

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2016-06
March 15, 2016**

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:

Robert Hodge, Council President
Dr. Alan McCarthy, Vice President
Joyce Bowsbey, Council Member
Dan Schneckenburger, Council Member
George Patchell, Council Member

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the County Council of Cecil County of March 15, 2016 was called to order by President Hodge at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Council President Hodge led the Council in a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to approve the legislative agenda of March 15, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION

County Executive Tari Moore joined Council members in presenting a proclamation in honor of National Agriculture Day to Gavrielle Goldie, Junior Miss Cecil County Farm Bureau. Ms. Goldie was also presented with a certificate of recognition for her achievement.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2016-02 Budget Transfer - Roads and Bridges Capital Improvement Program- Waibel Road Bridge and Road Improvement Projects

A Bill to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 in order to transfer \$250,000 of existing bond budget authority within the Roads and Bridges Capital Improvement Program budget from the completed Replacement of Baron Road Bridge over CSX Project to the Replacement of Waibel Road Bridge (\$175,000) and Waibel Road Improvement (\$75,000) Projects.

Mr. Wein, Director of Administration, provided comments on the legislation.

The Bill was introduced on February 16, 2016, advertised on March 2, 2016 and March 9, 2016, and scheduled for public hearing on March 15, 2016.

There were no Council questions or comments.

Council President Hodge opened the public hearing for public comment.
Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, commented in support of the legislation.

Council President Hodge concluded the public hearing on Bill No. 2016-02 and announced that final consideration of this Bill will be held on April 5, 2016.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2016-03 Budget Amendment - Capital Budget - Animal Care and Control Facility

A Bill to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 that will increase bond budget authority within the Approved General Fund Capital Improvement Program budget by \$500,000 in order to purchase real property and existing improvements, and acquire necessary equipment for, an animal care and control facility and further, for the purpose of providing financial savings versus the existing rental arrangement.

Mr. Wein, Director of Administration, provided additional information about the purchase of the facility. The administration proposes to purchase the former SPCA facility in Earleville for the County's animal shelter. The purchase price for the facility is \$395,000 with additional cost of \$25,000 for existing equipment, and \$60,000 for renovation and contingency. The County plans to open the facility by July 1, 2016. He explained that the Council is required to hold a public hearing when a facility is being purchased. The public meeting will be held on April 7, 2016.

The Bill was introduced on February 16, 2016, advertised on March 2, 2016 and March 9, 2016, and scheduled for public hearing on March 15, 2016.

There were no Council comments or questions.

Council President Hodge opened the public hearing for public comment.

Anke Masters, Elkton, commented in support of this legislation.

Tammy Pollard, Elkton, commented in support of this legislation.

Joe Carabetta, Perryville, asked about who was the current owner of the nonprofit organization.

Diane Carabetta, Perryville, commented about having no fiscal note for this Bill, the problems of the facility's septic system, and her opposition to a "kill shelter" approach.

Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, commented on buying the facility with borrowed money and about the Basell property.

Greg MacDonald, Elkton, commented on his concern for the County going in debt to purchase the facility.

Council President Hodge concluded the public hearing on Bill No. 2016-03 and announced that final consideration of this Bill will be held on April 5, 2016.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilman Schneckenburger, the Council moved to approve the legislative session minutes of March 1, 2016 as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Greg MacDonald, Elkton, commented on the County employees' health costs and stagnant salaries, and his opposition to the purchase of the animal shelter.

Diane Carabetta, Perryville, commented that the animal shelter should be located on the Basell property.

Anke Masters, Elkton, commented in support of the animal shelter proposal as long as the current contractor is not hired to operate it.

Tammy Pollard, Elkton, commented on hiring qualified persons to work at the animal shelter; and hopes that volunteers can assist with fundraising for the organization.

Harold McCanick, Elk Neck, commented that the public was left out of the process of the purchase of the animal shelter facility.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Patchell commented about the lack of a fiscal note for Bill No. 2016-03. He stated that Comptroller Franchot praised Perryville Elementary School for keeping the cost of construction down at \$261 per square foot.

