

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2026-07
April 7, 2026

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:

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.ccgov.org/council.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the County Council of Cecil County of April 7, 2026, was called to order by Council President Miller at 7:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

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

OPENING PRAYER/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Pastor Curtis Strange, Conowingo Baptist Church, Conowingo, Maryland offered the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Councilwoman Branch, seconded by Councilwoman Culberson, the Council moved to approve the agenda of April 7, 2026. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Council recognized April 2026 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Councilwoman Culberson read the Proclamation into the record of the minutes. Council and County Executive Adam Streight presented the Proclamation to Ms. Lisa Beeman, Director of Social Services.

National Library Week

Council recognized April 19-25, 2026 as National Library Week. Councilwoman Branch read the Proclamation into the record of the minutes. Council and County Executive Streight presented the Proclamation to Ms. Rachel Wright, Executive Director, Cecil County Public Library.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Councilwoman Hamilton, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2026 Legislative Session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Sean Brim spoke of proposed property tax cuts and Child Abuse Prevention Month.
Ms. Crystal Hudson-Boyd spoke of truck traffic near her home and her subsequent interaction with County departments.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Branch stated that she attended the Maryland 250th Kickoff event on March 28th in Charlestown. She commended Sandy Turner, Office of Tourism Manager, and the team who made the event a success, and expressed appreciation to the Wellwood for hosting the event.

Vice President Meffley stated he attended several events on March 28th, including the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Kick Ball fundraising event at Pine Grove, Daffodil Day at the Upp Farm in Earleville, and the commemoration of the life of Dr. Joshua Clayton at Bethel Cemetery in Chesapeake City. Vice President Meffley stated that several people attended the event, honoring the life and service of Dr. Clayton, who served as an aide to Gen. George Washington and as the first Governor of Delaware.

Vice President Meffley stated it was his privilege to witness the launch of the Artemis II rocket from the Kennedy Space Center on April 1st.

Councilwoman Hamilton thanked those in the audience for attending the meeting.

Councilwoman Hamilton stated she also attended the Maryland 250th Kickoff event on March 28th in Charlestown. She stated that the Maryland 250th Commission was established in 2024 and further expressed appreciation to the Office of Tourism and vendors for a successful event. She stated that Council members participated in the event by reading short stories related to Cecil County during the American Revolution. Councilwoman Hamilton expressed her desire for Council to read the stories during an upcoming Legislative Session.

Councilwoman Hamilton stated that (4) individuals are running for Mayor and (4) individuals are running for (2) Commissioner seats in the Town of Elkton's Municipal Election on May 12th. She stated that she attended a candidate debate on April 6th at Patriots Glen, and commended debate host J.T. Wilson for coordinating the event. She expressed her hope that other towns would encourage citizen engagement in their respective municipal elections.

Councilwoman Hamilton stated that several positions will be voted upon in the County's Primary Election on June 18th, adding that the Cecil County Chamber of Commerce will host a forum for County and State office candidates on April 29th from 6:00 pm until 9:30 pm, and a second forum for Board of Education candidates on May 6th from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm, noting that both events will be held at the Elkton High School Auditorium.

Councilwoman Culberson provided Emergency Services intel for the week ending April 3rd, stating that responders handled 263 calls, 18 of which were mental-health related; 57 domestic calls, 25 of which were physical; and 4 overdoses, none of which were fatal. She noted that there was one overdose related fatality during the first 13 weeks of 2026, adding that last week's number of domestic calls was the highest reported during this period.

Councilwoman Culberson expressed appreciation to Voices of Hope and other organizations that raise community awareness. Councilwoman Culberson stated that Carfentanil, a potent opioid, has appeared in Cecil County. She noted the importance of immediate action when a person exhibits signs of overdose.

Councilwoman Culberson stated she also attended the Maryland 250th Kickoff event on March 28th in Charlestown. She commended the participants who dressed in period clothing while portraying citizens who lived during the Revolution.

Councilwoman Culberson announced ribbon cutting events for the opening of Artfully Dunn and the reopening of Backfin Blues in Port Deposit on April 9th in Port Deposit.

President Miller expressed his wishes that everyone enjoyed Easter.

President Miller stated he attended the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) banquet on April 6th at Grace Bible Church in Rising Sun. He congratulated the FCA upon meeting its fundraising goal of \$50,000.

