

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY**  
**LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES**  
**LSD 2023-16**  
**September 5, 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  
Donna Culberson, Council Member

**NOTE:** The recording with transcription of this meeting is available on the County website at [www.ccgov.org/council](http://www.ccgov.org/council).

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the County Council of Cecil County of September 5, 2023, was called to order by Council President Gregory at 7:00 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER**

Pastor Karen Bunnell from Elkton United Methodist Church in Elkton 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 September 5, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

**PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS**

Councilwoman Culberson read the proclamation declaring September as National Recovery Month. Aaron Wright from Voices of Hope thanked Council for the proclamation and noted the challenges of recovery for both mental health issues and drug addiction. He also noted all of the work and efforts of the Cecil County Health Department.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion made by Councilwoman Hamilton, seconded by Vice President Meffley, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of August 1, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sean Brimm of Elkton spoke on education issues and child abuse.  
Harold McCanick of Elk Neck spoke on the Economic Development Commission appointments.

**PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Vice President Meffley noted that he, President Gregory, Councilwoman Hamilton and Councilwoman Culberson attended the Town Hall that Congressman Andy Harris had in Rising Sun.

He noted that Congressman Harris discussed the economy and national debt among other topics. He also noted that he, along with the rest of Council, attended the MACo Summer Conference and attended numerous events including the Rural County Coalition meeting, The Upper Shore Regional Council Meeting and the Clean Chesapeake Coalition meeting along with numerous seminars. He also noted the new regulations for family leave in Maryland and the cost associated with it for small businesses. He also congratulated Rising Sun and Elkton High Schools on the new turf fields.

Councilwoman Hamilton also noted she attended the MACo Summer Conference and participated in numerous meetings and seminars including presentations on future energy sources and the effects of the cannabis legalization in Maryland. She also thanked the Parks and Recreation Department on the successful oversight of the installation of the turf fields at Elkton and Rising Sun High Schools. She also noted the great work the Health Department and organizations like Voices of Hope do for people in recovery from mental health and addiction issues.

Councilwoman Culberson noted the intel report from the previous week. She also noted the numerous meetings she attended at the MACo Summer Conference and the valuable information they provide and how they assist in the implementation of programs in Cecil County. She also noted she attended the Town Hall in Rising Sun with Congressman Harris and the costs of the federal debt.

President Gregory noted the valuable insight gained at the MACo Summer Conference. She noted that the Environmental Protection Agency spoke at the Clean Chesapeake Coalition Meeting and addressed key issues on bay pollution and possible dredging solutions at the Conowingo Dam. She also noted MACo had seminars on fire and EMS costs and services and the need for educational professionals for the expansions of Pre-K programs throughout the state. She also noted the Voices of Hope event and that the services being provided in Cecil County is helping to reduce the number of overdose calls. She also noted that during the last Maryland Legislative Session HB119 and SB 199 attempted to introduce additional health curriculums to younger children on sex education and noted that parents should have the right to speak on these issues.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

**Resolution 43-2023** - Appointment—Economic Development Commission - Mary Way Bolt, JoAnn Dawson, Bernard DeMarinis, Woody Jackson, Robert Palsgrove, Michael Ratchford, Michael Travers, II, Joseph DiNunzio, Vincent Fiorelli, Jeff Lawson, Morgan Miller, Charles Jones, Jr. and Amy DiPietro.

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Mary Way Bolt, JoAnn Dawson, Bernard DeMarinis, Woody Jackson, Robert Palsgrove, Michael Ratchford, Michael Travers, II, Joseph DiNunzio, Vincent Fiorelli, Jeff Lawson, Morgan Miller, Charles Jones, Jr. and Amy DiPietro for a three-year term to expire January 7, 2026.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on September 5, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on September 19, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that many of the nominations have previously been on the EDC and do an excellent job in helping to guide the Department of Economic Development. Councilwoman Hamilton noted that she hopes that a better representation of all businesses can be added to the Commission in the future to reflect the diversity of businesses in Cecil County. Director Overbay noted they are always looking for members and encouraged people to apply. Vice President Meffley noted that the municipalities also play an important role in economic development and hopes that they are participating and Director Overbay noted that all municipalities are ex-officio members of the Economic Development Commission and do provide input.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

**Resolution 44-2023** – Appointment– Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council – Aaron Wright and James W. Ziccardi

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment of Aaron Wright and James W. Ziccardi to the Cecil County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council to a four-year term, to expire April 8, 2027

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on September 5, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on September 19, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted the functions of this board and that both nominations have been very valuable resources to this board.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

**Resolution 45-2023** - Appointment—Cecil County Mental Health Core Service Agency Advisory Board – Heather Baginski, Kathryn Farinholt, Sheryl White, Elizabeth Murphy, and Suanne Blumberg.

