

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2022-11
May 17, 2022**

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:

Robert Meffley, Council President
Jackie Gregory, Vice President
William H. Coutz, 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 17, 2022, was called to order by Council President Meffley at 7:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Council Member Miller introduced Dr. Harold Phillips from Pleasant View Baptist Church in Port Deposit, who led the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the legislative agenda of May 17, 2022. Motion was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS AND CERTIFICATES

The Council presented a proclamation for Cecil County Safe Boating Week to Commander Daniel McCaffery of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotila.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2022-06 Residential Noise Ordinance

An Act to add new Chapter 250, Noise in Residential Areas, of the Code of Cecil County; to prohibit certain noises in certain areas during specified hours; to establish certain exemptions to this prohibition; to establish fines for violating this prohibition; and generally relating to noise.

The Bill was introduced on April 19, 2022, advertised on May 4, 2022 and May 11, 2022; and scheduled for public hearing on May 17, 2022.

James Massey, Council Manager, provided comments. Charles MacLeod, Council Attorney, clarified for Councilwoman Culberson and Vice President Gregory that the proposed legislation prohibits

nighttime, between 10pm and 6am, the operation of construction equipment for personal use on a property that produces loud volume or vibration that can be heard or felt with 200 feet away from the property.

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comments.
There was no public comment.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing and announced that the legislation will be considered for final approval at the next legislative session on June 7, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 28-2022 Charter Amendment- Vacancy- County Council

A Resolution amending Article 2, County Council, Section 209, Vacancies, of the Cecil County Charter to provide that the County Council shall have thirty (30) days after receiving a list of nominees from the county central committee of the political party affiliated with the person vacating the office, to fill the Council vacancy. To require submission of this amendment to the legally qualified voters of Cecil County for their adoption or rejection, in accordance with Section 602 of the Charter of Cecil County.

The Bill was introduced on April 19, 2022, advertised on May 4, 2022 and May 11, 2022; and scheduled for public hearing on May 17, 2022.

Charles MacLeod, Council Attorney, provided comments. There were no Council comments. There were no comments from the administration.

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comments.

Joyce Bowsbey, Elkton, former chair of the Cecil County Charter Board, commented in favor of the legislation to clarify that the Council should have thirty days to fill the vacancy and the central committee should have thirty days to submit their nominees to the Council.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing and announced that the legislation will be considered for final approval at the next legislative session on June 7, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 29-2022 Charter Amendment – Redistricting Commission

A Resolution amending Article 2, County Council, Section 214, Redistricting, of the Cecil County Charter to provide that the deadline for Council to establish Redistricting Commission shall be within thirty days after receipt of census data; and to specify that current local central committee members are ineligible to be members of the Redistricting Commission. To require submission of this amendment to the legally qualified voters of Cecil County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Section 602 of the Charter of Cecil County.

The Bill was introduced on April 19, 2022, advertised on May 4, 2022 and May 11, 2022; and scheduled for public hearing on May 17, 2022.

Charles MacLeod, Council Attorney, provided comments. There were no comments from the administration. Vice President Gregory suggested that changing the deadline to establish the redistricting commission and prohibiting central committee members on the redistricting commission should be separate charter amendments. Discussion ensued on this proposal. After discussion, the majority of Council Members indicated that they were in favor of the legislation as proposed.

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comments. Joyce Bowlsbey, Elkton, former chair of the Cecil County Charter Board, commented in favor of the legislation because of the delay in receiving census data as well as not allowing central committee members to serve on the redistricting commission, which she stated made the commission too partisan.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing and announced that the legislation will be considered for final approval at the next legislative session on June 7, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 30-2022 Charter Amendment- Vacancy-County Executive

A Resolution amending Article 2, County Council, Section 214, Redistricting, of the Cecil County Charter to provide that the deadline for Council to establish Redistricting Commission shall be within thirty days after receipt of census data; and to specify that current local central committee members are ineligible to be members of the Redistricting Commission. To require submission of this amendment to the legally qualified voters of Cecil County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Section 602 of the Charter of Cecil County.

The Bill was introduced on April 19, 2022, advertised on May 4, 2022 and May 11, 2022; and scheduled for public hearing on May 17, 2022.