President Miller stated he will attend the Ag Field Day event at Patsy DuPont's farm on April 10th.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 2026-01

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Bill No. 2026-01 – Capital Improvement Program FY2027-2031

A Bill to approve the Capital Improvement Program for Cecil County for Fiscal Years 2027 through 2031.

Introduced, read for the first time and ordered posted on April 7, 2026; scheduled for Public Hearing on May 21, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on June 2, 2026.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted that the Bills presented for introduction this evening provide the legislative pathway to pass the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Budget. He stated questions regarding the FY27 Budget can be directed to Director of Finance Raymond Hamm or Deputy Director Andrew Ondish.

Deputy Director Ondish reminded Council that all Capital Budgets will be reviewed on May 19th.

Bill No. 2026-02

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Bill No. 2026-02 – Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance - FY 2027

A Bill to adopt the County Budget including the Current Expense Budget, Capital Budget, Special Purpose Budgets and Grants Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and to appropriate funds for all expenditures for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026.

Introduced, read for the first time and ordered posted on April 7, 2026; scheduled for Public Hearing on May 21, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on June 2, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated Bill No. 2026-02 provides the pathway for the County's Operating Budget.

Bill No. 2026-03

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Bill No. 2026-03 – Authorization of Lease Purchase Equipment Financing

A Bill authorizing and empowering Cecil County, Maryland to enter into new financing under a lease purchase agreement or similar arrangement in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000) for Fiscal Year 2027 for the purpose of financing the acquisition of certain necessary and essential vehicles and equipment for use in the County's governmental programs; providing that the obligations of the County under the agreement shall not be a general obligation of the County, shall not constitute a pledge of the full faith and credit or the taxing power of the County and shall not constitute a debt of the County within the meaning of any statutory or constitutional provision, but shall be subject to appropriation in each and every fiscal year during the term of the agreement; empowering the County Executive to execute and deliver an executive order prior to the execution and delivery of the agreement in order to award the agreement to the successful bidder and to fix, prescribe and determine the details of such financing; and relating generally to such financing.

Introduced, read for the first time and ordered posted on April 7, 2026; scheduled for Public Hearing on May 21, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on June 2, 2026.

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger noted that this bill will authorize management of the County's fleet program for FY27.

Councilwoman Hamilton queried if the current fleet program renewed annually. Deputy Director Ondish answered in the negative, adding the goal of amending the fleet program to renew annually.

Bill No. 2026-04

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Bill No. 2026-04 – Taxation – Tax Credit – Senior Citizens and Veterans

A Bill to amend the Cecil County Senior Citizens and Veterans Tax Credit Program to expand the eligibility criteria.

Introduced, read for the first time and ordered posted on April 7, 2026; scheduled for Public Hearing on May 21, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on June 2, 2026.

County Executive Adam Streight stated that updates to the Tax Credit program for Senior Citizens, Veterans and their surviving spouses were initiated prior to FY26, resulting in relaxation of program requirements, including length of residency, total household income and assessed value. He stated the program was updated again for FY27 to include a wider group of seniors, veterans and their surviving spouses.

County Executive Streight noted that the County's new website offers online application for the program.

Deputy Director Ondish noted that Collections and Billing Manager Jessica Plato created color-coded forms for new and returning applicants.

County Executive Streight noted that the updated program will be presented to residents via community outreach including social media, Churches, Town meetings and Community Centers, adding that the Finance team can process applications during community outreach events.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 13-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 13-2026 Annexation – Town of Elkton – 128 Belle Hill Road (Tax Map 027B, Parcel 0772)

A Resolution to approve the request of the Town of Elkton for a waiver of the five-year hold in accordance with §4-416 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The request from the Town of Elkton is regarding property owned by PECO Energy Company, located on the south side of Belle Hill Road and north of Route 279, consisting of approximately 4.916 acres, identified on Tax Map 027B, Parcel 0772, which is being annexed into the Town of Elkton pursuant to Town of Elkton Annexation Resolution A1-2026. The property's proposed rezoning from Cecil County's High Density Residential District (RM) to the Town of Elkton's Highway Interchange Commercial (C3) zoning upon its annexation will result in substantially different uses, or substantially higher density, exceeding 50%, than could be granted for proposed development under the County's RM zoning.

