

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2026-05
March 3, 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 March 3, 2026 Legislative Session of the Cecil County Council was called to order by Council President Miller at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLIEGIANCE

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

OPENING PRAYER/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Pastor Sam Brindley, First Baptist Church of Perryville, Perryville Maryland offered the Opening Prayer

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the agenda of March 3, 2026. The motion was approved unanimously.

Presentation

Proclamation – March 2026 Endometriosis Awareness Month

Council proclaimed March 2026 as Endometriosis Awareness Month. Councilwoman Branch read the Proclamation into the record of the minutes. Council presented the Proclamation to Ms. Andrea Sengstock.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sean Brimm spoke about the process of closing an Open Meeting to conduct a Closed Meeting.

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 February 17, 2026.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Branch stated she has been attending virtual meetings of the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Legislative Committee, which reviews and offers positions on legislation.

Councilwoman Branch expressed appreciation to the Administration for traveling to Annapolis to speak on bills that impact Cecil County.

Councilwoman Branch stated she read the Governor's proposed Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Budget, which includes proposed taxes on vending machines and Information Technology, and transfers

of Capital Improvement and Chesapeake Bay Funds to support the budget. She expressed concerns that teacher pension costs will be transferred to Counties.

Vice President Meffley stated he attended the Maryland Rural Development Council (MRDC) meeting in Greensboro, during which Sen. Griest discussed energy issues and the availability of Federal funding for energy infrastructure. Vice President Meffley stated that Sen. Griest is working to create a partnership among Eastern Shore Counties via the MRDC to pursue energy sources, including natural gas and nuclear energy.

Vice President Meffley stated he attended the Government Relations Committee (GRC) meeting on February 26th. He commended the GRC for open discussion of bills in a non-partisan manner. Vice President Meffley stated he will participate in Reading Across America by reading to 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders at Holly Hall Elementary School on March 5th.

Vice President Meffley stated he will attend District 36 Night in Annapolis on March 9th. He stated the event provides the opportunity to speak with the County's Delegation.

Vice President Meffley stated the Legislature considers many bills during Session and expressed his desire to obtain a listing of bills that can potentially affect Cecil County.

Councilwoman Hamilton stated she attended the American Legion's Ice Splash event at the Wellwood on February 28th.

Councilwoman Hamilton thanked the audience for attending the meeting.

Councilwoman Culberson provided DES Intel for the previous week, stated that Emergency Services responded to 194 calls, 15 of which were mental-health related; 42 domestic calls, 20 of which were physical, and 1 overdose which resulted in a fatality.

Councilwoman Culberson stated she recently read an article regarding Maryland's high energy bills, stating that large data centers in Baltimore City and County use a great deal of electricity. She expressed concern regarding potential development of data centers in Cecil County and the resultant use of electricity.

Councilwoman Culberson queried if the State Legislature was considering a bill that provides for onsite energy production to support data centers. Executive Streight answered in the affirmative.

Councilwoman Culberson stated she attended the Fire and Ice event in Port Deposit on February 28th. She stated she attended with the Veterans Commission and had the opportunity to share information about the Commission with several people.

President Miller thanked those in the audience for attending the meeting.

President Miller stated he attended the Boy Scouts Troop 22 meeting on February 18th at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. He commended the Scouts for their questions.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 06-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 06-2026 Appointment – Adult Public Guardianship Review Board – Mary Falkenstein

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment of Mary Falkenstein to the Adult Public Guardianship Review Board to a term which expires April 1, 2029.

Introduced by Council President at the request of the County Executive

Introduced and ordered posted on March 3, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on March 17, 2026

Director of Administration Schneckeburger stated that Resolution No. 06-2026 provided for the reappointment of Mary Falkenstein to the Adult Public Guardianship Review Board.

Resolution No. 07-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 07-2026 Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance – State of Maryland – State Department of Assessments and Taxation

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 State of Maryland – State Department of Assessments and Taxation in the amount of \$275,495 for the additional funds to correct an administrative discrepancy.

Introduced by Council President at the request of the County Executive

Introduced and ordered posted on March 3, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on March 17, 2026

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that Resolution No. 07-2026 was discussed during the earlier Work Session, and deferred questions to Deputy Director of Finance Andrew Ondish.

Councilwoman Hamilton, referring to Deputy Director Ondish's presentation during the earlier Work Session, stated that Cecil County received notice from the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) that an adjustment of \$100,000 was identified as a credit when it should have been identified as a charge in Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) and that the subsequent adjustment was slightly more than what was credited. Deputy Director Ondish concurred.

Councilwoman Hamilton requested clarification of how the \$275,495 identified in Resolution No. 07-2026 was determined. Deputy Director Ondish stated that SDAT advised the County of the billing error in 2025, after the County's budget was passed. He added that SDAT did not provide the final amount due until September 2025, at which time the County received an invoice.

Deputy Director Ondish stated that, during the time that SDAT became aware of the error, the County was advised of an increase in Local County Cost Share Billing from 50% to 90%. He stated this resulted in a \$247,000 shortfall of the \$800,000 that was originally budgeted for Local County Cost Share Billing.

Councilwoman Hamilton queried if the requested \$247,000 would satisfy the County's obligation. Deputy Director Ondish stated that the final obligation cannot be determined until the State of Maryland Budget is adopted.

CONSIDERATION 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

Introduced by Council President at the request of the County Executive

Introduced and ordered posted on February 17, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on March 3, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that Resolution No. 05-2025 provided for 6 members of the Commission.

President Miller requested a motion to approve Resolution No. 05-2026.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 05-2026, 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.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Branch and approved by all present, President Miller adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

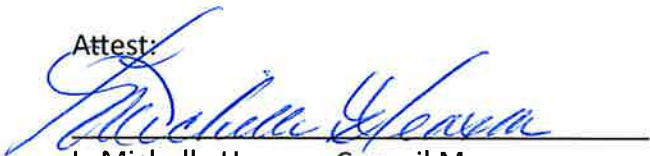
Council President Miller announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building. The Legislative Session will be livestreamed on the County's webpage at www.cecilcountymd.gov. The recording and transcription will be uploaded to the County's website as soon as possible.

Approved:



Al Miller, Council President

Attest:



L. Michelle Henson, Council Manager