Scott Heaps, for a one (1) year term, to expire April 19, 2024 and to confirm the appointment of John Fabian, for a one (1) year term, to expire April 19, 2024 to the Cecil County Weed Control Advisory Board.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on April 4, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on April 18, 2023.

Council Manager Culver noted that Director of Administration Steven Overbay requested that the resolution reflect that all members will expire on April 19, 2024 and that the introduced version of the bill reflected that change. Director Overbay noted that the County was able to hire a licensed weed control employee that has many years of experience in the program. Councilman Miller noted that the terms could be longer than 1 year and suggested making them 3 or 4 years. Director Overbay noted that he would review this with the County Executive. Councilwoman Culberson verified the appointment date of April 19 and Director Overbay confirmed this date.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution No. 23-2023 - Adoption - Real Property and Personal Property Tax Rates - Fiscal Year 2024

A Resolution to levy and impose a property and income tax for the fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024; setting the tax rates for property and providing for the collection of the property tax.

Introduced and order posted on April 4, 2023 with a Public Hearing on May 18, 2023 at 7:00 pm and consideration scheduled on June 6, 2023.

Council Manager Culver noted that this is the companion resolution to the Budget bills to set the tax rates and will be advertised as part of the May 18 Public Hearing. Director of Finance Shon McCollum confirmed that this resolution will set the property tax, personal income tax and personal property and operating real property (business) tax, as well as the Winding Brook Special Taxing District for the FY24 Annual Budget.

CONSIDERATION 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.

This Resolution was introduced on March 21, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on April 4, 2023.

There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 16-2023, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

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 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.

This Resolution was introduced 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. Councilman Miller inquired as to the credit on the solar panels. County Attorney Scott noted that the panels adjacent to the government center building do not belong to the County and the land is leased. Councilwoman Hamilton asked who the lessee is and is the energy just being sold to the power grid. Attorney Scott will review the lease and how the electricity is consumed by either the grid or County.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Resolution 17-2023, 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. 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.

This Resolution was introduced 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 thanked the Economic Development staff who work on this program.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 18-2023, 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. 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, 2023, 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.

This Resolution was introduced on March 21, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on April 4, 2023.

Director Overbay noted this is the Upper Shore Regional Council grant to match the MARBIDCO grant for the micro-ag program.

There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 19-2023, 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.

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.

This Resolution was introduced on March 21, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on April 4, 2023.

Director Overbay noted this grant will help Community Services to train staff and assist victims of human trafficking and thanked the Community Services staff for getting this grant.

There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 20-2023, 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.

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.

This Resolution was introduced on March 21, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on April 4, 2023.

Director Overbay noted that these funds will provide for the maintenance payments through FY23.

There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 21-2023, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

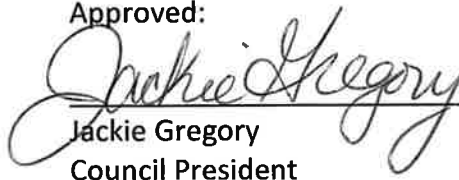
Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Miller -Y, Culberson – Y, Meffley – Y, Gregory- Y
The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley, Council President Gregory adjourned the meeting at 8:01 pm.

Council President Gregory announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, April 18, 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