



# Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

*Mayor* Raymond M. Morriss  
*Councilman* Seth D. Bernard  
*Councilman* Richard J. "Rock" Cioni  
*Councilman* Eugene T. Frazier  
*Councilwoman* Laurie P. Marchini

City Administrator Jeffrey D. Rhodes  
City Solicitor Michael S. Cohen  
City Clerk Marjorie A. Woodring

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## MINUTES

M&CC Regular Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers, 57 N. Liberty St., Cumberland, MD

DATE: April 07, 2020

**I. OPEN SESSION - 6:15 p.m.**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Roll Call**

**PRESENT:**

Councilman Seth Bernard  
Councilman Richard J. "Rock" Cioni  
Councilman Eugene T. Frazier  
Councilwoman Laurie P. Marchini  
President Raymond M. Morriss

**Also Present:** Jeffrey D. Rhodes, City Administrator; Michael S. Cohen, City Solicitor (via conference phone); Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk

Mayor Morriss provided a Covid-19 update, saying that there are now 8 people who have tested positive for the virus in Allegany County, 397 people have tested negative, and there are 25 tests still pending. He extended thoughts and prayers to those tested positive, with hopes for full recoveries. The Mayor advised that the numbers will get worse before they begin a downward trend, and reminded all to stay home as much as possible, only going out when absolutely necessary. Councilman Cioni warned on possible scams out there, and reminded everyone to not give any identifying information over the phone.

Mayor Morriss advised on social distancing, the wearing of masks, and reminded all to stop panic buying. He stated he understands everyone is on edge and tensions are high.

**IV. Statement of Closed Meeting**

1. Summary Statement of the closed meeting held March 31, 2020

Mayor Morriss announced that a Closed Session had been held on March 31, 2020 and read into the record a summary of that, 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. Director's Reports**

Motion to approve the Reports was made by Councilman Bernard, seconded by Councilman Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

**(A) Administrative Services**

Administrative Services monthly report for January, 2020

**(B) Engineering**

Engineering Division monthly report for March, 2020

**(C) Public Works**

Maintenance Division monthly report for February, 2020

**(D) Fire**

Fire Department monthly report for February, 2020

**(E) Utilities - Flood, Water, Sewer**

Utilities Division Flood/Water/Sewer monthly report for February, 2020

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the Minutes was made by Councilman Bernard, seconded by Councilman Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

1. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of December 3, 2019; Closed, Work & Regular Session Minutes of December 17, 2019; the Work & Regular Session Minutes of January 21, 2020; the Work and Regular Session Minutes of February 4, 2020

**VII. Public Hearings**

1. Public Hearing - to receive a presentation of proposed projects for the FY2020 Annual Action Plan from Lee Borrer, Senior Community Development Specialist, and to receive public comments on the Draft Annual Plan and the Draft Citizen Participation Plan.

The Hearing Convened at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Borrer provided a PowerPoint presentation explaining the proposed projects in the 2020 Plan, and advised on the Five Year Consolidated Plan process. She reviewed aspirational estimated benefits, and priority needs. She also advised that the Public Comment period would be extended through Thursday, April 30, 2020, adding that there will be an additional Public Hearing opportunity on Thursday, April 23, 2020, through ZOOM.

Councilman Cioni questioned why the Union Rescue Mission was not included in the projects. Ms. Borrer advised that they did not submit an application, but said that they were very active in focus groups, and are a member of the Continuum of Care Homeless Board with Allegany County. She stated that their input was taken into consideration for the Five Year Plan, but they did not have a project for which they wanted to apply for funds.

Mayor Morriss discussed the difficult task of trying to decide which projects should be funded, with not enough money to go around, and commended Ms. Borrer on all her hard work, especially this year with the Covid-19 virus and having to hold meetings virtually. Mayor Morriss advised that this year the City will be getting additional funding through CDBG, and advised that Representative Trone stated that restrictions and qualifications will be made easier, and acquiring funding faster.

The Hearing adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

## **VIII. New Business**

### **(A) Orders (Consent Agenda)**

Mr. Rhodes reviewed all items on the Consent Agenda and Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. Motion to approve all Consent Agenda items was made by Councilman Frazier, seconded by Councilwoman Marchini, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

**Order 26,621** - authorizing the sole source purchase of a new International Dump Truck from Five Star International, LLC in the amount of \$98,139.00 and the sole source purchase of the upfit (plow & spreader) for the truck from Stephenson Equipment, Inc. in the amount of \$52,210.00, for a total amount not-to-exceed amount of \$150,349.00. Both companies are offering CoStar pricing in accordance with Section 2-171 (c) (iv) of the City Code. Mr. Rhodes advised that this is one of the City's larger vehicles, and it is coming in under budget this year.

