

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
SPECIAL BUDGET HEARING
MINUTES
May 23, 2019**

The County Council of Cecil County, Maryland, met in special public hearing at the Elkton High School Auditorium, 110 James Street, Elkton, MD. The following members of the Council were present:

Robert Meffley, Council President
Jackie Gregory, Vice President
William Coutz, Council Member
Al Miller, Council Member
George Patchell, Council Member

NOTE: Audio and video recording of this meeting are available on the County website www.ccgov.org.

CALL TO ORDER

The special public hearing of the County Council of Cecil County, Maryland of May 23, 2019 was called to order by County President Meffley at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME

Council President Meffley welcomed attending citizens to a special public hearing on legislation related to the FY 2020 Cecil County Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance. He introduced Council Members and staff.

READING OF LEGISLATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2019-06: Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance – FY 2020

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, 2020, and to appropriate funds for all expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019.

The Bill was introduced on April 2, 2019, advertised on May 8, 2019 and May 15, 2019, and scheduled for public hearing on June 23, 2019 at 7p.m at the Elkton High School Auditorium, 110 James Street, Elkton, Md.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2019-05: Capital Improvement Plan – FY 2020-2024

A Bill to approve the Capital Improvement Program for Cecil County for Fiscal Years 2020 through 2024.

The Bill was introduced on April 2, 2019, advertised on May 8, 2019 and May 15, 2019, and scheduled for public hearing on June 23, 2019 at 7p.m at the Elkton High School Auditorium, 110 James Street, Elkton, Md.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2019-04: Lease and Purchase – Vehicles and Equipment

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 Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) for Fiscal Year 2020 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.

The Bill was introduced on April 2, 2019, advertised on May 8, 2019 and May 15, 2019, and scheduled for public hearing on June 23, 2019 at 7p.m at the Elkton High School Auditorium, 110 James Street, Elkton, Md.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 26-2019: Fees- Structure Permits

A Resolution to establish a technology fee of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) to defray the cost of updating permitting technology as part of the fee structure for structural building permits.

The Resolution was introduced on April 2, 2019, advertised on May 8, 2019 and May 15, 2019, and scheduled for public hearing on June 23, 2019 at 7p.m at the Elkton High School Auditorium, 110 James Street, Elkton, Md.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 27-2019: Adoption of Property Tax Rate – FY 2020

A Resolution to levy and impose a property tax for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020; setting the tax rates for property and providing for the collection of the property tax.

The Resolution was introduced on April 2, 2019, advertised on May 8, 2019 and May 15, 2019, and scheduled for public hearing on June 23, 2019 at 7p.m at the Elkton High School Auditorium, 110 James Street, Elkton, Md.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY ADMINISTRATION

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided a summary of Bill No. 2019-06: Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance – FY 2020; Bill No. 2019-05: Capital Improvement Plan – FY 2020-2024; Bill No. 2019-04: Lease and Purchase – Vehicles and Equipment; Resolution No. 26-2019: Fees- Structure Permits; and Resolution No. 27-2019: Adoption of Property Tax Rate – FY 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Council President Meffley summarized the guidelines for speakers to follow and asked Council Manager Massey to call the speakers in order of their registration.

Gina Handley, North East, representing Campaign for Liberty, commented in support of Cecil College and the scholarship program.

Joe Tropp, Earleville, opposed any tax increase, supported reduced spending and lowering the tax rate.

Bob Willick, representing the Campaign for Liberty, commented to reduce spending and lower taxes.

Victoria and Joshua Mahan, Elkton, commented in support of public library funding.

Bunny Renshaw, Elkton, representing Friends of Parks and Recreation, commented in support of Brantwood Park funding.

Tasena Lynee McDonald, Elkton, commented in support of public library funding.

John Barteld, Chesapeake City, representing Friends of the Library, commented in support of public library funding.

Christina Meshem, North East, commented in support of public library funding.

Lorain Alexander-Maurer, North East, commented in opposition to tax increase, additional school funding, and turf fields.

Carolyn Brown, Perryville, commented in support of school funding for special needs program.

Jessica Carrillo, Elkton, representing Friends of Parks and Recreation, commented in support of Brantwood Park and better recreational facilities.

Matthew Chambers, Rising Sun, representing BEPAC, commented in support of more school funding and support for a new North East Middle School.

Bill Malesh, Perryville, representing the Board of Education, commented in support of school funding and funding of the Pre-K program.

Robert Muller, Elkton, representing Singerly Fire Company, commented in opposition to funding of three new Emergency Medical Technician positions and asked to establish communications with fire companies.

John Slater, North East, commented in support of public library funding, the new North East Library and county bus services.

Steve Luthultz, Middletown, DE, commented in support of full funding the school budget.

Denise Barton, Port Deposit, commented in support of public school funding, turf fields and more school staff.

Janine Kraft, Bear, DE, commented in support of full funding of the school budget and need for more special education program and other programs to address trauma, homelessness and disabilities.

Kim Rhoades, Elkton, representing Campaign for Liberty, commented in opposition to funding of schools, parks and the bus service.

Josh Rhoades, Elkton, commented in support of reducing spending.

Maryanne Dolon, Elkton, representing Friends of Parks and Recreation, commented in support of full funding for Parks and Recreation.

Deb Short, Cherry Hill, commented in opposition to spending and raising taxes.

Shaena Lawson, Elkton, commented in support of school funding, full day Kindergarten, and turf fields.

Shirley Carter, North East, commented in opposition to widening of Lums Road.

Thomas McFadden, Elkton, representing Friends of Parks and Recreation, commented in support of progress made by Cecil College, Cooperative Extension, and Parks and Recreation.

Jeff Brizuela, North East, commented in support of funding services for children and community.

Josie Perry, Elkton, commented in support of full funding for public schools.

Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, commented in opposition to fund turf fields, the new North East Library, and Calvert Park.

Lori Hrinko, Elkton, representing Classroom Teachers Association, commented in support of full funding for public schools.

Tinesheau Howell, Perryville, commented in support of full funding the public schools.

Don Harmer, Elkton, representing Parks and Recreation Board, commented in support of Calvert Park, turf fields, and Brantwood Park.

Kathy Hurd Jagers, Rising Sun, commented in opposition to all increases to school system.

Ron Jagers, Rising Sun, commented in opposition to funding public school education.

Donald Wehry, Colora, commented in opposition to funding three new Emergency Medical Technicians.

Ellen Nudge, Elkton/Chesapeake City, commented in support of school funding and special needs school services.

Randall McLennan, Chesapeake City, representing the Chesapeake City Volunteer Fire Company, commented in support of funding three new EMT positions.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Council President Meffley thanked the audience for attending and participating in the public hearing. He stated that the Council is scheduled to consider approval of this legislation at their legislative session on June 4, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building. He stated that the public is invited to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Meffley adjourned the public hearing at 9:10 pm.

Approved:



Robert Meffley
Council President



James Massey
Council Manager