



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 Scott Cohen
City Clerk Allison K. Layton

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

WORK SESSION

2nd Floor Conference Room
Allegany Museum
3 Pershing Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

Tuesday, June 4, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison Layton, City Clerk; Michael Scott Cohen, City Solicitor; Chuck Ternent, Chief of Police;

Media: Teresa McMinn, Cumberland Times-News

I. DISCUSSION ON HOTEL/MOTEL GRANTS

Mr. Silka began with the hotel/motel grant applications, stating that \$45,000 was budgeted. Mayor Morriss added that groups are asking for waivers for event fees, while at the same time making hotel/motel requests. He stated that hotel/motel money should be considered 1st but both cannot be a consideration, it has to be one or the other.

Mr. Cohen suggested to state in the advertising that applying for a tax waiver for the next year would not be possible.

Mayor Morriss added he thinks it may be best to not have the waivers and apply for the hotel/motel tax instead, that way consistency can be maintained on event projects.

Mr. Silka added that the city has even started requiring insurance for ball tournaments stating that this is a small fee that protects the city. He added that the city has an events committee that works very diligently to see what the true cost is. The coverage is for 8 hours of overtime per dept for an event for \$150, any overtime after that would be charged back to the sponsor. Mayor Morriss adding that if a waiver is done for one group and not all that an issue could arise with organizations complaining. He recommended not doing a waiver but instead to advise the

organization to apply for hotel/motel tax in order to evaluate it through this process rather than establishing a waiver process.

Councilwoman Marchini added the concern of the need for a vehicle to support local tourist organizations and to determine if the use of the hotel/motel tax would be used for heads and beds or if that would be used to fund worthwhile organizations. Councilman Cioni asked if there were guidelines in place for the funds and Mr. Silka responding in the general funds. Mayor Morriss stated that we need to reestablish this process, stating that there are other organizations that apply that are worthy organizations but are not bringing heads to beds adding that establishing a process to show that it is both would be ideal. Mr. Silka adding that a discussion would take place around Christmas time about the use of the funds to improve the city to attract more tourism. Mr. Silka ended the discussing by asking for Council members to turn in their spreadsheets so discussion can be added on the agenda for the next meeting, in order for it to be completed by the time the fiscal year begins. Councilwoman Marchini added that every applicant is worthwhile and is a contributing organization, Mayor Morriss agreeing and stating that is what makes it so hard and why they have the openness when making a decision.

II. REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA OF JUNE 4, 2024

Mayor Morriss reviewed the meeting agenda. Mr. Silka stated that a new order needed to be added to the agenda today for the police department for a 2024 police interceptor that is sitting on the lot and is in the city's budget to purchase. The vehicle is being held until after today's meeting. A motion is needed to add this order to the agenda.

III. MAYOR AND COUNCIL UPDATES

Councilman Cioni updated about Bishop Walsh kids donating their time to do beautification projects and thanking them for their contributions to the city that they have provided for several years now.

Councilman Frazier spoke that he attended the kid's police camp for the CSI presentation and how involved the kids were and mentioned that tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. the equipment would be out for the kids to climb and explore. He also mentioned that he went by Arch St to check on the Teabow progress stating that one building has walls up and the foundation is in place so it is moving along well. He also reminded that Thursday (June 6, 2024) would be Jeff's webinar. Councilman Furstenberg stated he is looking forward to the hosting of the state championship teams, the girls' softball team. Councilwoman Marchini asked for clarification of camp being held at the salvation army and graduation at the FOP, Fraizer confirmed.

Councilman Cioni mentioned that the schedule for Sundays in the Park is out and that on June 9, 2024 Pros from Dover will be performing and on June 16, 2024 will be 40 West at 7:30 p.m. Marchini reminding that they are free and open to the public and that there is an area for kids. Also, Friday after Five starts this Friday (June 7, 2024), featuring Queen City Funk and Soul along with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday morning (June 8, 2024) at 9:30 a.m. in the Rosenbaum building for Madison Paige Boutique. Also, the State of Maryland Archaeological dig in Oldtown is on Saturday (June 8, 2024) as well as a picnic at 4:30 p.m. Marchini went on to

say that Delfest was a big success and that this week the Baltimore Street workgroup will meet to plan for the grand reopening and also DDC meets for the organizational meeting as well.

Mayor Morriss added in conclusion that Thursday (June 6, 2024) morning at Canal Place is the Farmers Market and the Levitt Concert Series performing that evening, Friday (June 7, 2024) is the graduation for the Kid's camp and Friday after Five. Saturday (June 8, 2024) ribbon cutting for Madison Paige Boutique in the Rosenbaum building at 9:30 a.m. Museum week starts this week on the 7th. Mayor Morriss shared that there is a great article in Mountain Discoveries that talks about Baltimore Street and the great work being done by Allegany High School students on the history of Baltimore Street, stating that the article goes in to great details about the efforts Brian White and the students have provided in giving a great timeline of Baltimore Street starting in the 1750's, that will open at the museum on the 14th. Cioni concluding there was an hour meeting for those involved in raising money and folks that give to the Community Trust Foundation. The foundation is up to about \$17K of the \$40K total needed to purchase the clock.

IV. 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: June 18, 2024