

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2023-08
April 18, 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 7:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Councilman Miller introduction Pastor Steve Nissley from Mercy Missionary Baptist Church in North East 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 18, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

Bill No. 2023-03- Agricultural Land Preservation District-Estate of Joan McKeown, John McKeown, Jr. (introduced 3/21/23, consideration 5/9/23)

Director of Land Use and Development Services Stephen O'Connor reviewed the criteria for the district. He noted that the property is located at 20 Blair Shore Road in Elkton and consists of 108.032 +/- acres and is contiguous to other preservation districts.

Rob McKeown of Elkton spoke in favor of the easement and noted he wants to preserve farmland. Jenny McKeown Rossiter of Elkton also spoke in favor of preserving farmland. Harold McCanick of Elk Neck spoke in opposition to preservation and tax breaks for farmland.

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 April 4, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Phyllis Kilby of Colora spoke about the need to provide more funding for schools.
Sean Brimm of North East spoke for the need to provide more funding for schools.
Lacey Zelino of North East spoke for the need to provide more funding for schools.
Kelly Griffin on 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 McCannick of Elk Neck stated he supports the budget as submitted.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Culberson gave the Intel Report for the previous two weeks. She noted that she attended the meeting with U.S. Senator Ben Cardin on April 14. She also attended the Cecil Pregnancy and Resource Center Gala in Chesapeake City and the Chamber of Commerce picnic on April 14. She also received an update from the Commission on Aging on ongoing activities.

Councilman Miller noted he attended the Cecil County Fair Board meeting on April 13. He also participated in the Rising Sun Little League Parade on April 15. He attended the Point-to-Point Race at Mt. Harmon on April 15. He also noted he attended the Farm Bureau meeting on April 17.

Vice President Meffley noted he also attended the Meeting with Senator Cardin and discussed the potential walking trail on the south side of the C&D Canal, the potential dredging behind the Conowingo Dam, funding for Title 1 schools and other education funding issues. He also attended Chesapeake City Little League opening day and the Chamber Picnic. He noted at the last Bainbridge Meeting that Phase 1 was done except landscaping. He also noted they are examining the possibilities for the Tome School preservation or reuse of the material from the school. He also noted the upcoming Rotary Club fishing rodeo in Elkton.

Councilwoman Hamilton noted she attended the training meeting at the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church for the upcoming Franklin Graham event at Fair Hill on May 2. She also noted she attended the meeting with Senator Cardin on April 14. On April 15 she attended the Cecil County Farm Museum seminar on the history of baseball in Cecil County. She also attended the Cecil Pregnancy and Resource Center Gala on April 14. She encouraged everybody to attend the May 5 opening of the Cecil Arts Council and Upper Bay Counseling "Expression of Healing" event as well as the North East Chamber "Race for the Roses" event on May 6 at the North East Library.

Council President Gregory noted she also attended the Rising Sun Little League Parade on April 15. She also attended the meeting with Senator Cardin and noted the discussion on the proposed Chesapeake Bay Natural Area and concerns of the watermen with this designation, the Conowingo Dam issues with Exelon, Army Corps and Maryland Department of the Environment, funding for education and federal regulations on hemp and cannabis. She attended the Lower Cecil County Senior meeting on April 18. She noted on April 22 the County will be doing a trash pickup along Belle Hill Road and Irishtown Road.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Bill No. 2023-07 Amend Critical Area Map Program – Summary Draft Maps

A Bill to adopt the Critical Area Maps Program by approving all elements of the summary draft map including, the shoreline and landward boundary of tidal wetlands, the digitally generated and georeferenced Critical Area 1,000-foot boundary line; and Critical Area classifications of all areas newly included in the Critical Area.

Introduced and order posted on April 18, 2023 with a Public Hearing on May 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm and consideration scheduled on May 16, 2023.

Director of Land Use and Development Service Stephen O'Connor gave an overview of the Critical Area program and discussed the revised maps.

