

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2026-11
June 2, 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.cecilcountymd.gov

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the County Council of Cecil County of June 2, 2026, was called to order by Council President Miller at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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 Brandon Montague, Ebenezer AME Church, Chesapeake City, Maryland offered the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, the Council moved to approve the agenda of June 2, 2026. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION

MD 250th Moment with Lt. Col. Nathaniel Ramsey

Mr. Karl Fockler appeared as Lt. Col. Nathaniel Ramsey, an attorney from Charlestown who served in the 3rd Regiment of the Continental Army in Maryland during the American Revolution. He provided a biography of Lt. Col. Ramsey, and invited audience members to attend an open-air reading of the Declaration of Independence at Long Point in Charlestown on July 4th, after which the cannon will fire at 10:00 am.

PROCLAMATION

Ebenezer AME Church 171st Anniversary

Council and County Executive Streight presented Pastor Brandon Montague with a Proclamation commemorating the 171st anniversary of Ebenezer AME Church in Chesapeake City. Vice President Meffley read the Proclamation into the record of the minutes. Pastor Montague and representatives of Ebenezer AME Church presented a Certificate of Fellowship to Cecil County Government.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Vice President Meffley, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2026 Legislative Session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michelle Ravert stated she is traveling around Legislative District 36 to introduce herself.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Branch congratulated North East High School (NEHS) Senior Timothy Gray for being awarded full tuition and textbooks at Cecil College.

Councilwoman Branch stated she attended the Cecil County Public Schools (CCPS) Graduation Ceremony on May 30th, and commended Class Salutatorian Ashley Ungarten for maintaining a 4.97 grade point average (GPA) and Valedictorian Thomas Cebula, who maintained a 5.01 GPA.

Councilwoman Culberson provided Emergency Response Services Intel for the period ending May 14th, reporting 274 calls, 33 of which were mental health related; 53 domestic violence calls, 28 of which were physical, adding that this was the second highest number of domestic violence calls this year; 4 overdoses, none of which resulted in a fatality, adding that there have been 5 fatalities in the last 19 weeks. Councilwoman Culberson expressed appreciation to the Voices of Hope for their work in reducing drug-related fatalities.

Councilwoman Culberson reiterated her previous comments regarding Council's responsibility to taxpayers, stating that the proposed 4% cap on wage adjustments provides the County the opportunity to conduct an independent wage study.

Councilwoman Culberson thanked members of the audience for attending the meeting.

Councilwoman Hamilton stated that she attended the Memorial Day Service on May 30th at the American Legion Rising Sun Post. She noted that the commemoration is held annually on May 30th, as this was the original date of Memorial Day. Councilwoman Hamilton expressed her gratitude to all American Legion and VFW Posts for commemorating Memorial Day and expressed her appreciation to all Veterans for their service and to all who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Councilwoman Hamilton stated she attended the Elkton High Graduation event on May 30th and offered congratulations to the entire Class of 2026.

Vice President Meffley stated he attended a meeting at the Department of Social Services (DSS) on May 27th during which he met Acting Secretary Rodgers. He commended DSS for providing resources and support to families.

Vice President Meffley stated he attended the Bo Manor High School Awards Ceremony on May 28th and added that Lia Beaudet received the Cecil County Government Scholarship.

Vice President Meffley stated that the Cecil County School of Technology (CCST) graduated 400 students; Bo Manor 135 students; North East 242 students; Rising Sun 248 students; Perryville 217 students; and commended the student speakers.

Vice President Meffley commended Cecil County Public Schools (CCPS) regarding the graduation event, adding that CCPS will research the impact on local businesses resulting from conducting the graduation event outside of Cecil County.

President Miller commended the American Legion Rising Sun Post for commemorating Memorial Day on its original date, May 30th.

President Miller stated he enjoyed the CCPS and CCST graduation ceremonies. He commended Rising Sun High School graduate Max Bocklage, who played the piano and sang the National Anthem.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 26-2026 Appointment – Local Management Board – Laura Hannan

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 26-2026 Appointment - Local Management Board – Laura Hannan

A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Laura Hannan to the Local Management Board, to a term which expires June 17, 2031.