Charles MacLeod, Council Attorney, provided comments. There were no comments from the administration. Vice President Gregory suggested that Resolution No. 28 should be combined with Resolution No. 30 because they both are related to vacancies in the offices. Discussion of this suggestion ensued. The majority of Council Members indicated that they were in favor of the legislation as proposed.

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comments.

Joyce Bowlsbey, Elkton, former chair of the Cecil County Charter Board, commented in favor of the legislation and stated that the charter amendments should not be combined because each addresses a different section of the charter.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing and announced that the legislation will be considered for final approval at the next legislative session on June 7, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 31-2022 Charter Amendment- Ethics Commission

A Resolution amending Article 6, Miscellaneous, to add a new Section 607, Ethics Commission, of the Cecil County Charter to re-establish the Ethics Commission as an independent agency with five-voting members, who shall serve a four-year staggered term; three members, including chair, appointed by the Executive; and two members appointed by the Council. To require submission of this amendment to the legally qualified voters of Cecil County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Section 602 of the Charter of Cecil County.

The Bill was introduced on April 19, 2022, advertised on May 4, 2022 and May 11, 2022; and scheduled for public hearing on May 17, 2022.

Charles MacLeod, Council Attorney, provided comments. There were no comments from the administration. There were no questions or comments from Council Members. Vice President Gregory suggested that this issue should be approved as a revision of the Code of Cecil County instead of a charter amendment. Discussion of this issue ensued. The majority of Council Members indicated that they were in favor of the legislation as proposed.

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comments.

Joyce Bowlsbey, Elkton, former chair of the Cecil County Charter Board, commented in favor of the legislation and stated that the ethics commission was not addressed in the original charter, but stated that this charter amendment was needed because of past problems with the ethics commission actions and the need to make the ethics commission more transparent.

Vice President Gregory asked if the party designation of members of the ethics commission should be included in the charter amendment. Mr. MacLeod, County Attorney, stated that any revisions to the Code of Cecil County can be addressed after the charter amendment is approved.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing and announced that the legislation will be considered for final approval at the next legislative session on June 7, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 32-2022 Charter Amendment- Council Review of Contracts

A Resolution amending Article 5, Budget and Finance, to add a new Section 516, Council Review of Contracts, of the Cecil County Charter to require all county purchases above \$100,000; and all real estate purchases, sales and leases, be reviewed by County Council in public session before the contract is awarded or executed by the County Executive. To require submission of this amendment to the legally qualified voters of Cecil County for their adoption or rejection in accordance with Section 602 of the Charter of Cecil County.

The Bill was introduced on April 19, 2022, advertised on May 4, 2022 and May 11, 2022; and scheduled for public hearing on May 17, 2022.

Charles MacLeod, Council Attorney, provided comments. There were no comments from the administration. Vice President Gregory suggested that this issue should be approved as a revision of the Code of Cecil County instead of a charter amendment. Discussion of this issue ensued. The majority of Council Members indicated that they were in favor of the legislation as proposed.

Council President Meffley opened the public hearing for public comments.

Joyce Bowlsbey, Elkton, former chair of the Cecil County Charter Board, commented in favor of the this charter amendment and that this issue was not addressed in the original charter, but she stated that the Council and the public would benefit from review of contracts in a public session, which increases transparency in government.

Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, commented that charter amendments and transparency depends on the wording on the ballot, which he will be reviewing.

Council President Meffley concluded the public hearing and announced that the legislation will be considered for final approval at the next legislative session on June 7, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Vice President Gregory, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of May 3, 2022. Motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Amy Sexton, North East, stated that she is a program coordinator for Cecil County Public Schools; and that more support is needed for the school system, mentioning the need for improvements in school playgrounds, tennis courts, and tracks.

Matt Feeny, Elkton, stated that he was a football coach and teacher at Elkton High School; and that more funding is needed to support athletic programs, which build boys into men and give them opportunities to receive college scholarships that improve their lives.

Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, commented that he had been active in athletic programs and that the teams raised their own funds to support their programs. He also stated that the public should pay attention to the charter amendments being proposed.

COUNCIL MANAGER REPORT

James Massey, Council Manager, reminded the Council and public of the public hearing on the County budget, which is scheduled on Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 7pm at Elkton High School auditorium.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Culberson attended a tour of Great Wolf Lodge and the Teacher Appreciation Week event. She thanked the teachers for their dedication and expressed her appreciation to nurses for their service during the pandemic.

Councilman Miller attended the School of Technology awards assembly and presented the county scholarship to Heather Horst. He also attended the Cecil College Commencement, capstone walk at Elkton High School, and Cecil County Firemen's Association meeting.

Vice President Gregory attended the public hearing on air quality on the proposed Stancill's asphalt plant, the North East Fire Company's 100th anniversary banquet, the County Employees Recognition

luncheon, the Early Childhood Education Committee meeting, the Singerly Fire Company's Awards Banquet. She will be attending Cecil Citizens Assembly at Elk Neck Elementary School, Milburn Stone Theater showing of the film, "Cream of the Crop", which was filmed in Cecil County, and the North East VFW golf tournament.

Councilman Coutz attended the 100th Anniversary of the North East Fire Company banquet, the Race for the Roses library fundraiser, the Susquehanna Workforce Network job fair, the 130th Singerly Fire Company's anniversary banquet, and the Cecil College Commencement. He reported on the Sheriff's Office intel meeting statistics, which indicated that overdose fatalities are up by 30%.

Council President Meffley attended the Race for the Roses library fundraiser, the School of Technology awards assembly, the County Employee Recognition luncheon, the Miller for Council golf tournament, the Singerly Fire Company's awards banquet, the Cecil College Commencement, and a meeting of the Farm Bureau. He will be attending the Fishing Rodeo in Elkton and Scottish Games at Fair Hill.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 34-2022 Appointment – Acting Economic Development Director – Sandra Edwards

A Resolution to extend the appointment of Sandra Edwards as the Acting Economic Development Director for an additional four months, pursuant to Chapter C, Article 4, Section 413 of the Charter of Cecil County.

Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. Vice President Gregory and Councilwoman Culberson commended Ms. Edwards on her outstanding job performance.

Introduced, read first time, and order posted on May 17, 2022. The legislation is scheduled for consideration on June 7, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 35-2022 Supplemental Appropriation – Grant Funds – Parks and Recreation – Stoney Run Dredge Material Placement Site

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, to provide a total of \$200,000 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund- Parks and Recreation to record the grant awarded from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Water Way Improvement, to be used for the Engineering and Design of the Stoney Run, Route 7 (Old Philadelphia Road), Dredge Material Placement site (\$200,000).

Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. Vice President Gregory thanked the administration for their work on this project.

Introduced, read first time, and order posted on May 17, 2022. The legislation is scheduled for consideration on June 7, 2022.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 36-2022 Appointment- Cecil County Ethics Commission- Janet Pope

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment of Janet Pope made by the County Executive to the Cecil County Ethics Commission, term to expire October 3, 2025.

Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Introduced, read first time, and order posted on May 17, 2022. The legislation is scheduled for consideration on June 7, 2022.

CALL FOR FINAL READING OF BILLS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2022-03 Agricultural Land Preservation District- Jeffrey S. and Stacey A. Coale

A Bill to approve the petition of Jeffrey and Stacey Coale for property located at 145 Christie Hill Road, Conowingo, MD 21918, (Acres 42.5, Election District 8, Tax Map 9, Grid 1, Parcel 521), requesting the establishment of an agricultural preservation district.

The legislation was introduced on April 5, 2022, and public hearing held and concluded on May 3, 2022, and scheduled for final consideration on May 17, 2022.

Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Bill No. 2022-03, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll Call Vote: Coutz- Y, Miller- Y, Culberson- Y, Gregory- Y, Meffley- Y
The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Cecil County Public Schools- Budget Amendment #98

Councilman Coutz made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #98, in the amount of \$333,552 for April 2022, which was seconded by Councilman Miller. The Council unanimously approved the motion by a voice vote of 5 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilman Miller, Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Council President Meffley announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 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:



Robert Meffley
Council President

Attest:



James Massey
Council Manager