

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY

WORK SESSION MINUTES

February 17, 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, 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 four Council Members present which constitute a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

Vice President Meffley requested an amendment to the minutes of the February 3, 2026 Work Session by clarifying that Paris Foundation Board President Imperatrice indicated that Bay Country, which was not the original contractor hired for the Paris Foundation Project, had not been replaced. President Imperatrice's comments were in response to Councilwoman Culberson's query if there had been contractor turnover.

On a motion made by Councilwoman Branch, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the Council Work Session of February 3, 2026, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentations

Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #145

Cecil County Public Schools (CCPS) Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Denise Sopa presented CCPS Budget Amendment #145.

CFO Sopa stated Budget Amendment #145 reflected relatively low activity for the month of January 2026.

CFO Sopa reviewed restricted and unrestricted revenues which included donations from community groups and a donation from North East High School.

CFO Sopa noted that an entry indicating a "Title 1 Carryover" was not exclusive to Bainbridge Elementary School but covered all Title 1 schools.

Councilwoman Culberson queried the number of Title 1 schools in Cecil County.

CFO Sopa estimated that there are 9 – 10 Title 1 schools in Cecil County.

CFO Sopa stated that the balance of Budget Amendment #145 packet contained breakdowns of restricted and non-restricted funds as well as 3-year trends.

CFO Sopa noted that the Fixed Charges category reflected the increase in employee health care costs.

Councilwoman Culberson queried why Maintenance costs were at 90% of the budget. CFO Sopa responded that the costs are encumbered in a purchase order and not yet expended.

Councilwoman Culberson, noting that costs associated with the Office of Finance were at 92% of the Budget, queried if this was a similar circumstance as the Maintenance line item. CFO Sopa answered in the affirmative, stating that liability insurance costs fall under the Office of Finance.

Review of Legislative Agenda

Introduction of Resolutions

Resolution No. 05-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 05-2026 Appointment – Commission for Women – Abigail Bingham, Sharone Glasco, Jennifer Cooper, Tracy Reynolds, Donna Horgan and Rachel Wright

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger stated that the Commission for Women had not been active since 2023, adding that Resolution No. 05-2026 provides for new members as well as the reappointment of Abigail Bingham.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger expressed appreciation to President Miller regarding his announcement during his State of the Council address that Council approved 95 appointments to various Boards and Committees.

Councilwoman Branch queried if Resolution No 05-2026 completed the membership for the Commission for Women. Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated there are vacancies on the Commission.

Consideration of Resolutions

Resolution No. 04-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

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

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger stated that Resolution No. 04-2026 provides for the reappointment of Stephen Brownhill and the appointment of Colin Shaw, who will represent the Paramedic Union.

New Business

Cecil County Public Schools Budget Amendment #145

Council Manager Report

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

State Legislative Update

Councilwoman Branch stated she and Councilwoman Hamilton attended the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Rural Counties Coalition meeting on February 16th. She stated discussion included SB 807, which proposes to permit a farm brewery to include distillation and sales of distilled products. She stated Councilwoman Hamilton requested a letter of opposition from Council.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that SB 807 usurped the authority of County Liquor Boards.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that Vice President Meffley will join a group from Cecil County in Annapolis on February 19th to testify in opposition of HB 0887, which would have a financial impact on Cecil County's Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) grant fund program.

Councilwoman Branch thanked Vice President Meffley and all involved in traveling to Annapolis to testify in opposition to HB 0887.

President Miller noted the large number of bills that had been proposed in Annapolis.

Councilwoman Culberson stated that Delegate Hornberger sponsored HB 0887 pursuant to a bill that was sponsored by Delegate Long, which includes a provision for elimination of at-large voting. Director of Administration Schneckenburger noted that the bill sponsored by Delegate Long addressed non-Charter governments, noting that the State of Maryland, under several circumstances, still recognizes Cecil County as a non-Charter government.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger noted that HB 0887, nor Delegate Long's bill, have a Senate sponsor.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger noted that Del. Carr introduced HB983 which would negatively impact the Enterprise Zone, adding there was no co-sponsor. President Miller opined that this was another example of "one size fits all" legislation from Annapolis.

President Miller, referring to HB 1370, stated this bill proposed to permit the Town of Rising Sun to install enforcement cameras on selected STOP signs within the town. He noted that HB 1370 included language indicating that Cecil County Council's approval is required to place the cameras. He asked Council Manager Henson to forward HB 1370 to legal counsel for review.

Council Member Items

Council deferred Council Member Items to the Legislative Session.

Adjournment

President Miller requested a motion to adjourn the Work Session.

Vice President Meffley made motion to adjourn the Work Session, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

President Miller adjourned the work session at 4:51 pm.

The next County Council Work Session will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 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