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Heather Baginski to fill a vacancy to expire on September 19, 2024, Kathryn Farinholt to fill a vacancy to expire on September 19, 2025, and Sheryl White to fill a vacancy to expire on September 19, 2026, and to confirm the reappointment of Elizabeth Murphy for a three-year term to expire on February 5, 2026, and Suanne Blumberg for a three-year term to expire on November 6, 2025 to the Cecil County Mental Health Core Service Agency Advisory Board for staggered terms.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on September 5, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on September 19, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted the function of the board and that the nominations all have experience on mental health issues.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

**Resolution 46-2023 - Appointment – Public Safety Pension Plan Board of Trustees – Paul Camponelli**

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Paul Camponelli to serve until his appointment ends or if such Trustee has been designated by a County officer, until the term of office or appointment of the County officer who appointed such trustee ends to the Public Safety Pension Plan Board of Trustees.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on September 5, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on September 19, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that this board oversees the pensions for public safety employees and that Paul Camponelli, as the Director of Human Resources, will need to be appointed to the board as per County Code.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

**Resolution 47-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Community Development Block Grant – Holloway Beach Sewer Project – Habitat for Humanity Home Rehabilitation Project**

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, Department of Community Services, Housing and Community Development Division, Fund 111, Department 534 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, in order to provide a total of \$775,000.00 to the Emergency Shelter Grants Fund; to record the grant awarded from the Maryland Community Development Block Grant program through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to support the Holloway Beach Sewer Project and the Habitat for Humanity Home Rehabilitation Project.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on September 5, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on September 19, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay thanked Director of Community Services David Trolio and his staff for getting this grant to assist the low- to moderate- income families that will be connecting into the Holloway Beach sewer line once it is completed. He noted that \$550,000 of this grant is for the connection and construction fees of the sewer line and the remainder will go to Habitat for Humanity to assist low- to moderate- income families with housing rehabilitation grants.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

**Resolution 48-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Aging and Disabilities Division – State Senior Care Waitlist Grant**

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 in order to provide a total of \$114,699 to the Community Services Grants Fund – Department of Community Services, Fund 109, Department 523, to record a

State Senior Care Waitlist Grant awarded from the Maryland Department of Aging to provide staffing support and direct services to individuals currently on the Senior Care Program waiting list.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on September 5, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on September 19, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted this grant will assist in reducing the waitlist of seniors for nursing home care. Currently, the County has 23 seniors on the waitlist and this grant should allow the County to assist in the placement of all of these individuals.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

**Resolution 49-2023** - Supplemental Appropriation – Program Revenue – Community Services – Cecil Transit Division – Great Wolf Lodge Transportation Contract

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 in order to provide program revenue in the amount of \$311,903 to the Department of Community Services, Fund 109, Department 522, to record program revenue derived from an executed contract between Great Wolf Lodge and Cecil County, Maryland, Department of Community Services, Cecil Transit Division, to provide transportation services. The revenue generated from the contract will: cover all costs associated with the proposed service, incur cost savings when applicable and be reinvested in the existing public transportation system.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on September 5, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on September 19, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted this grant will assist in the transportation of employees to and from the Great Wolf Lodge. The grant from Great Wolf will provide \$280,000 for the transportation expenses and the remainder will go towards the leasing of the necessary vehicles. Councilwoman Culberson inquired if the grant will be recurring, and Director Overbay noted Great Wolf signed a four-year agreement for the program. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired on the number of local employees and the number of J1 students and Director Overbay noted Great Wolf hired over 1,100 employees and 60% are Cecil County residents and only a small percentage are J1 students. President Gregory noted that based on an article in the newspaper Great Wolf reported it had about 200 J1 students on staff.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

**Resolution 50-2023** - Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Community Services – Human Services Division – Domestic Violence Rape Crisis Program/The Bridge

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 in order to provide a total of \$278,976 to the Community Services Grants Fund – Department of Community Services, Fund 109, Department 533, to record an ARPA – Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Grant awarded from the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victims Services through the Maryland Network Against

Domestic Violence and the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault to provide contractual services, equipment, supplies and operational and staffing support to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on September 5, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on September 19, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted this grant is from ARPA funds and will be divided between sexual assault and domestic violence programs.

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

**Resolution 51-2023 - Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Cecil County Public Schools Small Capital Projects**

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, in order to provide the Cecil County Public Schools Construction Pay Go Funds (Small Capital Projects) Budget within the General Fund, expenditure appropriation authority to authorize \$410,595.75 to be expended for FY2024 Small Capital Projects, which were not completed by June 30, 2023.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on September 5, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on September 19, 2023.

Director of Finance Shon McCollum noted these are funds being carried over from FY23 to FY24 to pay for projects that were not completed during FY23. Most of these projects were for the safe and secure entrances projects at various schools.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Confirmation of Executive Appointment - Paul Camponelli – Director of Human Resources

President Gregory noted Mr. Camponelli qualifications and his background.

Motion was made by Vice President Meffley to confirm the appointment of Paul Camponelli as Director of Human Resources. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll Call Vote:

Hamilton – Y, Miller – A, Culberson – Y, Meffley – Y, Gregory – Y

The motion was approved 4 to 0.

2. Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #113

President Gregory noted the Board of Education Budget Amendment for June is \$2,262,643.

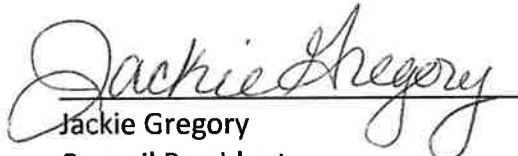
Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #113 in the amount of \$2,262,643. The motion was seconded by Vice President Meffley. The motion was approved unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, President Gregory adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Council President Gregory announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, September 19, 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](http://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