**Order 26,622** - declaring a 2008 Chevrolet Impala (VIN: 2G1WB58K081223459) and a 2004 Ford Crown Victoria (VIN: 2FAFP71W24X134541) to be surplus and authorizing them for sale, scrap, or trade-in. Mr. Rhodes advised that these are Police vehicles that are beyond their useful life.

**Order 26,623** - accepting the proposal of Sutphen Corporation to provide one (1) Sutphen Heavy Duty 100-ft. Mid-Mount Aerial Ladder Truck in the total delivered price of \$1,297,569.21. This equipment will be procured through the HGAC Cooperative Purchasing Program. Mr. Rhodes advised that extensive research was done by the Fire Department on the best vehicle, stating that the current ladder truck is 27 years old, and will be 28 years old by the time the new vehicle is ready, as there is a long lead time of approximately 16 months.

**Order 26,624** - authorizing the Chief of Police to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the District Court of Maryland which will allow the CPD to communicate electronically with the court and file documents via a web link. This will reduce the need for paper forms and help reduce error and promote efficiency.

**Order 26,625** - authorizing the execution of an Amendment to the approved Phase II SCADA Project amount in an increase not-to-exceed amount of \$6,000 due to undocumented wiring schematics observed during the process of this project. This brings the total project cost to an amount not to exceed \$33,544. Mr. Rhodes advised that this is an ongoing automation project by System Integration Technologies.

**Order 26,626** - authorizing execution of a Parking Lease Agreement with the State of Maryland (for use by DLLR and SDAT) for the use of 47 spaces in the George Street Garage at a cost of \$65/space per month for a three-year term commencing May 1, 2020.

**Order 26,627** - authorizing execution of a Purchase Agreement with Allegany Junction Limited Partnership providing terms for the purchase of City-owned property at 100 Reynolds Street, known as the East Side School site, for the price of \$75,000, to be used for the development of a four-story multifamily building.

**Order 26,628** - declaring certain equipment to be surplus and authorizing it for disposal or e-cycling.

**Order 26,629** - accepting the bid of Excavating Associates for the Maryland Avenue Demolition Project (CD2020-01) for the unit price cost of \$111,000 and rejecting all other bids. Funding for this project will be supplemented by Allegany County Enhancement Funds. Mr. Rhodes advised that this involves 7 different properties – 3 of which are duplexes – in the 600 block of Maryland Avenue.

**Order 26,630** - authorizing execution of a letter to the MD Historic Trust consenting to undertaking the rehabilitation of 19 Frederick Street for the purpose of completing exterior stabilization improvements to the structure, and stating the City's willingness to donate a preservation easement to the MD Historic Trust should Capital Grant program funds be awarded to the project.

**Order 26,631** - approving the recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission to provide local historic site designation for the George Troug House, located at 230 Baltimore Avenue.

**Order 26,632** - exempting the City's Emergency Responders from the provisions of the Emergency Family Medical Leave Expansion Act and the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act. Mr. Rhodes advised that this is a precautionary measure in response to the Covid-19 virus that ensures the City can maintain staffing levels.

Councilman Bernard inquired about the timeline for the Maryland Avenue demolition project. Mr. Rhodes advised that typically when the process starts, the house is on the ground that same day. Mayor Morriss advised that there is the issue of whether or not Columbia Gas has been turned off at these homes, and other than that he stated the contractor is ready to take the homes down in a week or so, contingent on making sure the gas is off.

Councilman Cioni inquired about 19 Frederick Street, asking if there was anything that needed to be done to mitigate damage until funding comes through. Mr. Rhodes advised that for now, everything is probably okay, as typically the cycle of receiving the money is fast enough that there shouldn't be a problem.

**IX. CLOSED SESSION**

1. Convene in closed session pursuant to Section 3-305(b) (1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss the selection of a new Police Chief.

Mayor Morriss called for a motion to move into Closed Session. On a motion made by Councilman Frazier, seconded by Councilman Bernard, and passed 5-0, the meeting moved into Closed Session.

**X. Adjournment**

With no further business at hand, the public meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Minutes approved on May 5, 2020

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk