



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

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WORK SESSION

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

Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Silka, City Administrator; Allison Layton, City Clerk; Michael Cohen, City Solicitor; Ken Tressler, Director of Administrative Services; Kevin Thacker, Code Compliance Manager; Denise Adams, Citizen Services Representative; Shannon Adams, Fire Chief

Media: Bryan Gowans, WCBC Radio

Teresa McMinn, Cumberland Times-News

I. DISCUSSION ON CHICKEN-KEEPING ORDINANCE

Mr. Silka advised that he had tasked staff to review chicken ordinances in Frostburg and other cities. He stated that they had come up with a draft ordinance and said it would fit in and provide a good path to allowing chickens in the City.

Mr. Thacker advised that they have looked at the draft ordinance to make sure everything is regulated regarding enclosures, and reviewed the initial licensing requirements, policies and procedures. He advised that only hens would be allowed, no roosters or other types of fowl, and reviewed initial and annual fees, as well as violations and fines. He added that all chickens would have to be in coops – no free-range, and stated that eggs are not to be sold.

There was discussion about neighbors being against living next door to chickens, as well as the problem of predators. Mr. Thacker said he and staff have put a lot of time into this, and said he would gladly discuss any changes needed.

Council expressed concern that those residents already owning chickens would not follow a new ordinance. There was also concern about the value of homes dropping, and it was stated that code enforcement time is too valuable.

Consensus to not place this on an agenda

II. PARKING OVERVIEW (*DEFERRED UNTIL NEXT MEETING*)

III. HOMES FOR CUMBERLAND PILOT – FINAL DISCUSSION

The topic was discussed, and it was stated that if M&CC does not want to extend the PILOT, then no action is needed. Mr. Silka will write a letter stating that the City has decided not to take any action.

IV. AGENDA REVIEW – MARCH 7, 2023

Mayor Morriss reviewed the agenda items, and called for any questions or comments.

Mr. Silka spoke about Order 27192 which would approve the new Hotel/Motel application process. He stated that if it is approved tonight, it will be mailed out by the end of the week.

There was discussion about Order 27196 regarding the purchase of 2 new ambulances. Mr. Silka said they figured they should get both now to keep the Fire Department on track. Chief Adams explained that one ambulance that has been giving them problems just went out of service 20 minutes ago.

Mr. Silka advised that everything else on the agenda is pretty much business as usual.

V. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Council Member Frazier advised that the HRC had recently met. He spoke about the Fair Housing event coming up in April as well as Juneteenth weekend and National Night Out in August.

Council Member Furstenburg said he had talked to the County about marketing some properties, and discussed all the work going on in town and stated they need to keep people informed and excited.

Council Member Cioni mentioned the Easter Egg Hunt on April 7th at Constitution Park. He spoke about establishing a Friends of the Park organization to support Constitution Park, and also discussed doing a clean-up prior to the season, and possibly doing some fundraising. He mentioned requesting Bower Fund money for Day Camp kids, and said Brooke Cassell wants to buy new wooden swings for the park – not kids' swings.

Council Member Marchini talked about hiring the Lakota Group to do an Historic Preservation Strategic Plan, and said they plan to be in town at the end of the week to gather information, while the week of April 6th they will be taking pictures. She added that the grant completion is due by August 1st.

Next, Ms. Marchini discussed the ceremonial groundbreaking for the Baltimore Street Re-design, saying they are hoping to have a reception afterwards for dignitaries. She noted that the actual real groundbreaking start date will be April 3rd, when heavy equipment will be moving in.

Council Member Marchini also discussed a visit by the new Maryland Comptroller, and the Day of Caring and Sharing, which is May 18th.

Mayor Morriss discussed his weekly trip to Annapolis to testify before the House and Senate the bills for the tax sale certificates. He said they were doing well moving through, and hopes to get all 3 passed. He also discussed the Hooley Pub Crawl scheduled for March 11th, and talked about the great turnout last week for the Hooley Plunge, which raised \$115K.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on: April 18, 2023