



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, April 16, 2024, 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 S. Cohen, City Solicitor; Ryan Mackey, Director of Parks and Recreation; Chuck Ternent, Chief of Police; Shannon Adams, Fire Chief

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

I. ALCOHOL IN CONSTITUTION PARK

Mr. Silka provided everyone with a memo regarding alcohol in the park. He advised the premise is that the alcohol is there already. He discussed how he had done an Ordinance regarding this matter in the last two communities he worked in. He proposes a \$50 add-on fee to the pavilion rental to allow for alcohol, and explained that a brightly-colored sticker would be on the permit at the pavilion. He advised that it worked well in the other two communities, and said it may increase pavilion rentals, as well as allowing for extra funds to be able to put towards clean-up.

Mayor Morriss agreed, saying it's a way to have the alcohol managed, and to have enforcement available, and said people are taking advantage of this already.

It was noted that if someone were renting the amphitheatre, the promoter of the event would have to obtain the alcohol permit. Liability was also discussed as being greater with alcohol involved. There was a question asked about the reason why it's only for beer and wine. Mr. Silka stated that it's up to Council to determine, but said liquor might make it more palatable. Mr. Cohen asked if this was BYOB, or sales. Mr. Silka stated that if one rents the pavilion, then they would have the right to purchase.

There was discussion about bringing a box of wine to Sundays in the Park. Mr. Mackey explained they have to start with baby steps, and said he thinks it should start with pavilion rentals. He added, though, that the Peach Festival would allow it, but in a roped-off area.

Mr. Silka stated that if the M&CC were sponsoring it, the rules would change – if someone wants a wine and cheese basket, M&CC could write it in the rules to make it happen. He said renting a pavilion and renting the park out are two separate issues.

Mayor Morriss suggesting giving it a try.

Chief Ternent asked for a Code change, with a line added that any violation would be guilty of an infraction. Mr. Cohen stated that they could be asked to leave, as there is not alcohol in other parts of the park. Mr. Silka advised that they would make sure that Code makes it an offense. Mr. Silka suggested making it a municipal infraction, with the ability to expel from the park on sight.

II. AGENDA REVIEW – APRIL 16, 2024

The Mayor reviewed items on the beginning of the agenda – proclamations, reports, minutes, etc.

Mr. Silka discussed Order No. 27,447, Change Order No. 2 to the Baltimore Street Bridge project, which is required due to Verizon’s delay, causing storage of equipment. Council Member Marchini asked if the City could hold them responsible, with Mr. Silka replying they could try, but the City holds very little authority over them as a telecommunications company.

Mr. Silka moved on to Order No. 27,449, Change Order No. 1 to the City Hall Elevator Modernization project, which happened because he had the elevator work halted due to not wanting the HVAC and elevator work to start on the same day.

Mr. Silka discussed Order No. 27,444, which accepts the proposal of Long View Systems for migrating the City’s network to Cumberland’s domain.

Lastly, Mr. Silka discussed Order No. 27,450, which authorizes the City Administrator to execute Park Concession Leases of less than 5 consecutive days, or less than 2 consecutive weekends, due to from time to time the City having tournaments that don’t fit within Council’s cycle.

III. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Council Member Furstenberg had no updates.

Council Member Cioni mentioned the Evitts Creek meeting tomorrow, and said Let’s Beautify Cumberland would be coming to talk about the clock tower this evening at the Regular Session.

Mayor Morriss discussed donations coming through in the community for the clock tower, and said they are looking for additional funds.

Council Member Frazier mentioned the Annual Fair Housing event at Allegany College on the 23rd, and the Tri-County Council meeting coming up. He also mentioned the Grow West Festival, which he and Council Member Marchini thought was a nice event – lots of good food and music.

Council Member Marchini talked about the Baltimore Street Committee, saying the barriers on Baltimore Street have been removed, and the pavers on Liberty Street are going in. She

mentioned that façade work continues, and gave a shout-out to Triton Construction and the City Engineering Department for having this work done simultaneously. She also discussed the trees for the downtown arriving soon. The Councilwoman talked about the Historic Preservation Commission, and the opening of Wills Creek museum on April 26 – 28, with walking tours on Saturday, and a ribbon cutting on Sunday,. She provided a brief background of the museum. She also mentioned that the City is taking applications for the Arts Commission, and said for more information, contact City Clerk Allison Layton.

Council Member Marchini noted that an RFP was posted for wayfinding signs, and said a façade grant is available for midtown, with 50% matching - applications due in May, and stated that façade repairs are complete on the CBIZ building, along with applications for Business Attraction grants being reviewed. She mentioned they are looking for more sponsors for the Farmers Market, and said there is a committee chair meeting tomorrow for each subcommittee head of the DDC.

The Councilwoman discussed the Civics B for middle-schoolers, said they did a great job, and has their essays if anyone wants to take a look. She mentioned that 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes went to Allegany County students. She also mentioned that Richard Reinhardt will be here May 7th.

Mayor Morriss advised that the Allegany Museum and the Embassy Theatre recently had Murder at the Museum, which he said was an excellent event and was well-attended. He said it was a good use of museum space and was a 50/50 split fundraiser.

The Mayor discussed the Day of Caring and Sharing on May 10th, and said they are looking for more volunteers. He advised that people can get in touch with Michele Walker at County United Way, or Ed Mullaney of LBC.

Mayor Morriss advised that over the weekend we had Governor Moore at FSU, and had a ribbon cutting for the Education and Health Science Building. He said they took a tour, and it's a beautiful facility.

He also talked about the Teabow announcement done on April 4th, for the infill development agreement; turning over lots to bring in housing opportunities.

The Mayor advised that yesterday he and Ruth Davis-Rogers participated in the Estonia event, and said it was good to meet with ambassadors of our Sister City of Tapa, Laane-Viru County. They were taken on a tour downtown, and to Western MD Works, who had chefs from the culinary side prepare a dinner for them.

The Mayor discussed the opening of the Allegany Arts Council photography exhibit through the rest of the month. He also mentioned the Arbor Day/Earth Day event on Monday April 22nd, and talked about the Carver Board, with he and Council Member Frazier working to develop a strategic plan moving forward. He said they had two meetings with the community which went over well, and said the building has strong African-American history. He also mentioned that May 2nd is the National Day of Prayer.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on: May 7, 2024