Introduced by Council President at the request of the County Executive

Introduced and ordered posted on June 2, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on June 16, 2026

Director of Administration Dan Schneckenburger stated that Resolution No. 26-2026 provided for the appointment of Laura Hannan to the Local Management Board.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 18-2026 Adoption - Real Property and Personal Property Tax Rates - Fiscal Year 2027

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 18-2026 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 by Council President at the request of the County Executive

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 the Administration was pleased to provide some tax relief to citizens.

Councilwoman Branch expressed appreciation to the County Executive and the Administration for including the tax reductions in the FY27 Budget.

President Miller requested a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-2026.

Councilwoman Branch made a motion to approve Resolution No. 18-2026, 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.

Resolution No. 24-2026 Appointment – Commission on Aging – Matthew Lowder

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 24-2026 Appointment – Commission on Aging – Matthew Lowder

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment of Matthew Lowder, to a term which expires June 30, 2028 to the Commission on Aging.

Introduced by Council President at the request of the County Executive

Introduced and ordered posted on May 19, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on June 2, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger requested Council's support for the reappointment of Matthew Lowder to the Commission on Aging.

President Miller requested a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-2026.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-2026, 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.

Resolution No. 25-2026 Appointment – Board of Electricians – Paul Palmer

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Resolution No. 25-2026 Appointment – Board of Electricians – Paul Palmer

A Resolution to confirm the reappointment of Paul Palmer, to a term which expires May 31, 2029, to the Board of Electricians

Introduced by Council President at the request of the County Executive

Introduced and ordered posted on May 19, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on June 2, 2026.

Director of Administration Schneckenburger requested Council's support for the reappointment of Paul Palmer to the Board of Electricians.

President Miller requested a motion to approve Resolution No. 25-2026.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Resolution No. 25-2026, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

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

The motion was approved 3-2.

CALL FOR FINAL READING OF BILLS

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

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 by Council President at the request of the County Executive
Introduced, read first time and ordered posted on April 7, 2026; public hearing scheduled on May 21, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on June 2, 2026
Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that Administration offered no additional comments.
Vice President Meffley expressed his desire to identify another location for the proposed Parks and Recreation facility.

President Miller requested a motion to approve Bill No. 2026-01.
Councilwoman Branch made a motion to approve Bill No. 2026-01, 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.

Bill No. 2026-02 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance FY2027

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:
Resolution No. 2026-02 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance - FY2027
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 by Council President at the request of the County Executive
Introduced, read first time and ordered posted on April 7, 2026; public hearing scheduled on May 21, 2026; and scheduled for consideration June 2, 2026
Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that Administration offered no further comments.

Amendment No. 1 to Bill No. 2026-02

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:
Amendment No. 1 to Bill No. 2026-02 Cap – Proposed Salary Adjustment
To implement a 4% cap on proposed increases resulting from the wage study for Fiscal Year 2027 for all positions.
Future wage adjustments can be implemented via a Budget Amendment Resolution after adoption of the FY27 Budget pursuant to Administration conducting a wage study via an independent consultant and provision of documentation to substantiate the wage adjustments.
Introduced by Councilwoman Hamilton and Councilwoman Culberson
In all Departments, Salaries, DECREASE proposed wage adjustments pursuant to 4% cap

President Miller requested a motion to approve Amendment No. 1 to Bill No. 2026-02
Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve Amendment No. 1 to Bill No. 2026-02, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.
Roll Call Vote: Hamilton – Y, Culberson – Y, Branch – N, Meffley – N, Miller – N
The motion was denied 3-2.

Amendment No. 2 to Bill No. 2026-02

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:
Amendment No. 2 to Bill No. 2026-02 Orphans' Court Proposed Salary Change
To set the proposed FY27 salary at \$28,504 and ancillary line items at the same amount as the FY26 Budget under Salary and Fringe pursuant to failure of House Bill 713/Senate Bill 835 during the 2026 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session. This results in an expense decrease in Department 171 Orphans' Court Salary & Fringe Total in the amount of \$10,496
Introduced by Councilwoman Hamilton and Councilwoman Culberson
In Department 171 Orphans' Court 00117100-501900 DECREASE Salaries – Elected Officials \$10,496

Councilwoman Hamilton requested to withdraw Amendment No. 2 to Bill No. 2026-02, as it will be addressed in Amendment No. 3 to Bill No. 2026-02.
President Miller requested a motion to withdraw Amendment No. 2 to Bill No. 2026-02.
Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to withdraw Amendment No. 2 Bill No. 2026-02, 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.

Amendment No. 3 to Bill No. 2026-02

Council Manager Henson stated for the record:

Amendment No. 3 to Bill No. 2026-02 Initiation of Feasibility Study – Mill Lane

To increase expenditures in 00140300-504400 by \$25,000 to create the Mill Lane Bridge Feasibility Study.

Introduced by Vice President Meffley at request of the County Executive

In Department 403 Engineering and Construction INCREASE line item 00140300-504400 by \$25,000 from \$300,000 to \$325,000

In Department 128 Legal 0012800-505700 DECREASE Legal Services \$5,000

In Department 192 Finance 00119200-504400 DECREASE Professional Services \$5,000

In Department 121 Director of Administration 001121000-517900 DECREASE Special Projects \$5,000

In Department 171 Orphans' Court 00117100-501900 DECREASE Salaries – Elected Officials \$10,000

For Proposed FY27 Expense Budget the increases and decreases result in a net-zero change

Director of Administration Schneckenburger stated that the Administration is supportive of Amendment No. 3 to Bill No. 2026-02.

Councilwoman Culberson noted that Amendment No. 2 indicated a decrease in the Salary of the Orphans' Court of \$10,496 but that Amendment No. 3 indicates using \$10,000. She queried if the remaining \$496 will remain in the Fund Balance. Director of Administration Schneckenburger answered in the affirmative.

President Miller requested a motion to approve Amendment No. 3 to Bill No. 2026-02.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Amendment No. 3 to Bill No. 2026-02, 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.

President Miller requested a motion to approve Bill No. 2026-02 as amended.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Bill No. 2026-02 with Amendment No. 3, which was seconded by Councilwoman Branch.

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

The motion was approved 3-2.

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

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 by Council President at the request of the County Executive

Introduced, read first time and ordered posted on April 7, 2026; public hearing scheduled on May 21, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on June 2, 2026

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

President Miller requested a motion to approve Bill No. 2026-03.

Councilwoman Culberson made a motion to approve Bill No. 2026-03, 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.

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

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 by Council President at the request of the County Executive

Introduced and ordered posted on April 7, 2026; public hearing scheduled on May 21, 2026; and scheduled for consideration on June 2, 2026

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

Councilwoman Branch expressed appreciation to County Executive Streight and the Administration for providing tax relief to senior citizens and Veterans.

President Miller requested a motion to approve Bill No. 2026-04.

Vice President Meffley made a motion to approve Bill No. 2026-04, 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.

New Business

Request of President Miller for Council Approval to move the June 16, 2026 Work Session and Legislative Session to the Elkton Municipal Building, 100 Railroad Avenue, Elkton Maryland. The request to move the location of the Legislative Session is pursuant to County Code A387-18(C) and is due to the Board of Election's conducting of Early Voting, which will be held at the County Administration Building during the time period June 11-18, 2026.

President Miller requested a motion to approve relocation of the June 16, 2026 Work Session and Legislative Session to the Elkton Municipal Building, 100 Railroad Avenue, Elkton, Maryland. Councilwoman Hamilton made a motion to approve relocation of the Work Session and Legislative Session on June 16, 2026, which was seconded by Councilwoman Culberson.

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

The motion was approved 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

President Miller requested a motion to adjourn the Legislative Session.

On motion made by Councilwoman Culberson, seconded by Councilwoman Branch, President Miller adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Council President Miller announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Elkton Municipal Building 100 Railroad Avenue in Elkton. The Legislative Session will be livestreamed at 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