



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

MINUTES

M&CC Public Meeting
City Hall, Cumberland, MD

DATE: June 20, 2023

I. OPEN SESSION – 6:15 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

PRESENT:

Council Member Richard J. "Rock" Cioni
Council Member Eugene T. Frazier
Council Member James L. Furstenberg
Council Member Laurie P. Marchini
President Raymond M. Morriss

Also Present: Jeffrey D. Silka, City Administrator; Allison K. Layton, City Clerk; Ruth Davis-Rogers, Historic Planning & Preservation

IV. Statement of Closed Meeting

Mayor Morriss announced that a closed session had been held on June 20, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. and read into the record a summary of that meeting which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes as required under Section 3-306 (c)(2) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

V. Presentations

1. Presentation of Employee Retirement Awards

The Mayor presented the Retirement Awards and spoke a few words about each employee. Jerry Felton, 14 years of service, and Richard Schade, 42 years of service, both of the City's Water Distribution Department.

2. Presentation from the Skate Park Committee

Stephanie Hutter-Thompson, representative of the committee, spoke about the group being restructured and said they are pretty much together now. She provided a PowerPoint presentation, which she said was available to anyone that's interested. Ms. Hutter-Thompson stated that there is a diverse group of 20 people now on the committee. She said lots of people are interested in this – skaters and former skaters, and said they want to pass their skills on, but have no space to do it.

Ms. Thompson gave many reasons to have a skate park, citing adverse child experiences like drug addiction, disease, and obesity. She said skate parks are the 4th most used places in communities, and the 3rd least expensive sport. She added that diverse groups feel accepted amongst the skate community.

Greg Kerr, a member of the committee, said at the beginning, cost was prohibitive and questioned why it was so expensive. He stated that he found a supplier on the east coast who is able to get the cost down to \$35/square foot, and said lower engineering costs are only \$2500, with an all-inclusive price of around \$375K. Mr. Kerr advised that this makes it 20-25% less expensive.

Mayor Morriss thanked Ms. Hutter-Thompson and Mr. Kerr for all their time and effort in this undertaking, and agreed that it's important for kids to have a social network where they feel safe and comfortable.

3. Presentation of the proposed FY24 Community Legacy Program grant submission and project list

Ms. Davis-Rogers provided a PowerPoint presentation and spoke about the program grant submission and project list. She advised that this is the annual round of Community Legacy, but said it's now being called State Revitalization Programs. She stated that the City can apply because it is a sustainable community. She said the amount of funding varies every year, with this year's being \$12.5M. She stated that they are requesting \$600K for 4 projects:

- \$100K in conjunction with the Allegany Arts Council for artwork for Gateway Plaza.
- \$400K to fund 20 Choose Cumberland relocation packages, up to \$20K each
- \$400K for a Mid-town façade renovation grants, with a dollar-for-dollar match
- \$100K for the Roof Replacement Program, which will fund 6-10 roofs in the City

Ms. Davis-Rogers reminded M&CC that these are just requests, and funding is not guaranteed. She said they need M&CC's approval to proceed, and advised that applications are due by June 29th. She said there will not be an award announcement until Fall/Winter 2023.

VI. Director's Reports

Motion to accept the reports was made by Council Member Cioni, seconded by Council Member Furstenberg, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

(A) Administrative Services

Administrative Services monthly report for May 2023

(B) Public Works

Maintenance Division monthly report for May 2023

(C) Fire

Fire Department monthly report for May, 2023

(D) Police

Police Department monthly report for May 2023

(E) Utilities - Flood, Water, Sewer

Utilities Division Flood/Water/Sewer monthly report for May 2023

VII. Approval of Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes was made by Council Member Marchini, seconded by Council Member Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

Approval of the Closed, Work, and Regular Session Minutes of June 6, 2023

VIII. Public Comments

Dave Williams, Allegany County Historical Society, spoke on behalf of the Canada Hose House and the recent firehouse auction in which his organization prevailed. He provided a proposed development plan for the property, and gave thanks to M&CC for conducting the auction. He stated that the society had been looking for a place to stage simpler presentations, as most of their events are very large and time-consuming. He discussed having archaeology on the 2nd floor, with the bottom floor space intended as a multi-use space for the neighborhood, and said they want the firehouse to be an asset to the community, as it was in its history. He added that they have sent out their investment/development plan, and said anyone who provides funding will be listed on a plaque.

