

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

WORK SESSION

City Hall Council Chambers
57 N. Liberty Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

Tuesday, April 6, 2021
4:30 p.m.

This meeting was held via Video-Conference

PRESENT: Raymond M. Morriss, President; Council Members: Richard Cioni, Eugene Frazier and Laurie Marchini. Seth Bernard was absent.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey D. Rhodes, City Administrator; Marjorie Woodring, City Clerk; Ken Tressler, Director of Administrative Services; Police Chief Chuck Ternent; Robert Smith, City Engineer; Lee Borrer, Community Development Specialist; Melinda Kelleher, Downtown Manager

I. AGENDA REVIEW – APRIL 6, 2021

Mayor Morriss reviewed the items on the Agenda for tonight's Regular Public Session. He advised that there are two proclamations: Fair Housing Month – April, and Day of Civility – April 8th. He also reviewed the Reports and Minutes up for approval, and called for any questions or comments. The Mayor advised that as Ms. Borrer was not available at the moment, he would come back later to the review of the CDBG Public Hearing on the Agenda tonight.

Mr. Rhodes reviewed **Resolution R2021-03**, which was discussed at the March 30th meeting, saying it will accomplish two things: It will provide debt funding needed for the FY21 budget, as well as refinance four other debt issues the City already has, and he advised that it saves a considerable amount of money. He said the key thing is that this will be a negotiated underwriting, which was recommended by the City's investment advisers to protect its interests.

Mr. Tressler advised that there will be about a \$1.5M savings for the City, which will mostly be recognized in the first three years. He stated that the last time the City did a bond refunding was in 2017, and it was also a negotiated rate, with M&T.

Mr. Rhodes reviewed **Ordinance No. 3885**, which will grant Shenandoah Cable Television, LLC the non-exclusive right to use the City's public rights-of-way for the delivery of high-speed internet service to FSU, and explained the route the fiber will take. Mr. Smith advised that in exchange, the City will get access to twelve strands of fiber at six locations for cameras for the CPD, and potentially for traffic control.

Mr. Rhodes reviewed the Orders on the Consent Agenda:

Order 26,758, accepting the bid from Carl Belt, Inc. for Koon Dam Concrete Repairs (11-20-WFP) in the estimated lump sum of \$571,330.00, for necessary repairs at the dam structure.

Mr. Smith advised that the dam is an old structure, and well beyond the need for some care. He stated that it's inspected with the Federal Bridge Program through the state of PA, with repairs done on the City's dime. He advised that they've had to do 3 phases of emergency sidewalk repair, and said this will replace the remainder of the sidewalk and part of the dam structure, which will extend the useful life of this asset.

Order 26,759, accepting the bid from Carl Belt, Inc. for the Flood Control System concrete repairs (01-13-FPM) in the estimated lump sum of \$148,650.00 for repairing or replacing existing concrete structures related to the Flood Control System in Cumberland and Ridgeley, with the work occurring across 6 locations of the City.

Mr. Smith advised that the system is in need of some repairs, and stated that they received a grant for \$188K, with a 25% match required. He advised that these repairs will be in 2 phases, with this being the first, and the second occurring in Ridgeley at the scenic railroad yard. Mr. Smith added that they have had discussions with MDE to do additional work to exhaust the grant funds, and stated that the work will probably begin around July of this year.

Order 26,770, authorizing the execution of a letter of agreement with Verizon Maryland, LLC for renewal of their lease of 3 parking spaces in the George Street Garage at a cost of \$75/each per month, with the option to renew for 1 additional year.

Mr. Rhodes advised that this is an ongoing year-to-year parking lease with Verizon.

Order 26,771, approving an amendment to the 2020 CDBG Annual Plan to allocate CDBG CARES Act Funds in the amount of \$113,160.00 to the Allegany Youth Enrichment Program, and \$6,750.00 to the YMCA Transitional Homeless Sanitizer Project.

Ms. Borrer advised that this Order approves 2 projects, and said the comment period will end on April 6th, with no comments being received to date. She said she will notify M&CC when those funds are to be allocated to those agencies.

Order 26,772, authorizing the execution of a letter of engagement with Saxton & Stump and the Evitts Creek Water Company (ECWC) outlining terms for the provision of professional legal services in connection with compliance with laws and regulations of the PA Public Utilities Commission, and the PA Department of Environmental Protection, relative to the operations of the ECWC.

Mr. Cohen advised that an important part of the City's water resources are located in PA, and said this law firm has helped in the past with regulatory matters, and is willing to continue to help the City and the ECWC in the future.

Order 26,773, authorizing Change Order No. 8 with Leonard S. Fiore, Inc. for Phase I of the CSO Storage Facility project at the WWTP in the decreased amount of \$7,240 due to unused contingent items.

Mr. Smith explained that this is really just an administrative item, and said that the way the MDE works their contracts, you can't have unused items at the end of it.

Order 26,774, accepting the Sole Source proposal from Robinson Pipe Cleaning to clean the Evitts Creek sewer main at the not-to-exceed cost of \$50K.

Mr. Smith advised that this job is primarily to address the Linderville Outfall, which is the sewer line that run along Willowbrook Road and run parallel with Messick Road. He stated that this is an area with tree root intrusion into the lines, and said the Sewer Department had been working with finding other providers of this service, when it finally became an emergency with more backup that goes to the Evitts Creek Pump Station. He added that the not-to-exceed cost is based on the charge per foot of pipe that is cleaned out.

Order 26,775, authorizing execution of a Facility Encroachment Agreement with CSX for an area near the Gene Mason Sports Complex, related to the 78" Parallel Pipeline project (19-16-S).

Order 26,776, authorizing execution of a Facility Encroachment Agreement with CSX for an area near the CSX Bridge near the WMSR, related to the 78” Parallel Pipeline project (19-16-S).

Mr. Smith said both of these orders are essentially the same, and stated that they permit the City to locate the pipeline in property controlled by CSX. He added that this type of agreement is very typical when going underneath the railroad with pipeline.

Order 26,777, authorizing execution of a Grant Agreement between the DDC and the MD Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for the receipt of \$55,461.00 through the DHCD Maryland Strong Economic Recovery Initiative, to be used to award Covid relief funds to downtown businesses.

Mr. Rhodes advised that the DDC pursued this funding which will be used to help 25 businesses downtown with grants, and added that the money can be spent on rent, mortgage, utilities, payroll, and any other Covid-related matters.

Order 26,778, authorizing execution of an Arts and Entertainment Districts Operating Support Letter of Agreement for the period July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

Mr. Rhodes advised that this is something the City does from time to time, that lets the state know that the City is on board with the Arts & Entertainment district and is supportive of that effort.

Councilwoman Marchini advised that the DDC funds for the businesses downtown were received by everyone that applied, and stated that they were relatively small amounts, that could go toward rent, mortgage, payroll, etc.

Mr. Borrer discussed the CDBG public hearing, advising that it will be a bit different this year as there will be an amendment to an older plan, and the CARES Act funds will be on the same slate. In answer to a question from Council, Ms. Borrer stated that the funding for the AYPES program will not cover everything. She said that from a list of everything they wanted to do to the property, they pared it down to what was needed right now to actually open and provide programs. She stated that this funding will get them underway.

Downtown Manager Melinda Kelleher discussed the DDC grant agreement for \$55,461 for awards for 25 businesses downtown. She said she’s hoping they receive the money by the end of the week, and said she will hand-deliver the checks.

II. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marjorie A. Woodring
City Clerk

Minutes approved April 20, 2021