



# 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 Public Meeting  
Allegany Museum, 3 Pershing Street

DATE: May 21, 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, President

Also Present: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison K. Layton, City Clerk; Chuck Ternent, Chief of Police; Shannon Adams, Fire Chief; Media Representatives

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

On May 21, 2024, the Mayor and City Council met in closed session at 5:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Allegany Museum at 3 Pershing Street to discuss Board and Commission appointments and to discuss the evaluation of an appointed official. Authority to close the session is provided by Section 3-305(b)(1)(i) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

### **V. Presentations**

#### **1. Presentation of awards given in recognition of employee career milestones**

Mayor Morriss recognized Deborah Mullan for 26 years of service with the Parks and Recreation department as well as Carol Brown for 35 years of service. Ryan Mackey spoke about Deborah and Carol, stating that the department receives calls often for day

camp applications asking if Deborah or Carol still work there. Carol and Deborah have a had great impact on the youths in the area as well as the department, their time and effort is greatly appreciated by all.

2. Presentation of awards given to Cumberland Fire Department for their efforts in Arch St house fire

Chief Adams spoke about C Crew and their efforts during a house fire and spoke about the obstacles the crew face during emergency situations. Without hesitation the crew went above and beyond to put the fire out. Five people were injured and treated that day and 4 people were sent to the hospital. The Department would like to recognize Darron Winters, Equipment Operator Adam Fazenbaker, who rescued a resident in the rear of the building and quickly got them to treatment. Equipment Operator Jeremiah Hann and Firefighter Thomas prepared the rest of the ladders, while Lieutenant Tim Malone and Fire Fighter Jeff Teter worked together to rescue the third victim. Jeff Teter crawled through the house in search of victims, while Tim Malone successfully secured a victim to the ladder for rescue. We appreciate what they do day in and day out and all of their efforts that day.

## **VI. Director's Reports**

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

### **(A) Administrative Services**

1. Administrative Services Monthly for April 2024

### **(B) Public Works**

1. Maintenance Division Monthly Report for April 2024

### **(C) Fire**

1. Fire Department Monthly Report for April 2024

### **(D) Police**

1. Police Department Monthly Report for April 2024

## **VII. Public Comments - Agenda Items Only**

*No Public comments*

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

## VIII. Unfinished Business

### (A) Ordinances

1. **Ordinance 3977** (*2nd and 3rd readings*) - authorizing the transfer of a parcel of real property located at Rear Greene Street, Lots Nos. 33 and 34 of Block 33 of the Cumberland Development Company's Ridgedale Addition, to Betsy and Thomas Harrison for the purchase price of \$600

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

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

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

## IX. New Business

### (A) Resolutions

1. R2024-02 (*1 reading only*) - granting the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad Corporation, Inc. a property tax credit for the 2024-2025 tax year, as provided for by Section 9-302(b)(4) of the Tax Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

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

### (A) Ordinances

1. Ordinance 3978 (*1st reading*) - authorizing the transfer of a parcel of real property located at 461 Goethe Street, to Tyler Thompson for the purchase price of \$100

**FIRST READING:** The ordinance was submitted in title only for its first reading. Motion to approve the 1st reading and table until the next meeting, was made by Council Member Furstenburg, seconded by Council Member Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

2. Ordinance 3979 (*1st reading*) - providing for the annual expenditure appropriation for the FY25 General Fund

**FIRST READING:** The ordinance was submitted in title only for its first reading. Motion to approve the 1st reading and table until the next meeting, was made by Council

Member Frazier, seconded by Council Member Marchini, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

3. Ordinance 3980 (*1st reading*) - providing for the annual expenditure appropriation for the FY25 Special Purpose Funds

**FIRST READING:** The ordinance was submitted in title only for its first reading. Motion to approve the 1st reading and table until the next meeting, was made by Council Member Furstenburg, seconded by Council Member Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

