

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2023-12
June 20, 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 June 20, 2023, was called to order by Council President Gregory at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Councilman Miller introduced Pastor Sean Hurm of Harts Chapel in North East who gave the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, the Council moved to approve the legislative agenda of June 20, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

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 June 6, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Phyllis Kilby of Colora stated she would like more Board of Education funding, less bond issues and no tax bill flyers.

David Foy of Elkton stated he would like more funding for the Board of Education.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Hamilton noted that the Chesapeake Bay Radio Association is having a demonstration on June 24 at the Birchmill Farm in Havre de Grace. She also encouraged everyone to attend the "Salute to Our Veterans" fireworks display at the North East park on July 3 and wished everyone a safe Fourth of July celebration.

Vice President Meffley noted he attended the Juneteenth Celebration at the Elkton Community Center on June 19 and noted the event is growing and was well attended. He also noted that the Chesapeake City Canal Walk-Run Event is on June 24.

Councilman Miller congratulated the winners of the Farm Bureau scholarships. On June 14 he attended the Rising Sun Chamber picnic and on June 16 he attended the Michael Bignall photography and painting exhibit at the North East Library. He noted this display is also at the Elkton Library and the artwork is for sale.

Councilwoman Culberson reviewed the Intel numbers for the past week. She also responded to questions on the school budget and noted that the use of the additional 18 million allocated from the State to the Board has not been fully disclosed. She also noted additional mental health providers would soon be available in Cecil County.

Council President Gregory noted she attended the Flag Day presentation in the North East park on June 14. On June 15 she attended the changing of the commander at Aberdeen Proving Grounds. On June 16 she attended the Drug Court graduation and on June 19 she attended the Juneteenth celebration in Elkton. She also discussed the lockbox committed fund balance and the increase in the school budget from the State.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 35-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance – Board of Education – Safe and Secure School Entrances Projects - Rising Sun and Conowingo Elementary Schools.

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, to provide the Board of Education budget with additional expenditure appropriation authority to utilize \$845,170 in funds from the General Fund Balance to finish safe and secure school entrances projects for the Rising Sun and Conowingo Elementary Schools.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on June 20, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on July 11, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that these are the last two schools to be completed. He noted that the bids were received by the Board of Education on April 27, 2023 but not sent to the County Executive office until mid-June. He noted that the County Executive sent correspondence to the Board indicating that the Administration would request Council to allocate the additional funds necessary to cover the remaining costs of these two projects because they are concerned about the safety of the children at these two schools.

Councilwoman Culberson requested clarification on the date of the bid opening and number of projects and Director Overbay indicated it was on April 27, 2023, and that it was two separate projects. He noted that it was the Board's decision to bid them in this manner. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if the school is still paying a portion and Director Overbay indicated they are

paying the original agreed to amount and the County will fund the remainder of the projects. Councilman Miller questioned if line 11 of the resolution was necessary and Director of Finance Shon McCollum indicated it was needed. President Gregory noted that the total costs would still go up beyond what is in this resolution. Councilman Miller requested that the resolution be voted upon tonight and Councilwoman Hamilton indicated that would give the Board additional time to begin the work. Vice President Meffley questioned when did the County commit to the additional funds and Director Overbay said that a series of e-mails followed by correspondence was sent in June and Council was copied on the correspondence. Council Manager Culver explained the Council rules on voting on a resolution the same night it was introduced and that the vote had to be unanimous. President Gregory again inquired about the costs and timing and Director Overbay noted that the final costs are supposed to be sent to him this week. It was also discussed that the Board may want to rebid the two projects. President Gregory noted that Council could call a special session for next week once the numbers are finalized. Council Manager Culver outlined the notice requirements for a special meeting. Councilman Miller noted he wanted to vote on the resolution at this meeting and Manager Culver noted that the resolution would need to be amended to reflect the effective date. Councilwoman Culberson and Councilwoman Hamilton both noted the additional costs would need a separate resolution if voted upon tonight.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 35-2023, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley.

President Gregory asked for a motion for any amendments and Councilman Miller moved for Amendment No. 1 to resolution No. 35-2023 which was seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton.

Amendment No. 1 to Resolution No. 35-2023

Title: Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance – Board of Education – Safe and Secure School Entrances Projects - Rising Sun and Conowingo Elementary Schools.

