

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2023-17
September 19, 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 September 19, 2023, was called to order by Council President Gregory at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Steve Basht from Janes Church in Rising Sun 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 19, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS

Council President Gregory read the proclamation declaring September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Cecil County.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of September 5, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sean Brimm of Elkton spoke on suicide prevention, the power grid and education issues.
Phyllis Kilby of Colora spoke on the new turf fields and education issues.
Harold McCanick of Elk Neck spoke on the Economic Development Commission and tax issues.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Miller noted he attended the Cecil Farm Bureau, and they discussed policy initiatives for the next General Session at the state. He also noted the Taste of Cecil Event will be on October 4.

Councilwoman Culberson noted the intel report from the previous week. She also noted she attended the Perryville Fire Company 100th Anniversary and parade. She also noted that Mothers for Liberty did not have any books banned.

Vice President Meffley noted that he attended the Cecil College Foundation Scholarship Breakfast with Councilwoman Hamilton and President Gregory. He read one of the thank you letters from a student and noted that these scholarships make a difference. He also attended the Elkton Fall Fest on September 16 and Bainbridge Days on September 17 and noted both events were well attended.

Councilwoman Hamilton also noted she attended the Cecil College Foundation Scholarship Breakfast, and it was a great event. She also attended the Pop's Culture meeting and noted the upcoming golf tournament fundraiser. She noted the Cecil Cares Day is October 7 and encouraged people to sign up to volunteer. She was also given a tour of the North East Library by Morgan Miller and noted the value of the library system.

President Gregory noted she attended the Elkton Fall Fest and it was well organized. She also attended the Bainbridge Day celebration on September 17. She also noted her concerns on parents' rights being diminished in the school systems.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

BILL 2023-09— Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds to Capital Projects – Construct Elkton West Sanitary Sewer Subdistrict

A Bill to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, to record \$3,550,101 in grant funding from the Maryland Department of the Environment for the Construct Elkton West Sanitary Sewer Subdistrict capital project.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on September 19, 2023, public hearing scheduled on October 3, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on October 17, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that this bill is to amend the Capital Improvement Program to reflect a grant from the Maryland Department of the Environment for Phase 3C that is part of the Elkton West Sanitary Sewer Subdistrict. This specific project is to construct a pump station and force main for the Triumph Industrial Park and to close the existing lagoons at the park. This bill will allow the Capital Improvement Program budget to be amended to reflect the \$3,550,101 grant. He also noted that the total project is approximately 5.7 million dollars and Triumph will pay approximately 2.2 million dollars.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Culver stated for the record:

Resolution 52-2023 - Appointment—Economic Development Commission – Carl Roberts

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment by the County Executive of Carl Roberts for a three-year term to expire January 7, 2026.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on September 19, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on October 3, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted Carl Roberts has been on this Commission and has received many favorable comments on Mr. Roberts from the business community since his initial appointment.

Resolution 53-2023 - Approval – Master Water and Sewer Plan 2018 - Amendment

A Resolution to amend Table 6 and Table 16 of the Master Water and Sewer Plan 2018.

Introduced, read for the first time, order posted on September 19, 2023, public hearing scheduled on October 3, 2023 and scheduled for consideration on October 17, 2023.

Director of Administration Steven Overbay noted that this will amend Table 6 and 16 of the approved plan to reflect changes in the Port Deposit service area. Under this change, Artesian Water Company will be seeking the ability through the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and Maryland Department of the Environment to withdraw additional water to supply development in the Port Deposit area. The service area will allow Artesian to provide up to 10 million gallons of water by 2045.

CONSIDERATION 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 the function of the Economic Development Commission and stated most members are being reappointed.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 43-2023, 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 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 that both individuals are highly qualified and represent organizations that serve individuals that have drug and alcohol abuse issues.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 44-2023, 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 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 this board assists with mental health issues in Cecil County and the members being appointed are well qualified. Councilwoman Culberson inquired as to the expiration date for Ms. Blumberg and Council Manager Culver explained the reappointment was overdue and this date represents the three-year term from the last appointment.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 45-2023, 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 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, recently appointed as the Director of Human Resources, will need to be appointed to the board as per County Code.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 46-2023, 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 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 the Community Services Department for the work on this grant.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 47-2023, 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 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 thanked the Community Services Department for getting this grant to assist with the placement of seniors on this wait list.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 48-2023, 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 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. Councilwoman Hamilton inquired if the J1 students paid taxes and Director Overbay believed they did but would verify. Councilwoman Hamilton also inquired as to the routes and benefits to the County and Director Overbay noted that the transit services are primarily along Rute 40 and this extension would allow greater access to transit. He also noted that since this is a van service, the drivers would not need CDL licenses.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Resolution 49-2023, 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 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. He anticipates about \$100,000 for the sexual assault programs and \$178,196 for the domestic violence programs. He also noted this will help offset cost of staffing and supplies for these programs.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 50-2023, 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 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.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution 51-2023, 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.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #114 and #115

President Gregory noted the Board of Education Budget Amendment #114 is \$3,431,201 and Budget Amendment #115 is for \$7,588,676 and was discussed at the last Board meeting.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #114 in the amount of \$3,431,201 and Budget Amendment #115 for \$7,588,676. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Hamilton, President Gregory adjourned the meeting at 8:03 pm.

Council President Gregory announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, October 3, 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