



Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

Mayor Raymond M. Morriss
Councilman Richard J. "Rock" Cioni
Councilman Eugene T. Frazier
Councilman Joseph P. George
Councilwoman Laurie P. Marchini

City Administrator Jeffrey F. Silka
City Solicitor Michael S. Cohen
City Clerk Marjorie A. Woodring

MINUTES

M&CC Regular Meeting
City Hall Council Chambers, 57 N. Liberty St., Cumberland

DATE: February 01, 2022

I. OPEN SESSION – 6:15 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

PRESENT:

Councilman Richard J. "Rock" Cioni
Councilman Eugene T. Frazier
Councilman Joseph P. George
Councilwoman Laurie P. Marchini

Also Present: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Michael S. Cohen, City Solicitor; Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk; Ken Tressler, Director of Administrative Services; Allegany County Commissioner President Jake Shade

IV. Statement of Closed Meeting

1. Summary Statement of the closed meeting held February 1, 2022

Mayor Morriss announced that a closed session had been held on February 1, 2022 at 5:10 p.m. and read into the record a summary of those minutes which are attached hereto and made a part of these minutes as required under Section 3-306 (c) (2) of the General Provision Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

V. Presentations

1. Presentation from Allegany County Commissioner Jake Shade on the County's Investment Allegany Program, which is designed to provide match funding for projects in the downtown cores of the County's municipalities to encourage investment in the communities.

Commissioner Shade provided a handout for the Invest Allegany Program, detailing ARPA funds being allocated to help accelerate the County's business community, and support redevelopment of the downtown cores of Cumberland and Frostburg, as well as Main Streets across Allegany County.

2. Presentation from Ed Mullaney, Becky McClarran, Al Feldstein, and Jim Stafford of a proposal to dedicate the Baltimore Street Bridge, once newly renovated, in honor of Casper R. Taylor, former Speaker of the House.

Mr. Mullaney advised on the history of Baltimore Street Bridge

Mr. Feldstein spoke in support of naming the bridge after Casper Taylor, saying that Mr. Taylor was a leader and always worked in the best interest of the community for long and short term. He added that Mr. Taylor created opportunities to build upon that are here even today.

Mr. Stafford endorsed naming the bridge after the former Speaker of the House, saying that he has seen him over the years as a Delegate and beyond, to tout Western Maryland – Allegany and Washington counties.

Ms. McClarran provided background on Casper Taylor's life and his many projects he spearheaded or was involved with in Allegany County, remarked on his long tenure as Delegate and Speaker of the House, and said he was politically one of the most influential people to come from Allegany County.

Mayor Morriss said it was totally appropriate to name the bridge after Cass Taylor, adding that he was a "bridge builder" between the City and County and Annapolis, MD, and his ability to do that brought all of the things he worked towards come to fruition.

Mr. Silka advised that this could officially be done as an Order at the next M&CC public meeting, and Mayor Morriss agreed.

VI. Director's Reports

Motion to approve the report was made by Councilman Frazier, seconded by Councilwoman Marchini, and was passed on a vote of 5-0

(A) Administrative Services

1. Administrative Services monthly report for November, 2021

VII. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Cioni, seconded by Councilwoman Marchini, and was passed on a vote of 5-0

1. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of October 13, 2021 and the Work and Regular Session Minutes of October 19, 2021

VIII. Public Hearings

1. Public Hearing to receive a presentation on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2022-23 Annual Action Plan, and to allow community groups to petition for project support through CDBG funding.

Hearing convened: 6:45 p.m.

Ken Tressler, Director of Administrative Services, spoke on behalf of Lee Borrer, Senior Community Development Specialist, about the CDBG program, saying that it provides federal funds to benefit the City's low to moderate income citizens. A PowerPoint presentation was provided, and Mr. Tressler added that tonight's hearing is to receive comments from organizations wanting to apply. He reviewed the 2022 Action Plan application process and requirements, and said recommendations will be presented to M&CC at the April 25, 2022 M&CC meeting for submission to HUD. Mr. Tressler opened the floor for comments from agencies seeking funding:

- Terry Foote, Horizon Goodwill Industries, provided background on her organization and spoke about the Housing Navigation Program, and said it has been successful for the past 8 months and paths individuals to local organizations to secure housing. She also stated that they do wrap-around services for employment with Goodwill Industries or within the community, and advised that their success rate is about 50% with the Housing Navigation Program.
- Renee Kniseley, Executive Director, Local Management board - Allegany Youth Enrichment Program Services (AYEPS), spoke about the top thing on their community needs survey, which was that kids need something to do outside of school – mentors and positive influences in the community. She added that CDBG funds are funding the renovation of 119 Centre Street for their youth center, which will allow kids who don't have the means to pay for extracurricular activities to earn life skills and self-esteem, to do better in their community and in school. Alan Zapf also spoke for AYEPS, along with Jeremy Hedrick. He stated that Mr. Hedrick started the youth center, and said they had received money in the past for renovating the 1st and 2nd floor. He said that there is a physical side and educational side to the center, and advised that they were asking for funds to renovate the 3rd floor for a community room and after school tutoring programs, and the 4th floor for storage and possibly a county-wide band.
- Deanna Clark, Executive Director of Associated Charities, spoke about providing needed wrap-around services to the citizens of Cumberland, and said they received funding last year and are asking again this year. She advised that they are the only agency in Cumberland that provides prescription medication to all ages, regardless of the circumstances, and said they also provide a holistic approach to promoting a healthy, safe environment. She added that they provide rental & utility assistance, food, and personal hygiene securities, as well as stabilization of those that are experiencing a temporary crisis.
- Chrissy Ujcic, Jane's Place Child Advocacy Center, spoke about child abuse awareness and prevention, and said CDBG funding handles a good bit of their outreach for schools and events, and said those dollars have helped bring awareness to adults to take the responsibility for reporting abuse and protecting their children. She advised that their Color Run awareness event this year is set