Mayor Morriss thanked Mr. Williams for his presentation and said he believes they have some tremendous plans for the firehouse.

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

IX. Unfinished Business

(A) Ordinances

Ordinance 3960 (*2nd and 3rd readings*) - authorizing the amendment of Sections 16-1 through 16-6 of the Code of the City of Cumberland for the purpose of updating pay grades.

SECOND READING: The ordinance was submitted in title only for its second reading. **Motion** to accept the reading and move to the third after comment was made by Council Member Frazier, seconded by Council Member Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Morriss opened the floor for comments or questions. Being none, the ordinance moved to its third reading.

THIRD READING: The ordinance was submitted in title only for its second reading and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

Ordinance 3961 (*2nd and 3rd readings*) - authorizing the transfer of 332 N. Mechanic Street and 400 N. Mechanic Street to the Allegany County Historical Society for the purchase price of \$156,000.

SECOND READING: The ordinance was submitted in title only for its second reading. **Motion** to accept the reading and move to the third after comment was made by Council Member Cioni, seconded by Council Member Marchini, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Morriss opened the floor for comments or questions. Being none, the ordinance moved to its third reading.

THIRD READING: The ordinance was submitted in title only for its second reading and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

Ordinance 3962 (*2nd and 3rd readings*) - authorizing the transfer of 411 Frederick Street to Sarit Lisgorsky for the purchase price of \$94,000.

SECOND READING: The ordinance was submitted in title only for its second reading. **Motion** to accept the reading and move to the third after comment was made by Council Member Cioni, seconded by Council Member Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Morriss opened the floor for comments or questions. Being none, the ordinance moved to its third reading.

THIRD READING: The ordinance was submitted in title only for its second reading and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

X. New Business

(A) Resolutions

1. **Resolution R2023-02** (*1 Reading Only*)- approving an application to the MD Department of Housing and Community Development for Community Legacy 2024 Projects totaling up to \$600,000.

READING: The resolution was submitted in title only for its reading. **Motion** to accept the resolution was made by Council Member Furstenberg, seconded by Council Member Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

(B) Orders (Consent Agenda)

Mr. Silka reviewed each item on the Consent Agenda and Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. **Motion** to approve Orders 27,251 and 27,253 through 27,255 was made by Council Member Cioni, seconded by Council Member Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 5-0. Motion to approve Order 27,252 only was made by Council Member Frazier, seconded by Council Member Furstenberg, and was passed on a vote of 4-0, with Council Member Marchini abstaining from the vote.

Order 27,251 - authorizing the execution of an agreement with Tyler Technologies to provide time, attendance and advanced scheduling software, time clocks and related implementation services for a one-year period in the not-to-exceed amount of \$83,810

Mr. Silka advised that this will standardize all time-keeping in all departments and reduce the workload of HR and administrative staff.

Order 27,252 - accepting the proposal from CBIZ Insurance Services for the renewal of the Public Officials Liability Insurance policy for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2023 in the amount not-to-exceed \$27,300.

Order 27,253 - declaring retired picnic tables at Constitution Park to be surplus for sale, giveaway or disposal.

Order 27,254 - authorizing the renewal of the MuniLink Utility Billing System hosting and support for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2023 in the amount not-to-exceed \$43,188.

Order 27,255 - authorizing execution of a grant agreement with MD Department of Housing and Community Development regarding DHCD's provision of \$25,000 in grant funds to the City to support marketing and advertising efforts in conjunction with the Cumberland Main Street Revitalization Project, and further authorizing the City's acceptance of the funds.

XI. Public Comments

Dwight Metcalf, Keyser, WV, and co-workers, representing Tall Cedars of Lebanon body of Freemasons in Allegany County, with their charity in the community is working towards a cure for neuromuscular disorders. He stated that they do fundraisers with monies going towards the foundation in support of the charity. He presented M&CC with a memento of some blue bird houses for City parks, and instructed how they should be placed (5' off the ground; solitary; southern exposure).

Mayor Morriss accepted the birdhouses and thanked Mr. Metcalf, and said they will be given to the Parks and Rec department for them to install them in City parks.

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

XII. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Minutes approved on July 5, 2023

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton