

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2026-02
January 20, 2026**

The County Council of Cecil County met in Legislative Session at the County Administration Building, Elk Room, 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Elkton, MD. The following members of the Council were present:

Al Miller, Council President
Robert Meffley, Council Vice President
Rebecca Hamilton, Council Member
Donna Culberson, Council Member
Dawn Branch, Council Member

NOTE: The recording with transcription of this meeting is available on the County website at www.cecilcountymd.gov

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the County Council of Cecil County of January 20, 2026, was called to order by Council President Miller at 7:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLIEGIANCE

President Miller led all those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council Manager Henson called the roll and noted that five members were present.

OPENING PRAYER/MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Miller offered the Opening Prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, the Council moved to approve the agenda of January 20, 2026. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Flanagan expressed concerns regarding maintenance of Hollywood Beach Road.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Legislative Session of January 6, 2026.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Branch announced that she attended the Cecil Soil Conservation District 78th Annual Cooperator of the Year Banquet on January 16th. She commended Long Green Farms for receiving the award.

Councilwoman Branch stated that the State Legislative session commenced on January 14th, adding her concerns that the State of Maryland will transfer additional expenses to counties.

Councilwoman Branch expressed hope that County Executive Streight's budget would ease financial burdens on county residents.

Councilwoman Branch stated that Wellness events are scheduled on January 24th at local WalMart stores.

Vice President Meffley congratulated Cooperator of the Year Long Green Farms.

Vice President Meffley stated he attended Cecil Day and Cecil Night events in Annapolis on January 15th. He stated that Cecil County's Delegation is supportive of the county.

Councilwoman Culberson provided Emergency Services intel for the week ending January 18th, stating that responders handled 216 calls, 13 of which were mental-health related; 24 domestic calls, 14 of which were physical; and 1 overdose which did not result in a fatality. She stated there have been no overdose related fatalities so far in 2026, expressing her hope that the trend continues.

Councilwoman Culberson stated that the State Senate and House of Delegates offer scholarships to High School Seniors.

Councilwoman Hamilton stated that the Maryland Legislative Session commenced on January 14th, adding that there are approximately 600 bills between the Senate and House.

Councilwoman Hamilton stated she attended the Cecil Day and Cecil Night activities in Annapolis on January 15th. She expressed appreciation to the County's Delegation, Committee Chairs and the newly elected Speaker of the House Pena-Melnyck for attending the Cecil Day event, and added that Cecil Night is a good opportunity to network with the business community.

Councilwoman Hamilton stated she is a member of the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Rural Counties Coalition as well as the Tax Subcommittee.

Councilwoman Hamilton expressed hope that the State of Maryland will cut expenses rather than transfer the costs to counties.

President Miller commended the Government Relations Committee (GRC) and GRC Chair Carl Roberts for a successful Cecil Day event in Annapolis, adding his estimate of 150 attendees.

President Miller stated the Cecil Soil Conservation District is the best in Maryland and offered congratulations to Cooperator of the Year Long Green Farms, owned and operated by the Crothers family for 8 generations.

President Miller stated he attended the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. event on January 18th. He commended speaker Mr. Lawrence Mixon and expressed appreciation to Five Rivers Church for hosting and Wrights AME Church for coordinating the event.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 02-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 02-2026 Appointment-Economic Development Commission-Carl Roberts, Robert Palsgrove, Michael Travers, Charles (Ed) Jones, JoAnn Dawson, Mary Bolt, Bernard DeMarinis, Amy DiPietro, Vincent Fiorelli, Michael Ratchford, Woody Jackson, Jeffrey Lawson, Christopher Brown, Alice Crothers, Joan Pirrung, Rachel Wright and Deirdre Smith

A Resolution to confirm the reappointments of Carl Roberts, Robert Palsgrove, Michael Travers, Charles (Ed) Jones, JoAnn Dawson, Mary Bolt, Bernard DeMarinis, Amy DiPietro, Vincent Fiorelli, Michael Ratchford, Woody Jackson, Jeffrey Lawson, and the appointments of Christopher Brown, Alice Crothers, Joan Pirrung, Rachel Wright and Deirdre Smith to the Economic Development Commission, all with terms to expire January 7, 2029.

Introduced by Council President at the request of the County Executive

Introduced and ordered posted on January 20, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on February 3, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated Resolution No. 02-2026 provided for the reappointment of 12 members and appointment of 5 new members to the Economic Development Commission, the terms of which expire on January 7, 2029.

Resolution No. 03-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 03-2026 Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance – Department of Public Works – Roads Division – Asphalt Overlay

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, to move expenditure authority from the

General Fund Balance to the Department of Public Works – Roads Division in the amount of \$2,800,000 for the benefit of additional asphalt overlay of County roads.
Introduced by Council President at the request of the County Executive
Introduced and ordered posted on January 20, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on February 3, 2026.

Director of Finance Raymond Hamm stated that Resolution No. 03-2026 provides for an additional \$2,800,000 in funding for maintenance of County roads. He noted the requested funds will address approximately 12 miles of the 600 miles of roads for which the County is responsible.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 01-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 01-2026 Appointment – Commission on Aging – Denise Hill, Julianne Graham, Lisa Beeman, Jamie McCloskey, and Mark Hill

A Resolution to confirm the reappointments of Denise Hill, Julianne Graham, Lisa Beeman, Jamie McCloskey, and Mark Hill, to terms that expire June 30, 2028, to the Commission on Aging.

Introduced by Council President at the request of the County Executive.

Introduced and ordered posted on January 6, 2026; scheduled for consideration on January 20, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that Administration offered no further comments.

President Miller requested a motion to approve Resolution No. 01-2026.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 01-2026, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley.

Roll Call Vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 5-0.

CALL FOR FINAL READING OF BILLS

Bill No. 2025-11

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Bill No. 2025-11 Amendment-Cecil County Code-Chapter 110-Taxing Districts Special-Stormwater Management Facility Maintenance Districts

An Act to amend the Cecil County Code, Chapter 110, Taxing Districts, Special, by creating and adding a new Article V for the establishment of Special Taxing Districts to fix and levy a special tax to fund the County's repair and perpetual maintenance of privately owned stormwater management facilities within a designated district with the special tax to be paid annually in the same manner as all other county taxes by the owners of properties served by those stormwater management facilities for the period of time established by the Cecil County Council.

Introduced by Council President at the request of the County Executive

Introduced and ordered posted on December 16, 2025; Public Hearing scheduled on January 06, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on January 20, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that Administration offered no further comments.

President Miller requested a motion to approve Bill No. 2025-11.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Bill No. 2025-11, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley.

Roll Call Vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #143

President Miller requested a motion to approve Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #143.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #143, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

Roll Call Vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 5-0.

Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #144

President Miller requested a motion to approve Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #144.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #144, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley.

Roll Call Vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

REZONING FILE 2025-05

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Rezoning File 2025-05 Applicant: EcoWood Resource Group LLC, Henry Ray, Property Location 0 W Old Philadelphia Road, North East Maryland 21901. Election District 5, Tax Map 031D, Parcel 0485. Property Owner EcoWood Resource Group, LLC. Presently Zoned: Low Density Residential (LDR); Proposed Zoning Employment Mixed Use (EMU).

President Miller requested a motion regarding Rezoning File 2025-05.

Councilwoman Branch made a motion, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley, to deny Rezoning File 2025-05 based upon the applicant's failure to prove a substantial change in the character of the neighborhood.

Roll Call Vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 5-0.

REZONING FILE 2025-06

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Rezoning File 2025-06 Applicant: EcoWood Resource Group LLC, Henry Ray. Property Location 760 W Old Philadelphia Road, North East Maryland 21901. Election District 5, Tax Map 031D, Parcel 0170. Property Owner EcoWood Resource Group, LLC. Presently Zoned: Low Density Residential (LDR); Proposed Zoning Employment Mixed Use (EMU).

President Miller requested a motion regarding Rezoning File 2025-06.

Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion, which was seconded by Vice President Meffley, to deny Rezoning File 2025-06 based upon the applicant's failure to prove a substantial change in the character of the neighborhood.

Roll Call Vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller – Y

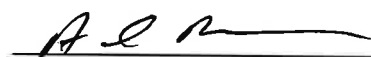
The motion was approved 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Branch and approved by all present, President Miller adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Council President Miller announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building. The Legislative Session will be livestreamed on the County's webpage at www.cecilcountymd.gov. The recording and transcription will be uploaded to the County's website as soon as possible.

Approved:



Al Miller, Council President

Attest:



L. Michelle Henson, Council Manager