

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES
LSD 13-20
October 15, 2013

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:

Dr. Alan McCarthy, Vice President
Joyce Bowsbey, Council Member
Michael Dunn, Council Member
Diana Broomell, Council Member
Robert J. Hodge, President

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 for October 15, 2013 was called to order by President Robert Hodge at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Council observed a moment of silence.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

On motion made by Councilwoman Broomell, seconded by Councilman Dunn, the Council moved to amend the agenda to add the introduction of Bill No. 2013-14 - State Sludge Permit Applications - Public Notice - Adjoining Property Owners and Bill No. 2013-15 - Redistricting Plan 2013 to the agenda. Motion carried by a vote of 4 in favor and 1 in opposition.

PRESENTATIONS OF PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES

Members of the Council presented a proclamation for National Energy Assistance Week to Sandy Lewis, Maryland Energy Assistance Program.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2013-12 - Budget Ordinance FY2014 – Appropriations – General Fund – Director of Administration Budget. An Act to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 in order to provide the Director of Administration budget within the General Fund expenditure an additional \$26,000 in appropriation to be expended for a contribution to the Clean Chesapeake Coalition. The Bill was introduced at the September 17, 2013 Council Legislative meeting, and consideration will be scheduled for the November 5, 2013 Council Legislative meeting.

Director of Administration Wein presented an overview of Bill No. 2013 -12 relative to providing the funding in the FY2014 budget to continue participation in the Clean Chesapeake Coalition.

Discussion, questions and comments ensued regarding the allocation of funding in the FY2013 and FY2014 budgets.

Public Comments in Support and Opposition

George Caplan, Colora, commented in opposition to Bill No. 2013-12.

President Hodge closed the public hearing and advised the public that Bill No. 2013-12 will be scheduled for consideration at the November 5, 2013 Council Legislative meeting.

Redistricting Plan for Cecil County

Ewing McDowell, Chair of the Redistricting Commission, provided an overview of the Redistricting Plan for Cecil County that was approved by the majority of the members.

Wyatt Wallace, Commission Member, provided comments relative to the Election Board's request to use existing precinct boundaries as Councilmanic District boundaries; and the criteria that was followed by the Commission to reach the recommendation of Option #7.

Diane Carabetta, Commission Member, provided comments relative to the scheduled meeting dates, a member of the Commission that was in the process of moving out of the state, and the vote of the Commission on Option #7.

Anna Maria Buehler, Commission Member, provided comments relative to the conduct of Commission members, a plan that was submitted by another Commission member that was not considered, and a member of the Commission that moved out of the state.

Robert Porter, Commission Member, provided comments relative to the deliberations of the Commission members and the final vote of the Commission.

Public Comments in Support and Opposition

Michael Dawson, Perryville, commented in support of the Redistricting Plan submitted by the Commission.

Joe Carabetta, Perryville, commented in opposition to the Redistricting Plan submitted by the Commission.

Al Reasin, Conowingo, commented in support of the Redistricting Plan submitted by the Commission.

President Hodge closed the public hearing and advised the public the Redistricting Plan submitted by the Commission would take effect in ninety (90) days if no action was taken by the Council. However, Councilwoman Broomell is introducing an alternative Redistricting Plan via Bill No. 2013-15.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Councilwoman Broomell, seconded by Vice President McCarthy, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2013 Council Legislative meeting, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Attorney Dwight Thomey, representing Home Partnerships, commented in support of Resolution No. 82-2013 and advised the Council that his client is prepared to compensate the County for the additional property that is required for the project, assume full responsibility for the environmental issues; the positive impact of the project for the Town of Elkton; letter of support submitted from the Town of Elkton; and obligation that the property will be used for senior housing for forty (40) years.

Joe Carabetta, Carpenters Point, commented on a conversation from several weeks ago regarding Thomas Jefferson.

Ron Lobos, Elkton, commented on the Cecil County Patriots organization; the proposal submitted relative to the purchase of the Basell building; and the bond obligation.

Frank Hodgetts, Home Partnerships, Inc., commented in support of Resolution No. 82-2013 and the purchase price of the property vs. the appraised price of the property.

Diane Carbetta, Perryville, commented on the bond obligation that was approved by the Council.

Roger Owens, Elkton, commented in support of Resolution 82-2013.

Larry Crouse, Elkton, commented in support of Resolution 82-2013.

Robert Porter commented on the sound system in the Elk Room.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Dunn had no comments.

Vice President McCarthy had no comments.

Councilwoman Bowsbey had no comments.

Councilwoman Broomell had no comments.

President Hodge thanked the public for attending the meeting and participating in the democratic process.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2013-14 - State Sludge Permit Applications - Public Notice - Adjoining Property Owners. An Act to enact a new section of the Code of Cecil County to be titled Chapter 310, State Sludge Permit Applications, to provide that the Department of Planning and Zoning will notify adjoining property where a State Sludge Permit Application has been received. The Bill will be scheduled for a public hearing at the November 19, 2013 Council Legislative meeting and for consideration at the December 3, 2013 Council Legislative meeting.

