

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2023-09
May 9, 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 May 9, 2023, was called to order by Council President Gregory at 7:14 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Councilman Miller introduced Pastor Charles Finney from Calvary Baptist Church in Rising Sun who gave the opening prayer.
President Gregory asked for a moment of silence for Jasper Bryant from our Facilities Department who passed away on April 30.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley, the Council moved to approve the legislative agenda of May 9, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS

President Gregory noted that May is National Foster Care Month and we will be honoring the Department of Social Services and the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Councilwoman Hamilton and Vice President Meffley read the proclamations. Giulia Hodge from CASA thanked everyone for the proclamation and noted the importance of foster care. Lisa Beeman, Director of Social Services thanked the Council and reviewed the services offered to the foster families.

PUBLIC HEARING

Bill No. 2023-07 - Amend - Critical Area Maps Program – Summary Draft Maps (introduced 4/18/23), consideration 5/16/23)

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.

Director of Land Use and Development Service Stephen O'Connor gave an overview of the Critical Area program and discussed the revised maps. Council President Gregory inquired how people are notified if they are in the Critical Area if they are new to the County and Director O'Connor noted it is up to the property owner to inquire and do research. Vice President Meffley inquired on the changes along the Bohemia River and Director O'Connor noted they were very minor changes made in that area. Councilwoman Culberson inquired how often the maps are revised, and Director O'Connor said this is the first time since they were adopted in the 1980's but the regulations now require that a review and update be done on a 12 year cycle.

Harold McCanick of Elk Neck noted that this program is a burden on individual property owners.

Council had no further questions or comments.

Resolution No. 26-2023 - Enterprise Zone – Re-designate (introduced 4/18/23), consideration 5/16/23)

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.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay gave an overview of the Enterprise Zones, benefits, location and the 10-year renewal process. Director Overbay noted no expansion is being proposed, but noted the zone could expand in the future but currently has sufficient development capabilities. Director Overbay noted that further investments, such as the type that is ongoing at the Northrop Grumman site, would be permitted to utilize the advantages of the enterprise zone.

Council had no further questions or comments.

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 18, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Harold McCanick of Elk Neck stated he supported the budget and noted the heavy truck traffic on Route 272 and Route 40.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice President Meffley attended the Cecil Arts Council "Expression of Healing" event on May 5 and was impressed with the restored log cabin behind the Art Council building. He also attended the National Day of Prayer in Chesapeake City on May 4. He attended several golf fundraisers including the Arts Council and Yes Foundation. He also attended the Rising Sun Community Fire Company banquet on April 20 and the Cecil County Volunteer luncheon on April 27. He noted the "Race for the Roses" event at North East Library. He also noted that the Elkton Rotary Club will be celebrating its 100-year anniversary with various events.

Councilwoman Hamilton noted that the high schools will begin graduation ceremonies this week and offered her congratulations to all the graduating students. She also noted the Cecil College graduation and the nurses' pinning ceremony is upcoming. She noted the "Capstone Walk" will be on May 16 at Elkton High School and encourage people to attend to see the projects the five high school students completed. She also attended the May 5 opening of the Cecil Arts Council and Upper Bay Counseling "Expression of Healing" event. She also noted the upcoming Scottish Games at Fair Hill and Demo Day at APG.

Councilman Miller noted he attended the Youth Empowerment event. He also noted he attended the Franklin Graham event and presented him with a proclamation from Council. He also thanked Councilwoman Hamilton for all the volunteering and assistance she provided at this event.

Councilwoman Culberson noted she attended the legislative wrap up at Cecil College on April 24. She also attended the tour of Bainbridge on April 26 and noted the progress that is being made. She also attended the Volunteer Luncheon on April 27. She also attended the Citizens Recognition presentation at Charleston Elementary. She also attended the Rising Sun Community Fire Company event on April 20. She also congratulated all the high school graduates.

Council President Gregory noted she attended the North East VFW clean-up on May 4. She also attended the North East Fire Company banquet on May 6. On May 5 she attended a meeting on the Whitsitt Center in Chestertown and noted the State was reopening the center and doing 4 million dollars in upgrades. She also attended the Elk Neck and Charlestown Elementary Citizens Recognition ceremony and noted that this was an excellent program for the children. She also attended the Frederick Ward Ribbon cutting in Elkton and the Touchdown Club fundraiser in North East. She also attended the Cecil Arts Council and Upper Bay Counseling "Expression of Healing" event. She also attended the Youth Empowerment "Build a Burger" event.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution No. 28-2023 - Reappointment – Board of Parks and Recreation – Brian Morgan

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment of Brian Morgan, to the Board of Parks and Recreation to fill a three (3) year term that will expire on March 17, 2026

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on May 9, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that Mr. Morgan has done an excellent job on the board. He also noted this board reviews grants and makes recommendations on parks.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution No. 29-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Office of Economic Development – Accept Grant from Maryland Department of Commerce, Office of Tourism

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 \$250,000 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund- Office of Economic Development to record the grant awarded from the Maryland Department of Commerce, Maryland Office of Tourism for the purpose of marketing the Maryland 5 Star.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on May 9, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that the Economic Development Office and Sandy Turner did a great job with the 5 Star Event last year and this funding will help to further market the event. Vice President Meffley noted that he hopes future events will feature local races.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 30-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Department of Land Use and Development Services

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 \$166,562 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund- Department of Land Use and Development Services to record the grant awarded State of Maryland Bay Restoration to connect sanitary sewer systems or replace septic system for county residents.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on May 9, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that this grant is part of the Bay Restoration Fund to reimburse contractors for work performed. He noted that normally the State will pay the contractor directly, but we recently took over this program and the State sent us the funds to reimburse the contractors. He noted that going forward, the State will resume paying the contractors directly.

CONSIDERATION 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.

This resolution was introduced on April 18, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on May 9, 2023.

Council had no further questions or comments.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 24-2023, 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. 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.

This resolution was introduced on April 18, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on May 9, 2023.

Council had no further questions or comments.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 25-2023, 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 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.

This resolution was introduced on April 18, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on May 9, 2023.

Council had no further questions or comments.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 27-2023, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

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

CALL FOR FINAL READING OF BILLS

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.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Bill 2023-03, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

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

CLOSED SESSION

Council Manager Culver announced that the County Council is entering a closed session pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions for §3-305:

(b) (1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; pr any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individual.

On a motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley, the Council moved to convene a closed session, pursuant to the Maryland Annotated Code, General Provisions §3-305 (b)(1).

Roll Call Vote

Hamilton - Y, Miller - Y, Culberson - Y, Meffley - Y, Gregory – Y
The motion was approved unanimously by a vote of 5 to 0.

President Gregory recessed the Legislative Session at 8:10 pm

PRESENT: Council Members: Robert Meffley, Rebecca Hamilton, Al Miller, Donna Culberson and Jackie Gregory; David Culver, Council Manager; Terry Hale, Council Assistant, Steven Overbay, Director of Administration; Shon McCollum, Director of Finance.

On a motion by Councilwoman Culberson, which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, President Gregory adjourned the closed session at 8:43 pm and reopened the Legislative Session.

ADJOURNMENT

President Gregory announced that Council has adjourned the closed session.

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley, Council President Gregory adjourned the meeting at 8:44 pm.

Council President Gregory announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, May 16, 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