Introduced and ordered posted on April 7, 2026; scheduled for Public Hearing on April 21, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on May 5, 2026.

Resolution No. 14-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 14-2026 Annexation – Town of Elkton – 100 Belle Hill Road (Tax Map 027B, Parcel 0283)

A Resolution to approve the request of the Town of Elkton for a waiver of the five-year hold in accordance with §4-416 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The request from the Town of Elkton is regarding property owned by JD Stonewall Ayars Development, LLC, located on the south side of Belle Hill Road and north of Route 279, consisting of approximately 8,555 square feet of land, identified on Tax Map 027B, Parcel 0283, which is being annexed into the Town of Elkton pursuant to Town of Elkton Annexation Resolution A2-2026. The property's proposed rezoning from Cecil County's High Density Residential District (RM) to the Town of Elkton's Highway Interchange Commercial (C3) zoning upon its annexation will result in substantially different uses, or substantially higher density, exceeding 50%, than could be granted for proposed development under the County's RM zoning.

Introduced and ordered posted on April 7, 2026; scheduled for Public Hearing on April 21, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on May 5, 2026.

Resolution No. 15-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 15-2026 Annexation – Town of Elkton – 17 Swallow Drive (Tax Map 027B, Parcel 0808)

A Resolution to approve the request of the Town of Elkton for a waiver of the five-year hold in accordance with §4-416 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The request from the Town of Elkton is regarding property owned by JD Stonewall Ayars Development, LLC, located on the south side of Belle Hill Road and north of Route 279, consisting of approximately 3.5910 acres of land, identified on Tax Map 027B, Parcel 0808, which is being annexed into the Town of Elkton pursuant to Town of Elkton Annexation Resolution A3-2026. The property's proposed rezoning from Cecil County's High Density Residential District (RM) to the Town of Elkton's Highway Interchange Commercial (C3) zoning upon its annexation will result in substantially different uses, or substantially higher density, exceeding 50%, than could be granted for proposed development under the County's RM zoning.

Introduced and ordered posted on April 7, 2026; scheduled for Public Hearing on April 21, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on May 5, 2026.

Resolution No. 16-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 16-2026 Appointment – Commission for Women – Casie Goins

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment of Casie Goins, with a term to expire on March 3, 2028 to the Commission for Women

Introduced and ordered posted on April 7, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on April 21, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that Administration has been working to reestablish the Commission for Women.

Councilwoman Hamilton stated that Ms. Goins is looking forward to serving on the Commission for Women.

Resolution No. 17-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 17-2025 Appointment – Local Management Board – Arsalan Sheikh

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment of Arsalan Sheikh to the Local Management Board, to a term which expires on April 1, 2031.

Introduced and ordered posted on April 7, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on April 21, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that Resolution No. 17-2026 provides for the reappointment of Arsalan Sheikh to the Local Management Board.

Councilwomen Hamilton and Culberson requested an update from the Local Management Board after Budget season.

Resolution No. 18-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Adoption - Real Property and Personal Property Tax Rates - Fiscal Year 2027

A Resolution to levy and impose a property and income tax for the fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027; setting the tax rates for property and providing for the collection of the property tax.

Introduced and ordered posted on April 7, 2026, scheduled for Public Hearing on May 21, 2026 and scheduled for consideration on June 2, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that Resolution No. 18-2026 was an important component of the FY27 Budget.

Resolution No. 19-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 19-2026 Appointment – Board of License Commissioners – Adam Kraus

A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Adam Kraus to the Board of License Commissioners with a term to expire on June 30, 2029.

Introduced and ordered posted on April 7, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on April 21, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that Resolution No. 19-2026 provides for the appointment of Adam Kraus to fill a vacancy resulting from the passing of Board member Steve Miller.

Resolution No. 20-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 20-2026 Appointment – Department of Social Services Board – Charles E. Dulin, Jr.

A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Charles E. Dulin, Jr., to the Department of Social Services Board, to a term which will expire June 30, 2029.

Introduced and ordered posted on April 7, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on April 21, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that Resolution No. 20-2026 provides for the appointment of new member Charles E. Dulin, Jr. to the Department of Social Services Board.

Resolution No. 21-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 21-2026 Appointment – Building Board of Appeals – Adrian Aiken

A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Adrian Aiken, to the Building Board of Appeals, to a term which will expire April 22, 2031.

Introduced and ordered posted on April 7, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on April 21, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that Resolution No. 21-2026 provides for the appointment of Adrian Aiken to the Building Board of Appeals.

Resolution No. 22-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 22-2026 Appointment – Historic District Commission – Daniel D. Gillgannon, Timothy Ashlock, Michael I. Welker, Jessica Bush and David Greenplate, Sr.

A Resolution to confirm the appointments of Daniel D. Gillgannon and Timothy Ashlock, to terms which will expire April 22, 2029, Michael I. Welker and Jessica Bush, to terms which will expire April 22, 2028, and David Greenplate, Sr., to a term which will expire April 22, 2027, to the Historic District Commission.

Introduced and ordered posted on April 7, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on April 21, 2026.

Director of Land Use and Development Services (LUDS) Stephen O'Connor stated that the Historic District Commission has not been active for approximately 5 years.

County Executive Streight noted that Councilwoman Branch's previous suggestion to advertise vacancies on Boards and Commissions via social media resulted in increased interest from the public.

Councilwoman Hamilton queried the purpose of the Historic District Commission. Director O'Connor stated the Historic District Commission is tasked with preserving historic properties and the review of requests for historic property tax credits.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS**Resolution No. 08-2026**

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 08-2026 Appointment – Local Management Board – Betty Johnson, Rachel Wright, Suanne Blumberg, George Stanko and Stephen Yates

Introduced and ordered posted on March 17, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on April 7, 2026

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated Resolution No. 08-2026 provided for the reappointments of listed members to the Local Management Board.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 08-2026, 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 to 0.

Resolution No. 09-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 09-2026 Appointment – Board of Library Trustees – Ravi Gupta

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment of Ravi Gupta to the Board of Library Trustees, to a term that will expire on April 6, 2031.

Introduced and ordered posted on March 17, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on April 7, 2026

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated Resolution No. 09-2026 provided for the reappointment of Ravi Gupta to the Library Board of Trustees.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 09-2026, 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 to 0.

Resolution No. 10-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 10-2026 Supplemental Appropriation – Wastewater Enterprise Fund – Department of Public Works – Wastewater Services – Washington Street Force Main Repair
A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2026, to move expenditure authority from the Wastewater Enterprise Fund to the Department of Public Works – Wastewater Services, in the amount of \$200,000 for expenses related to the emergency repair of the Washington Street Force Main.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that Resolution No. 10-2026 provides for the transfer of funds associated with the expenses related to repairs of the Washington Street Force Main.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Resolution No. 10-2026, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

Roll call vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – Y, Meffley – Y, Miller – Y

The motion was approved 5 to 0.

Resolution No. 11-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 11-2026 Supplemental Appropriation – General Fund Balance – Department of Public Works – Roads Division – Snow Removal

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriations 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 \$750,000 for expenses related to the removal of snow and ice from County roadways.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger commended staff from the Roads Division for clearing the County's roads during multiple winter storms.

Councilwoman Culberson concurred with Director of Administration Schneckenburger, stating the Roads Division staff did a great job.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 10-2026, 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 to 0.

Resolution No. 12-2026

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 12-2026 Approval – Amendment – Purchasing Manual

A Resolution to approve amendments to the Purchasing Manual, herein renamed as the Procurement Manual, effective July 1, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated the Finance team worked diligently to update the Procurement Manual.

Councilwoman Branch commended the Finance team for updating the Procurement Manual, adding that she appreciated the checks and balances contained within the document.

Councilwoman Branch made a motion to approve Resolution No. 10-2026, 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 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, President Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:12 pm.

Council President Miller announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building. The

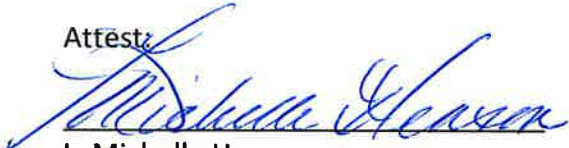
legislative session will be livestreamed at the county's webpage at www.ccgov.org/council. The recording and transcription will be uploaded to the county's website as soon as possible.

Approved:



Al Miller
Council President

Attest:



L. Michelle Henson
Council Manager