



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

MINUTES

M&CC Regular Meeting
Videoconference

DATE: September 15, 2020

I. CLOSED SESSION

1. 5:30 PM - Convene in open session for the purpose of closing the meeting for an executive session pursuant to Sections 3-305 (b) (1) and (7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss board and commission appointments and to allow the City Solicitor to provide legal advice regarding the potential amendment of the City Code.

II. OPEN SESSION

6:15 PM – Re-convene in Open Session

III. Roll Call

PRESENT

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

Councilman Seth Bernard was absent

Also Present: Jeffrey D. Rhodes, City Administrator; Michael S. Cohen, City Solicitor; Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk; Donald Dunn, Fire Chief; Chuck Ternent, Police Chief

IV. Statement of Closed Meeting

1. Summary Statement of closed meeting held September 15, 2020

Mayor Morriss announced that a Closed Session had been held on September 15, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. and read into the record a summary of that session 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. Proclamations

1. Proclaiming Tuesday, October 6, 2020 as National Night Out in Cumberland

Mayor Morriss read the Proclamation and presented it to Terri Hast, Community Development Specialist, Fire Chief Donald Dunn, and Chief of Police Chuck Ternent. The Mayor commented that with Covid-19 restrictions this year will be a little different, but great events are planned, and requested the support of the community. Police Chief Ternent advised on activities being planned by the Cumberland Police Department

VI. Director's Reports

Motion to approve the reports was made by Councilman Cioni, seconded by Councilwoman Marchini, and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

(A) Public Works

Maintenance Division monthly report for August, 2020

(B) Fire

Fire Department monthly report for August, 2020

(C) Police

Police Department monthly report for August, 2020

(D) Utilities - Flood, Water, Sewer

Utilities Division - Flood/Water/Sewer monthly report for August, 2020

VII. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Frazier, seconded by Councilman Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

1. Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of July 21, 2020; Closed session minutes of July 7 and July 21, 2020

VIII. Public Hearings

1. Public Hearing - to receive comment on the proposed Zoning Map Amendment #20-01 to correct an error in the 2019 Official Zoning Map by removing certain properties from the Canal Place Overlay Zone that were included by mistake

The Public Hearing convened at 6:33 p.m.

Engineering Consultant Morgan Alban advised that they had noticed that a few parcels in the area of the Canal Parkway were included in error. Those parcels were removed to correct the map mistake.

The Public Hearing adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

IX. New Business

(A) Resolutions

Mr. Rhodes provided background on the Resolution that is a yearly request that grants a property tax credit to the CEDC, and is permitted under the Tax Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

The Resolution was presented in title only. Motion to approve the Resolution was made by Councilwoman Marchini, seconded by Councilman Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

Resolution R2020-04 - granting the Cumberland Economic Development Commission a property tax credit for the 2020-2021 tax year

(B) Orders (Consent Agenda)

Mr. Rhodes reviewed each item on the Consent Agenda, and Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. Motion to approve each Consent Agenda item was made by Councilman Frazier, seconded by Councilman Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

Order 26,707 - authorizing the Chief of Police to enter into an FY21 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Allegany County Health Dept. to conduct mini take-back events within the community and provide medication pick-up services in an attempt to reduce opioid misuse. \$3,000 in police overtime grant money has been appropriated by the Allegany County Health Department for this initiative

Order 26,708 - abating the 2019-2020 taxes at 118 Baltimore Street, owned by the Cumberland Economic Development Corporation (CEDC)

Order 26,709 - accepting the proposal from Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. to supply a fixed price electric supply for a new supply location at the CSO Storage Facility, 400 E. Offutt Street, from 9/24/20 to 11/24/22 at a fixed rate of \$0.05229 kWh

Order 26,710 - authorizing the Chief of Police to accept an FY21 Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN) grant in the amount of \$256,206.00 for personnel and overtime costs associated with the focus on identifying, disrupting, and dismantling gangs and violent criminal networks involved in the distribution of illegal drugs, the use of firearms in crimes of violence, human trafficking, or other inherently violent criminal enterprises, through enforcement, prevention, intervention, and reentry strategies

Order 26,711 - authorizing the Chief of Police to accept an FY21 GOCCP Police Recruitment and Retention Program grant in the amount of \$24,000 offered to help local agencies recruit and retain police officers in recognition of the state-wide shortage of police candidates

Order 26,712 - accepting the sole source purchase of a new Caterpillar 918M Wheel Loader from Cleveland Brothers CAT in the not-to-exceed amount of \$107,962 as part of Sourcewell joint purchasing contract

Order 26,713 - approving funding amendments to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program effective September 15, 2020; 2019 Horizon Goodwill Job Readiness (-\$10,000), 2019 HRDC Emergency Housing Assistance (+\$10,000)

Lee Borrow gave an overview of the program which was affected by the pandemic, and stated that those funds were moved over to the emergency program for housing.

Order 26,714 - authorizing execution of a Disclaimer regarding a Purported Deed dated December 27, 2019, granting property at 712 Elm Street to the City from First Peoples Community Credit Union (Book 2525, Page 414 Allegany County Land Records), declaring that the Purported Deed is invalid

Order 26,715 - accepting the bids for certain properties offered for sale through the 2020 Surplus Property Request for Bids process and authorizing the remaining properties not bit upon to remain offered for sale through a public bidding process to be determined by the Department of Community Development

In answer to a question about Order No. 26,714, Mr. Cohen advised that in this instance the M&CC is authorizing him to file the disclaimer, which makes it clear that the property title was not accepted. He added that he has been in touch with First Peoples' counsel, and they are getting with their Board of Directors to talk further.

X. Letters / Petitions

1. Letter from the City Clerk advising that no petition for referendum was received for Charter Amendment Resolution No. 148, which was approved to enact Section 73A of the City Charter (1991 Edition) to empower the City Administrator to declare emergencies in certain events and pass temporary administrative orders necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety and/or welfare, and to empower the Mayor and Council to pass executive orders in emergencies, and the Charter Amendment therefore became effective September 9, 2020

The letter was acknowledged, and was entered into the public record.

XI. Public Comments

No public comments.

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 October 20, 2020

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk