



# 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

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## MINUTES

M&CC Regular Meeting  
57 N. Liberty St.

DATE: February 06, 2024

### **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, III  
Council Member Laurie P. Marchini  
President Raymond M. Morriss

**Also Present:** Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison K. Layton, City Clerk; Shannon Adams, Fire Chief; Lee Borrer, Senior Community Development Specialist

### **IV. Statement of Closed Meeting**

Mayor Morriss announced that a closed session had been held on February 6, 2024 at 4:30 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. Recognition of Firefighter/EMT-B Andrew T. Lenhart, Firefighter/EMT-B Sara E. Gant, and Firefighter/EMT-P Ryan P. Woods on their successful completion of Firefighter Recruit Training approved by the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute.

Chief Adams recognized each firefighter and provided background on them, and family members pinned badges. Photos were taken with congratulations all around.

## VI. Director's Reports

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

### (A) Engineering

1. Engineering Division Monthly Report for January 2024

### (B) Public Works

1. Maintenance Division Monthly Report for December 2023

## VII. Approval of Minutes

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

1. Approval of the Closed, Work, and Regular Session Minutes of January 16, 2024.

## VIII. Public Hearings

1. To hear comments on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2024 Annual Action Plan.

Lee Borrer, Senior Community Development Specialist and provided a PowerPoint presentation along with background on the CDBG Annual Action Plan. She advised that this is the first public hearing for the 2024 Annual Action Plan process, and said the projects that are funded should serve people within the City limits. She also provided information on the RFP, applications, and said comments will be accepted through April 29<sup>th</sup>, along with staff recommendations being online until March 28<sup>th</sup> and will be presented April 2<sup>nd</sup>. She added that amounts awarded must be spent by May 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Convened:** 6:33 p.m.

Speakers:

**Crystal Rowan, Director, Jane's Place**, provided copies of packets to M&CC and gave background on her organization. She advised that they have been the recipient of ARPA funds, and talked about positive impacts due to that funding. She discussed programs funded between July 2022 and August 2023, and talked about community trainings that were held. She reviewed all the purchases they were able to make for the children, along with advertising items, brochures and business cards for community events. She advised that they have served 97 children, and over 4000 students in Allegany County received educational materials. She added that they also provided an evening with Santa at the library, with 98 attendees.

**Rhonda Pick, Executive Director Family Crisis Resource Center (FCRC)**, provided background on her organization, and asked for assistance with their abuse intervention program. She advised that the FCRC will continue to support programs with the help of CDBG funding. She stated that often there's a lifelong pattern of thinking that leads to violence and partner abuse, and said each participant attends a 22-session program, learning how it impacts children, partners, and themselves. She added that they work

with law enforcement, courts, and parole, saying that 93% of those who complete the AIP program do not re-offend, and said all of their programs are completely free for victims.

**Yvonne Perret, Archway Station**, talked about their proposal to hire a case manager for SSI Outreach Access Recovery (SOAR). She advised that they need a licensed clinical social worker to help expedite access to disability services to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. She said she would mentor and teach this person how to succeed. She stated that 90% of people they service are approved on the first application, and said last year they helped 23 people with applications, which takes 40 hours per application, so there's a need for more help with this. She added that Archway Station is developing an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team, a treatment program that connects people with programs to get them recovering and moving on with their lives.

**Deanna Clark, Executive Director, Associated Charities**, provided background on her organization, which is 114 years old this year, and what they offer families in the community. She is asking for a short-term and long-term medication program through CDBG funding, and said 95% of the clientele are Cumberland residents, and they provide 73 residents with their services. She added that most clients are 65 and older, and said her organization focuses on low income, underinsured or uninsured people.

**Renee Kniseley, AYEPS Program**, discussed her organization which is now in its fifth year of applying for funding to complete the youth center at 119 N. Centre Street. She advised about work that has already been done, such as roof and windows, and first and second floors. They are working on the third floor, and need funds to complete the fourth. She said they also need paid staff, and said this building is a life-line for a lot of kids, with juvenile diversion programs being their goal. She said currently they cannot take troubled youth due to the small number of volunteers, but said they have gotten a lot of support from the community.

**David Goad, Community Relations for Friends Aware**, discussed proposed funding from CDBG, and provided background on his organization, which works with those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and is in its 70<sup>th</sup> year. He advised that they serve 60 people each day, with 35 others in group homes. He said they only have one fully-equipped handicapped van, with the second van not being handicap-equipped, but said some individuals can still get in and out of regular vehicles. He explained that they can't handle everyone in one trip and people have had to use personal vehicles, but explained that they don't carry insurance coverage for personal vehicles. He said they would like to eliminate that liability to those employees, and said they are seeking \$135K through CDBG.

**Suzanne Trussell, Allegany County Historical Society**, talked about working to make 400 N. Mechanic Street a public facility, and said they need assistance with funding to make things happen. They want to feed minds and bodies, and said they have begun history study groups, which are open to everyone. She explained that there are several ongoing projects, and they need to get the floors done, with a timeline of completion by next Spring. She said she feels this is a benefit to Cumberland, to create pride in the neighborhood and the development of communities.

**Ken Rafferty, HRDC, here on behalf of Susan Malone**, spoke about how the HRDC has worked with the City for a very long time and discussed seeking help with affordable

housing. He said they have a homeless program and rapid rehousing. He explained that HRDC owns a duplex property on Pulaski Street, which at one point had been part of the affordable housing, but when Covid hit they took it off the books and it has fallen into disrepair. He said one of the common issues is the date of housing stock – lead measures, abatement – both are quite costly. He added that the heating system was antiquated and has failed, and explained that for one side of the duplex, the initial cost is \$52K, which would include infrastructure and new wiring. He said there are no health or safety hazards, but they want to bring it up to par, to future-proof it. He added that it's a 3-bedroom, so could house up to 4-5 people, which would house clients in a critical situation and put them in a stable place.

**Adjourned:** 7:17 p.m.

**IX. Public Comments – Agenda Items Only**

*There were no comments*

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

**X. Unfinished Business**

**(A) Ordinances**

1. Ordinance 3970 (*2nd and 3rd readings*) - authorizing the transfer of 301 Columbia Street and 303 Columbia Street to Theresa E.S. Wyatt for the purchase price of \$100.

**SECOND READING:** The ordinance was submitted in title only for its second reading. Motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and move to the 3<sup>rd</sup>, after comment, was made by Council Member Furstenberg, seconded by Council Member Marchini, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Morriss opened the floor for questions or comments. Being none, the ordinance moved to its 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.

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

2. Ordinance 3971 (*2nd and 3rd readings*) - authorizing the transfer of 606 Hill Street to Eliana Bennett for the purchase price of \$150.

**SECOND READING:** The ordinance was submitted in title only for its second reading. Motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and move to the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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 questions or comments. Being none, the ordinance moved to its 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.

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

## **XI. New Business**

### **(B) Orders (Consent Agenda)**

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

Order 27,391 - declaring Cumberland Police Department Unit #4 (2015 Ford Interceptor) surplus for sale or scrap.

Order 27,392 - approving the amendment of Order 26,961 by increasing the ARPA funding allocation for the HVAC Improvement at City Hall (\$115,278) and decreasing the ARPA funding allocation to Promoting the Community (\$1,177) and Prisoner Processing Improvements (\$114,101).

Order 27,393 - authorizing the execution of a grant agreement with Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for \$30,000 in grant funds to the City to be used for commissioning a study to implement connectivity between local attractions and services.

Order 27,394 - accepting the bid of Excavating Associates, Inc. for City Project #2-22-W, South End Water Main Replacement, in the lump sum cost not-to-exceed \$4,396,880.

Order 27,395 - accepting a Multi-Year Contract with RoadBotics in the lump sum not-to-exceed \$37,275 to provide the Engineering Department with the ability to assess and determine which roads require attention in order to better analyze and create a pavement improvement plan.

Order 27,396 - accepting the sole source purchase of the cost to replace the engine of a 2018 F550 dump truck from Timbrook Ford, Keyser, WV at a cost not-to-exceed \$25,273.60.

Order 27,397 - approving \$10,000 Micro-Revolving loans each for Mandela Echefu, Wheelzup Adventures and Michael Harris, Pepper in a Bottle for the terms 60-month amortization period, 3% interest, first payment due January 2025, and no interest charged until January 1, 2025.

Order 27,398 - approving the purchase of equipment from CDW to replace City IT Storage Switches, which are end of life unsupported systems at a cost not-to-exceed \$65,636.66.

Order 27,399 - declaring certain City-owned properties to be surplus and authorizing them for sale.

Order 27,400 - executing a donation agreement between the Mayor and City Council and Kevin L. Rowan and Annabel E. Rowan for the donation of a parcel of real property at 526 Broadway Circle and the improvements thereon, if any, to the City.

Order 27,401 - approving a contribution of \$50,000 to match the Allegany County appropriation to the Baltimore Street Construction Impact Grant program with funding reassigned from the Micro-Revolving Loan Fund.

**XII. Public Comments**

**Martha Letterman, 7 Washington Street**, spoke about dangerous pedestrian crossings in Cumberland, one being at the intersection of Cumberland and Washington Streets, and another being at Mechanic and Baltimore Streets before the Baltimore Street Bridge. She spoke of how some cars speed up, and don't stop. She explained that the intersection at Cumberland and Washington, it's nearly impossible to cross, with traffic coming from all directions. She said at the Mechanic and Baltimore Street/Bridge crossing, it takes her no fewer than 20 minutes to cross in the evening. She also mentioned that she has seen one accident live at the intersection of Cumberland and Washington Streets. She said people don't pay attention. She said she has lived here for 20 years and works downtown, and said it wouldn't feel right if she didn't speak up about this issue, because it's a dangerous situation. She stated that someone should look at this.

Mayor Morriss advised that they will have Mr. Silka, Chief Ternent, and Engineering look at this issue to find a solution, as they want Cumberland to be a tourist destination where people feel safe.

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

**XIII. Adjournment**

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Minutes approved on February 20, 2024

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton, City Clerk