Councilwoman Broomell stated her reasons for introducing Bill No. 2013-14.

Discussion and comments ensued regarding the expense associated with providing the notifications and holding the State responsible for public notification.

President Hodge advised the public that Bill No. 2013-14 will be scheduled for public hearing at the November 19, 2013 Council Legislative meeting and for consideration at the December 3, 2013 Council Legislative meeting.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Bill No. 2013-15 - Redistricting Plan 2013. An Act to repeal and reenact, with amendments, Section 21-1 Council districts, of Chapter 21, County Council, of the Code of Cecil County, as amended; to establish new Council districts in lieu of the plan presented by the Redistricting Commission; to list the election precincts of which each Council district is comprised; to show generally the boundary lines of each Council district; and generally relating to Council districts. The Bill will be scheduled for a public hearing at the November 19, 2013 Council Legislative meeting and for consideration at the December 3, 2013 Council Legislative meeting.

Councilwoman Broomell stated her reasons for introducing Bill No. 2013-15.

Discussion and comments ensued regarding the comments provided in support of the Redistricting Plan submitted by the Commission.

President Hodge advised the public that Bill No. 2013-15 will be scheduled for public hearing at the November 19, 2013 Council Legislative meeting and for consideration at the December 3, 2013 Council Legislative meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 88-2013 - Enterprise Zone Tax Credit - 210 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton. A Resolution to approve a ten (10) year real property tax credit in an Enterprise Zone for the property located at 210 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton, tax map 0316, parcel 2443 in election district 03. The Resolution will be scheduled for a public hearing at the November 19, 2013 Council Legislative meeting and scheduled for consideration at the December 3, 2013 Council Legislative meeting.

Director of Administration Wein advised the Council that the Enterprise Zone has already been approved and the Resolution for a specific project is required by the state.

Discussion, questions and comments ensued regarding the property tax credit that is a standard across the state.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 89-2013 - Appointment—Department of Social Services Board. A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Dianne Fox to the Department of Social Services Board for three (3) year term to expire June 2016. The Resolution will be scheduled for consideration at the November 5, 2013 Council Legislative meeting.

Director of Administration Wein requested that the Council confirm the County Executive's appointment to the Social Services Board.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 90-2013 - Appointment – Board of Electrical Examiners. A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Joshua Huegel and the reappointment of Charles McCoy to the Board of Electrical Examiners. The Resolution will be scheduled for consideration at the November 5, 2013 Council Legislative meeting.

Director of Administration Wein requested that the Council confirm the County Executive's appointment and re-appointment to the Board of Electrical Examiners.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 91-2013 - Appointment—Commission on Aging. A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Deborah Klenk made by the County Executive to the Commission on Aging. The Resolution will be scheduled for consideration at the November 5, 2013 Council Legislative meeting.

Director of Administration Wein requested that the Council confirm the County Executive's appointment to the Commission on Aging.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 81-2013 - Amendment - Land Purchase Agreement – Home Partnerships. A Resolution amending a Land Purchase Agreement dated July 6, 2012 by and between the Board of County Commissioners of Cecil County (now the County Council of Cecil County) and Home Partnership of Cecil County for the sale of real property identified as Parcel 1204, Lot 1, Map 10, which is located in the Third Election District of Cecil County, and a portion of Parcel 1204, Lot 2, Map 310, containing a total of 1.368 acres of land, more or less, together with the improvements thereupon. The Resolution was introduced at the September 3, 2013 Council Legislative meeting and a public hearing was held on October 1, 2013 Council Legislative meeting.

On motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to approve Resolution 81-2013.

Vice President McCarthy provided comments in support of Resolution 81-2013 to reduce the County's liability for the vacant buildings and property, increase the tax base, and help revitalize downtown Elkton.

Councilwoman Broomell provided comments in opposition to Resolution 81-2013 based on the discrepancy between the appraised value and purchase price of the property.

President Hodge provided comments in opposition to Resolution 81-2013 based on the additional acreage that was added to the project that includes a building.

Roll Call Vote: McCarthy - Y, Bowsbey - Y, Dunn - Y, Broomell - N, Hodge - N. The motion carried by a vote of 3 in favor and 2 in opposition.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 86-2013 Appointment – Department of Social Services Board. A Resolution to confirm the appointment by the County Executive of Lloyd Sanders to the Department of Social Services Board for three a (3) year term to expire June 2016. The Resolution was introduced at the October 1, 2013 Council Legislative meeting.

On motion made by Vice President McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to approve Resolution No. 86-2013. Roll Call Vote: McCarthy - Y, Bowsbey - Y, Dunn - Y, Broomell - N, Hodge - Y. Motion carried by a vote of 4 in favor and 1 in opposition.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilwoman Vice McCarthy, seconded by Councilwoman Bowsbey, the Council moved to adjourn the meeting. President Hodge adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

The next Council Legislative Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 5, 2013 in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Elkton.

Approved:

Robert Hodge
Council President

Attest:

James Massey
Council Manager