



Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

Mayor Raymond M. Morriss
Councilman Richard J. “Rock” Cioni
Councilman Eugene T. Frazier
Councilman James L. Furstenberg
Councilwoman Laurie P. Marchini

City Administrator Jeffrey F. Silka
City Solicitor Michael S. Cohen
City Clerk Allison K. Layton

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

WORK SESSION

City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room
57 N. Liberty Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Raymond M. Morriss; Council Members: Rock Cioni, Eugene Frazier, Jimmy Furstenberg, and Laurie Marchini

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison Layton, City Clerk; Michael Cohen, City Solicitor

Media: Teresa McMinn, Cumberland Times-News
Kathy Cornwell, WCBC Radio

I. AGENDA REVIEW – DECEMBER 5, 2023

Mayor Morriss reviewed the agenda, and called for questions or concerns. Mr. Silka stated he didn't have anything to add, saying the agenda was pretty self-explanatory. He also said that he will not be at the M&CC Regular Meeting at 6:15 p.m. – Mr. Tressler will fill in for him.

II. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Council Member Furstenberg congratulated Fort Hill on their football team's winning the State Championship, and also mentioned the Mountain Ridge football team's recent wins. He stated that he will be working the Winter Festival this coming weekend, and reminded everyone to shop local. He also mentioned that there may be tickets left for the Polar Express.

Mayor Morriss mentioned that the Allegany High School soccer team will be invited to the next meeting for making it to the State Championship. He asked Council Member Furstenberg to

reach out to Fort Hill Football's Coach Alkire to invite them to the first meeting in January. He also mentioned that the Fort Hill flag foot ball team also won their State Championship, so the Councilman will reach out to them as well.

Council Member Cioni said that although he couldn't make the last meeting of the Parks and Rec Board, he said that Ryan Mackey is doing a terrific job, and said that should be noted because he is new to the City. He said Mr. Mackey is working closely with Devin Burke, who is also new, and mentioned that Mr. Mackey is planning a big Arbor Day event for next year. The Councilman said he will take a good look at Flynn Field, and the work being done there, and added that Let's Beautify Cumberland had their Christmas Luncheon yesterday to thank City staff for their hard work.

Council Member Frazier mentioned kids from John Humbird School at City Hall on Monday, saying they asked some good questions.

Mayor Morriss talked about the first weekend of the Winter Festival held this past Saturday evening, saying it was well-attended, and for a first-time event, couldn't have gone better. He noted that the weather was great, there was a good crowd of people, and the event presented the City in an excellent light. He said he's looking forward to the next one this coming Saturday evening. He gave kudos to Melinda Kelleher for creating and managing the event for the first time.

The Mayor discussed the recent Allegany Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast at Rocky Gap, and said they are starting to create a list for what they will be doing this year during the legislative session, which he said are the same issues he talked to the Governor about. He also mentioned that he will be meeting with the Western Maryland Delegation tomorrow.

Council Member Marchini advised that work continues on Liberty Street for the Baltimore Street project, and said the Board of Public Works approved the continuation grant to the Baltimore Street façade grant. She stated that the Comptroller gave Cumberland a big shout-out during the Board of Public Works meeting. She said that it was mentioned in the Times-News that Brian Gilbright received a \$1.4M tax credit from the Maryland Historic Trust for Will's Hotel. The Councilwoman talked about Shop Small Saturday, saying it was well-attended. She mentioned that she ran into April Delaney, who is running for Congress, and said Joe Vogel, who is also running, will be visiting Cumberland soon. She added that the After School Program kids will be coming to City Hall tomorrow, and again for two days next week – the 11th and the 14th. It was noted that Council Members Frazier and Cioni will be here tomorrow for the After School Program kids visit.

Mayor Morriss mentioned that he talked to Greg Snyder and said City Hall will be lit up for Hanukkah and Christmas – blue and white for Hanukkah, and red and green for Christmas. There was discussion about getting a menorah. It was noted that if they couldn't find the one Doug Schwab gave City Hall last year, Mr. Cohen may have one that he can loan to City Hall.

V. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton

City Clerk

Minutes approved on: December 19, 2023