President Gregory inquired if the maps were on the County website and Director O'Connor noted that the system links to the maps on the state website. Councilwoman Hamilton inquire if the amount of land in the Critical Area increased or decreased, and Director O'Connor noted in did both depending on the area. President Gregory inquired as to how often the maps were revised and Director O'Connor noted this was the first revision since 1984. Council Manager Culver noted that Council will be approving the draft maps and the Critical Area Commission would then give the maps the final approval and that the maps are not effective until Critical Area Commission approval.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution No. 24-2023 – Appointment – Commission on Aging – Randall Schwandt, Matthew Lowder, Christine Gehris

A Resolution to confirm the County Executive's appointment Randall Schwandt, Matthew Lowder, Christine Gehris to the Cecil County Commission on Aging, to fill vacant three-year terms that will each expire on May 2, 2026.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on April 18, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on May 9, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that these nominations are highly qualified and some serve on multiple boards. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if out of state people are allowed to serve on the Board and Director Overbay noted that in some cases they are either required subject experts in the field or employees of the County and can serve.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution No. 25-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Department of Public Works – Wastewater Division – Maryland Department of the Environment – Bay Restoration Fund Operation & Maintenance Grants

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 \$105,829 to the Special Revenue

Other Grants Fund – Department of Public Works, Wastewater Division, in order to record the grant awarded from the Maryland Department of the Environment, for the purpose of a Bay Restoration Fund, Operation & Maintenance Grants.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on April 18, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on May 9, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that this grant will assist in the upgrade of the wastewater plants to remove nitrogen at North East River, Port Deposit and Harborview.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution No. 26-2023 - Enterprise Zone – Re-designate

A Resolution to re-designate the existing Cecil County Enterprise Zone for an additional 10 years. The Enterprise Zone provides real property and income tax credits to businesses located within the designated geographic area. The proposed Zone is comprised of 8,140+/- acres.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on April 18, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on May 9, 2023.

Economic Development Manager Sandra Edwards gave an overview of the Enterprise Zones, benefits, location and the 10-year renewal process. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired to the original acreage and the expansion of the zone. Director Overbay and Manager Edwards noted no expansion is being proposed, but since 2013 it has expanded from 6,865 acres to the current 8,140 acres. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired is other acreage is available and Director Overbay noted the zone could expand in the future but currently has sufficient development capabilities. Councilwoman Hamilton also inquired as to the priority funding areas and Director Overbay noted they are set with State Planning. Councilman Miller noted that the enterprise zones do help to keep pressure from development in the agricultural areas. President Gregory inquired if the zones remain in place after 10 years if it is developed and Director Overbay noted that it does and that further investments, such as the type that is ongoing at the Northrop Grumman site, would qualify for the benefits of the zone. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if all jobs created qualified for the tax benefits and Manager Edwards noted that different credits are granted to different job types.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 27-2023 – Appointment – Board of Library Trustees – Alexandra Gilbert

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Alexandra Gilbert to the Board of Library Trustees, replacing Phyllis Kilby, to a five-year term that will expire on May 31, 2028.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on April 18, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on May 9, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that Library Director Morgan Miller highly recommended Ms. Gilbert to the County Executive.

CONSIDERATION 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, for a one (1) year term, to expire March 15, 2024, 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 March 15, 2024 to the Cecil County Weed Control Advisory Board.

This resolution was introduced on April 4, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on April 18, 2023. Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that they did hire an experienced weed control agent and that the members of the Board are highly qualified.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 22-2023, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Cecil County Public Schools – Budget Amendment #109

President Gregory noted the Budget Amendment was for \$171,538 for March was discussed at the Board of Education Meeting.

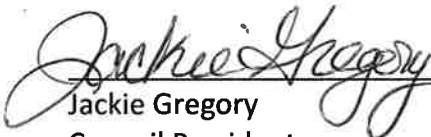
Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #109 in the amount of \$171,538 for March expenses. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton. The motion was approved by voice vote of 5 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley, Council President Gregory adjourned the meeting at 8:28 pm.

Council President Gregory announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, May 9, 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