Synopsis: On page 2 of Resolution 35-2023 strike line 32 and 33 and replace it to read AND BE FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

Introduced by: Councilman Miller

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Miller -Y, Culberson – Y, Meffley – Y, Gregory- N
The motion was approved 4 to 1.

Manager Culver noted that the Resolution was now amended.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Resolution 35-2023, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Miller -Y, Culberson – N, Meffley – Y, Gregory - Y
The motion vote was 4 to 1, however, as per A387-49(D) of the Cecil County Code states, “At introduction, the Council may take action on a resolution that all members agree that is straightforward and without controversy, and with a unanimous vote” and as such, the motion to

approve Resolution 35-2023 at this Legislative Session is denied. The Resolution will remain on the agenda for consideration at the July 11, 2023 Legislative Session in its original form.

President Gregory announced that she will call for a Special Session to take action on this resolution if County Council receives the additional information that has been requested on the costs. Director Overbay and Council Manager Culver noted that they will work with the Board on this issue and schedule accordingly. Councilwoman Culberson noted that she voted no on this issue because of the uncertainty of the costs and timing and she would like to see this resolved quickly because she is concerned about the safety of the children at these schools.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 36-2023 - Appointment – Commission for Women – Abigail Bingham

A Resolution to confirm the County Executive's appointment of Abigail Bingham to the Commission for Women for a three (3) year term for expire July 12, 2026.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on June 20, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on July 11, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted Ms. Bingham is very well qualified for this Board and hopes to have the appointment approved at the next Legislative Session.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 34-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance – Law Enforcement Armored Rescue Vehicle and Crossover Utility Vehicle.

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 totally \$417,000 from the General Fund Balance to Law Enforcement's budget for the expenditure appropriation authority to purchase an Armored Rescue/Tactical (SRT) vehicle for \$400,000 and a Crossover Utility Vehicle (CUV) for \$17,000.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on June 6, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on June 20, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that Sheriff Adams addressed this at the June 6 Work Session and that these vehicles are needed for public safety emergencies and events and will help enhance the safety of our citizens and officers. He also thanked the other jurisdictions that have assisted in the past when Cecil County needed these vehicles for emergencies.

Council had no further questions or comments.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Resolution 34-2023, 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:

Bill No. 2023-08 - Bond Authorization – General Obligation Project Bonds

An Act authorizing and empowering Cecil County, Maryland (the “County”), to borrow from time to time not more than Fifty Seven Million Dollars (\$57,000,000) for the purpose of financing the costs of certain public facilities within the County described herein, and to effect such borrowing by the issuance and sale of its general obligation bonds in one or more series from time to time; empowering the County Executive to execute and deliver one or more executive orders prior to issuing the bonds in order to fix, prescribe and determine the details of the bonds and the issuance and sale thereof; empowering and directing the County to levy ad valorem taxes in rate and amount sufficient to provide funds for the payment of the maturing principal of and interest on the bonds; exempting the bonds from the provisions of Sections 19-205 and 19-206 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended, or successor provision; authorizing the County to issue and sell bond anticipation notes in one or more series pursuant to the authority of Sections 19-211 through 19-223 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended, or successor provision, prior to and in anticipation of the sale of the bonds; providing that the County may issue and sell all or any portion of the bonds as bonds the interest on which is excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes; authorizing the County to issue bonds for the purpose of refunding any bonds issued pursuant to this Act in one or more series pursuant to the authority of Section 19-207 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland; and relating generally to the issuance and sale of such bonds.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on May 16, 2023, Public Hearing on June 6, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on June 20, 2023.

Director of Finance Shon McCollum noted this is for the upcoming Capital Improvement Program projects. Director McCollum also noted that the intent is to also refinance previous bonds to more favorable terms. He noted that approximately every 2 years the County issue bonds for these projects. Councilwoman Hamilton questioned the total amount for the projects and Director McCollum reviewed the major projects in the CIP. President Gregory noted we can still use pay-go funds and grant funds and Director McCollum indicated all funding sources will be reviewed.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Bill 2023-08, 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

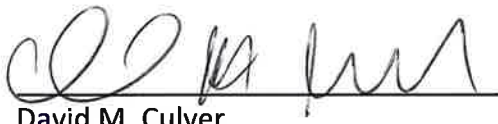
On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley, Council President Gregory adjourned the meeting at 8:18 pm.

Council President Gregory announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, July 11, 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