4. Ordinance 3981 (*1st reading*) - providing for the annual expenditure appropriation for the FY25 Water Fund

**FIRST READING:** The ordinance was submitted in title only for its first reading. Motion to approve the 1st reading and table until the next meeting, was made by Council Member Furstenburg, seconded by Council Member Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

5. Ordinance 3982 (*1st reading*) - providing for the annual expenditure appropriation for the FY25 Sewer Fund

**FIRST READING:** The ordinance was submitted in title only for its first reading. Motion to approve the 1st reading and table until the next meeting, was made by Council Member Frazier, seconded by Council Member Furstenburg, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

6. Ordinance 3983 (*1st reading*) - providing for the City Tax Levy for FY25

**FIRST READING:** The ordinance was submitted in title only for its first reading. Motion to approve the 1st reading and table until the next meeting, was made by Council Member Furstenburg, seconded by Council Member Marchini, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

7. Ordinance 3984 (*1st reading*) - providing for an increase in water rates effective July 1, 2024

**FIRST READING:** The ordinance was submitted in title only for its first reading. Motion to approve the 1st reading and table until the next meeting, was made by Council Member Furstenburg, seconded by Council Member Cioni, 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 each item was made by Council Member Marchini, seconded by Council Member Furstenburg, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

1. Order 27,465 - authorizing the execution of a Tolling Agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. for the purpose of developing a plan for the City to access the CSX Yard in Cumberland, MD to perform Sewer repair work without interfering with CSX's rail operations
2. Order 27,466 - accepting a donation from Renee Mason in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the purpose of upkeep, maintenance and improvements at the Gene Mason Sports Complex
3. Order 27,467 - authorizing a set fee of \$1,500 for any entity wanting to sponsor a Free Swim Day at the Constitution Park Pool
4. Order 27,468 - declaring certain City-owned properties located at 310 Columbia Street, 414 Goethe Street, 308 Cumberland Street and 118 Winton Place to be surplus and authorizing them for sale
5. Order 27,469 - declaring certain fire equipment to be surplus and authorizing it for disposal
6. Order 27,470 - authorizing the execution of Change Order No. 4 to the original contract with Casey Smith, LLC, dba ServicePRO, for the "Residential Grass Mowing Project" (14-22-M) to add/remove properties recently acquired or sold by the City for the increased cost \$780, bringing the new contract value not to exceed \$61,610

## **XI. Public Comments**

Matt Fischer spoke about Cumberland, referencing a quote "you'll never know the value of a home until it becomes a memory". He presented a slideshow of Cumberland in 1939, highlighting when Cumberland was considered the Queen City. Matt came across Cumberland in 2011 on a rafting trip from Ohio Pyle and bought an abandoned house, remodeled it and turned it in to an Airbnb. He explained that he has experienced two sides of Cumberland, the group that is all about the future and the group that thinks it is the worst town and do not like anything about it. As a brand strategist, he believes that Cumberland should be focused on internal branding and communication. Being the CEO of AI Revolution Labs, he helps people reimagine what life would be like with AI. He believes that as Cumberland grows, we need to look at how AI can change the future and pointed out that any jobs that are repetitive can be replaced with AI, whereas jobs that will not be replaced are the ones where you get your hands dirty, he made reference to a robot picking up drywall and stated that we have a good decade before AI can have that in place. Matt addressed the homeless and mental health issues and the addictions that are used to escape those issues that often times lead to crimes, and that AI can provide awareness and early warning signs for those suffering with these issues from the camera on your phone.

He also pointed out that they are focused on Neurodiversity, such as Autism, ADD, Dyslexia and also traditional mental health issues like depression and anxiety which are caused by loneliness. With AI they can determine at a better level which people they can help while adding a connection to mental health, and understanding to Neurodiversity. He concluded that he is here as a supporter of Cumberland and believes it has a bright future and concluded with the quote "You'll never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory", and this is the moment that AI can be the biggest Ali or it can be what

destroys a town, adding that he is here to help if anyone wants to brainstorm about the future of Cumberland to help rise above.

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

**XII. Adjournment**

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes approved on June 18, 2024

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton, City Clerk