



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, July 5, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison Layton, City Clerk; Ken Tressler, Director of Administrative Services

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

I. FY24 HOTEL/MOTEL GRANT ALLOCATIONS

M&CC discussed allocations that need to be determined from the \$45K placeholder. Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. It was noted that the funds were distributed pretty well, and every request that was valid was funded. Mr. Silka advised that if everyone is okay with it, it will be put on an order for the next public meeting.

II. GOAL SETTING SESSION DISCUSSION

Mr. Silka advised that ever since he was hired as City Administrator, he has heard discussions about having some sort of retreat or goal-setting session, and asked if M&CC were still interested in doing that. He stated that he would do a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis first to get things started, and said the meeting would be public. Mr. Silka advised that he will get the SWOT out this Friday or early next week. He discussed doing a parallel with senior staff in different departments to compare SWOT analyses, and said dates and locations would be proposed.

III. AGENDA REVIEW – JULY 5, 2023

There was discussion about the presentations for employee career milestones, and a question about Order 27261, the South Street ADA Project. Mr. Silka advised that it's actually a reduction in cost, due to some of the items that were included in the estimate were not needed.

There was discussion about Order 27262, funding for Jane's Place for Abused Children. Mr. Silka advised that Jane's Place was not going to use the funds, so they will be moved to the Community Development Property Improvement Program.

Mr. Silka reviewed Order 27263, and stated that the order actually reduces the percentage of increases every year, and the City will see a net savings.

IIIV. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Council Member Furstenberg stated that it was information overload for him at his very first MML Conference. Council Member Marchini said sessions were very good and helpful. Mayor Morriss stated that he attended a session on code enforcement, and said he spoke to Kevin Thacker about it. He said most municipalities are battling the same things Cumberland is, and explained that without fines and citations it's difficult to address situations. He said people need to be held accountable, and advised that Mr. Thacker will be contacting other municipalities to see how they are doing things.

Council Member Frazier noted that on Facebook people are saying they haven't known about the Thursday Night Levitt Series Concerts. He stated they are amazing concerts, and it was noted that the grant for them came from the Arts Council, which was doing a great job of promoting them. Mayor Morriss stated that every week it has grown, with last week being over 600 people. He stated that when people complain, they are partly responsible for finding the information.

Council Member Cioni stated that on WCBC someone complained about the color of the 4th of July fireworks display. Mayor Morriss stated that if that's all the citizens have to complain about, we are doing pretty good. He noted that he thought it was a wonderful fireworks display.

Council Member Frazier stated that National Night Out is coming up, and said that Council Member Furstenberg will be in the dunk tank. The Mayor stated that all of council will be participating.

Mayor Morriss reminded everyone of the Levitt Concert coming up this Thursday, at 6:30, and also Friday After Five.

There was discussion about all the changes coming along at Constitution Park.

Council Member Marchini stated that there were concerns about Baltimore Street being dark in certain areas, and said she spoke with shop owners on the ground level about keeping their lights on. She added that CBIZ has provided lunch for the contractors and given gift certificates, as well as M&M Bake Shop and Gino at Curtis' Wieners taking care of them. The Councilwoman also discussed the Town Hall Meeting that was held on June 27th.

Council Member Cioni discussed Melinda Kelleher getting information out to everyone about happenings downtown, and said if people don't get it, it's their own fault, because she has left no stone unturned in getting the word out.

There was more discussion about classes at MML that M&CC attended, as well as discussion about progress being made with the blacktopping.

Mayor Morriss advised that he got elected back to the MML Board, and said he was glad to be back on it.

V. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on: July 18, 2023