for April 2nd. Police Chief Chuck Terner offered support for Jane's Place, saying that Jane's Place has been a partner with the CPD for many years, said it's where they do all their investigations and child interviews, and added that their detectives interact with Jane's Place daily. He also offered support for Associated Charities, saying they frequently partner with them throughout the year, and mentioned the Travelers in Need program. The Chief also mentioned AYEPS, advising that his officers run the program, so he has a vested interest in that as well. He added that the CPD is very involved with all of these programs.

- Austin Persons, advised that he is not a part of any organization, but said he is a stakeholder in the local community. He stated that as a botanist he thinks about programs related to food, regeneration, etc., and asked for guidance about any programs or partners he can participate with. Mayor Morriss advised that they will talk with staff and if anyone knows of anything they will contact him.

Hearing adjourned: 7:16 p.m.

IX. New Business

(A) Orders (Consent Agenda)

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

Order 26,946 - authorizing the sole source purchase of a new Ford F550 Dump Truck with plow and spreader from Allegheny Truck Sales and Stephenson Equipment through Co-Star pricing, for an amount not-to-exceed \$107,440.62.

Mr. Silka advised that this was originally budgeted for \$90K, but due to supply chain issues this is the chassis they were able to find, and it is within the City's purchasing policy.

Order 26947 - authorizing the sole source purchase of a New Cuts SS3600HF Saw from from Cuts, Inc. for an amount not-to-exceed \$30,200.00, which will be used as an attachment on the new Water Department Caterpillar Skid Steer to help make precise cuts to concrete or asphalt.

Mr. Silka advised that a saw originally came with the Skid Steer in Order 26,912, but it was not really compatible with the City's purposes.

Order 26,948 - appointing the City Administrator as the Interim Zoning Administrator effective this date.

Mr. Silka advised that this is just a housekeeping issue, as the previous City Administrator also held this title.

Order 26,949 - authorizing execution of a contract with the Local Management Board (LMB) of Allegany County, Inc. providing terms by which the City shall serve as a pass-through agency for

funding obtained by the LMB through a Youth Services Coalition Planning Grant, to establish a strategic focus and local strategy for improved youth services in Allegany County.

Mr. Silka advised that the City will basically be the conduit for spending and tracking the grant.

Order 26,950 - accepting the bid from Archway Station, Inc. for the 2021 Children and Youth Services Analysis project in the amount not to exceed \$22,500, which will be funded in full through grant funding obtained by the Local Management Board of Allegany County.

Mr. Silka advised that the City solicited bids for this analysis and said the document will be used to increase opportunities for community-based programs and services for youths.

Order 26,951 - adopting Juneteenth into the Holiday Schedule for all City employees.

Mr. Silka advised that this holiday was added on an emergency-basis last year when the State adopted it, and said this Order will allow for the official recognition as a City holiday, to be incorporated into the CBAs and Handbooks.

Order 26,952 - authorizing execution of a Donation Agreement with Cecelia Henderson for the donation of 412 Goethe Street (Tax No. 23-012677) to the City, authorizing acceptance of the deed, and authorizing the City Administrator and City Solicitor to execute documents necessary for the transfer.

Mr. Silka advised this is a fire unit that the City will acquire and mark for demolition.

Order 26,953 - Order declaring City-owned property at 19 Frederick Street (Deed Liber 172, folio 17 Allegany County Land Records) as surplus and authorizing it for sale.

Mr. Silka advised that there is currently an RFP out for the development of this property, and said that once the finalized agreement is done, this Order allows for the sale.

Order 26,954 - authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Agreement with the MD Department of Humans Services (DHS) regarding the City's participation in the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) to become effective February 1, 2022, for a five-year term, to supply eligible households with State-funded assistance for home water and wastewater bills.

Mr. Silka advised provides those eligible with a minimum of \$100 and a maximum of \$2,000 in order to satisfy delinquent accounts. He added that in order for people to access this, the City has to sign an M.O.U. with the state.

Order 26,955 - declaring City-owned properties at 107 S. Allegany Street, 109 S. Allegany Street, and 802 Maryland Avenue to be surplus and authorizing them for sale.

X. Public Comments

No Public Comments

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person.

XI. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Minutes approved on June 7, 2022

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk