

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY

WORK SESSION MINUTES

February 3, 2026

OPEN SESSION – Elk Room

4:30 P.M.

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

PRESENT: Council Members: Robert Meffley, Rebecca Hamilton, Al Miller, Donna Culberson and Dawn Branch; Council Manager L. Michelle Henson; Council Assistant Christine Palmer; members of the Administration and members of the public.

Call to Order

President Miller called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and announced that there were five Council Members present which constitute a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Vice President Meffley, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council Work Session of January 20, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of Legislative Agenda

Introduction of Resolutions

Resolution No. 04-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 04-2026 Appointment – Public Safety Plan Board of Trustees – Stephen Brownhill and Colin Shaw

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that Resolution No. 04-2026 completes the membership of the Public Safety Plan Board of Trustees.

Consideration of Resolutions

Resolution No. 02-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 02-2026 Appointment – Economic Development Commission

Carl D. 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

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that Resolution No 02-2026 provides for reappointments of members and the appointments of new members.

Resolution No. 03-2025

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 03-2025 Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance Department of Public Works Roads Division – Asphalt Overlay

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated Resolution No. 03-2025 provides for initiation of paving of approximately 10 miles of county roads.

Council Manager Report

Council Manager Henson stated the report was included in the Council's meeting packet.

State Legislative Update

President Miller stated he attended the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Rural Counties Coalition meeting on February 2nd during which several House and Senate Bills were discussed based upon their potential impacts on rural counties.

President Miller stated his support for Senate Bill (SB) 0393 which provides funding support for Community Colleges; SB 0378 which supports local libraries; and House Bill (HB) 0460 which reduces the percentage of priority preservation acreage upon which solar arrays can be placed.

President Miller stated that the Maryland Farm Bureau will provide testimony regarding HB 0460 on February 4th.

President Miller expressed appreciation to MACo for supporting farmers.

President Miller expressed appreciation to the County Administration regarding submission of a letter of support for SB 0288 which preserves Highway User Revenue (HUR) funding to local governments. Director of Administration Schneckenburger confirmed that the letter of support had been submitted prior to the Bill's hearing on January 30th.

Councilwoman Culberson expressed opposition to SB 0218/HB 0288 which permits the State Superintendent of Schools to declare a prolonged state of emergency; and expressed support for HB 0063 which provides for designation of school locker rooms based upon biological sex; and support for SB 0050 which prohibits certain school sponsored sports from including certain participants.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger noted that the Starter and Silver Homes Act of 2026, which imposes mandated upzoning on local jurisdictions, is facing opposition from the Maryland Municipal League (MML). He stated that the Rural Counties Coalition requested MACo's support in exempting counties with populations below 150,000 from the legislation.

Councilwoman Branch expressed opposition to HB 0565 which would eliminate at-large voting for members of Boards of Education. Councilwoman Hamilton concurred with Councilwoman Branch.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger noted that the County Charter provides for at-large voting for Council members. He stated elimination of at-large voting would be done via referendum to amend the Charter.

Councilwoman Hamilton expressed opposition to HB 0350/SB 0255 which legislates how Counties conduct their local elections.

Discussion ensued regarding Council's stated positions.

Council Member Items

Council deferred Council Member Items to the Legislative Session.

Adjournment

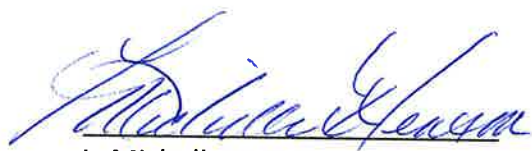
President Miller requested a motion to adjourn the Work Session.

Councilwoman Culberson made motion to adjourn the Work Session, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

President Miller adjourned the work session at 4:53 pm.

The next County Council Work Session will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 4:30 pm in the Elk Room of the County Administrative Building. The session will be livestreamed on the County Council's webpage at www.cecilcountymd.gov

Approved:



L. Michelle Henson
Council Manager


Al Miller, Council President