Vice President McCarthy commented on the history of the former SPCA and stated that facility was well designed for animal shelter and a good value for the County to purchase.

Councilwoman Bowsbey commented on an open house to be held on April 7 for CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates. She also thanked Mason Dixie Farm, Warwick Mushroom Farm, and Chateau Bu-De for their agricultural products given to Council Members in celebration of National Agriculture Day.

Councilman Schneckenburger commented that the Tier Map legislation is dead and that MDE has returned the authority of approving subdivisions to the local Health Department. He testified in favor of HB 751 regarding casino parity for Hollywood Casino. He will be attending the Farm Bureau banquet and the Firemen Association meeting. He wished everyone a happy St. Patrick's Day.

Council President Hodge announced that copies of the Council budget hearing schedule are available in the lobby. The Council's public hearing on the budget bills will be held on Thursday, May 26 at Elkton High School. He also commented on the benefits of the County's purchase of the former SPCA animal shelter and stated that the financial payback will be significant.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 11-2016 Appointment - Compensation Review Commission

A Resolution to appoint members to the Compensation Review Commission who will review the compensation and allowances of the County Executive, County Council and Sheriff, in accordance with Local Government Article, Section 10-302 of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

Council President Hodge provided introductory remarks for this Resolution. There were no Council questions and comments.

Introduced, read first time, order posted on March 15, 2016 and scheduled for consideration on April 5, 2016.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 12-2016 Budget Amendment - Information Technology Internal Fund - States Attorney's Office

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, in order to provide the Information Technology Internal Services Fund with \$150,000 of capital expenditure authority; and \$15,000 of operating revenue and expense appropriation authority in order to acquire case management software for the States Attorney's Office, which will result in the need to appropriate \$15,000 of General Fund balance to provide the departmental expenditure by the States Attorney's Office. The need for this software is due to a State mandate to convert the current case management system to an Integrated Court Management System this year.

Al Wein, Director of Administration, provided introductory remarks for this Resolution. Council questions and comments ensued.

Introduced, read first time, order posted on March 15, 2016 and scheduled for consideration on April 5, 2016.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 13-2016 Appointment—Cecil County Ethics Commission-Donna Caudell

A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Donna Caudell made by the County Executive to the Ethics Commission, term to expire in December 2020.

There were no Council comments or questions.

Introduced, read first time, order posted on March 15, 2016 and scheduled for consideration on April 5, 2016.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 09-2016 Appointment—Weed Control Advisory Committee

A Resolution to confirm the reappointments by the County Executive of Monty Johnson, Anthony Calao, William Ewing, Dave Hollenbaugh, Charles Robinson, Peter Rupp, Mike Scheeler, Mark Smith and Dan

Webber to the Cecil County Weed Control Advisory Committee for a one (1) year term, to expire March 15, 2017.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on March 1, 2016.

On motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilman Schneckenburger, the Council moved to approve Resolution No. 09-2016.

Roll call vote: McCarthy - Y, Bowsbey - Y, Schneckenburger - Y, Patchell - Y, Hodge - Y. The motion was unanimously approved.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 10-2016 Re-designation - Arts and Entertainment District and Tax Incentives - Town of Elkton

A Resolution to support the application of the Town of Elkton to the Maryland Department of Commerce, formerly known as Department of Business and Economic Development, to re-designate the Town's Arts and Entertainment District and certain incentives affecting qualifying residing artists and the owners of qualified real property within the District.

The Resolution was introduced and posted on March 1, 2016.

On motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to approve Resolution No. 06-2016.

Roll call vote: McCarthy - Y, Bowsbey - Y, Schneckenburger - Y, Patchell - Y, Hodge - Y. The motion was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

President Hodge adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

The next Council Legislative Session is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2016 in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Elkton, Maryland.

Attest:


James Massey, Council Manager

Approved:


Robert Hodge
President

