



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

MINUTES

M&CC Regular Public Meeting
701 Kelly Road, Cumberland MD 21502

DATE: April 16, 2024

I. OPEN SESSION – 6:15 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

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; Chuck Ternent, Chief of Police; Shannon Adams, Fire Chief; Lee Borrer, Senior Community Development Specialist; Ruth Davis-Rogers, Historic Preservation Planner

IV. Statement of Closed Meeting

Mayor Morriss announced that a closed session had been held on April 9, 2024 at 4:00 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. Proclamations

1. Proclaiming the month of April, 2024 as Fair Housing Month in Cumberland

Mayor Morriss read the proclamation, and presented it to Lee Borrer, Senior Community Development Specialist, along with several HRC Committee members. Ms. Borrer thanked the Mayor and reminded everyone to come out to the Fair Housing Event at ACM on April 23rd, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

2. Proclaiming the month of April, 2024 as Archaeology Month in Cumberland

Mayor Morriss read the proclamation and talked about Community Archaeology Lab Days and the dig at Oldtown at the Thomas Cresap Fort, from May 31 through June 10. Representatives from the Western MD Archaeology Chapter spoke about their organization, saying that the chapter was organized in the early 1980s and has done excavations throughout Allegany, Garrett, Washington, Bedford, and Mineral counties. They discussed outreach programs and teaching the necessity of what they are doing. They also mentioned that on Tuesday, April 23 at 5:00 p.m. there will be a free session at the New History Discovery Center on Mechanic Street working with artifacts from the Jane Gates House.

VI. Director's Reports

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

(A) Administrative Services

1. Administrative Services Monthly Report for March 2024

(B) Public Works

1. Maintenance Division Monthly Report for March 2024

(C) Fire

1. Fire Department Activity Monthly Report for March 2024

(D) Utilities - Flood, Water, Sewer

1. Utilities Division Water/Sewer/Flood Monthly Report for March 2024

VII. Approval of Minutes

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

1. Approval of the Closed, Work, and Regular Session minutes of March 19, 2024, the Closed Session minutes of March 20, 2024, and the Work and Regular Session Minutes of April 2, 2024

VIII. Public Comments

Ed Mullaney, Co-Chair of Let's Beautify Cumberland, 213 Fayette St., spoke about the Cumberland Clock Tower Committee, and introduced those involved: Greg Hendershot, Chair; Jan Wunderlick, and Maryanne Coyle. He thanked M&CC and staff members for passing Order 27,446 this evening and for allowing them to move forward. He advised that the clock will be in Hendershot Park, which is named for Butch Hendershot, former Council Member, who started LBC to help make Cumberland a better place to live. Mr. Mullaney said the clock will be visible from Washington Street, and said it's a good project with lots of history behind it and lots of reasons to do it. He added that they will move forward with the fundraising.

Mr. Hendershot thanked everyone for their support, and advised that people can make tax-deductible donations through the Community Trust Foundation's website.

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

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

Order 27,439 - lifting the provisions of Section 11-113 of the City Code to allow open containers of alcohol within a defined area of the downtown mall for the "Friday After Five" events on June 7, July 12, August 2 and September 13, 2024 beginning at 5:00 p.m. and ending at 12:00 midnight; notwithstanding, that open glass containers shall not be permitted

Order 27,440 - abating the Real Property taxes, interest and utilities on six properties (118 Winton Place, 31 Offutt Street, 310 Columbia Street, 414 Goethe Street, 308 Cumberland Street and 404 Furnace Street) being obtained through the tax sale foreclosure and donation process

Mr. Silka advised that this totals a little over \$11,700 and are all properties that the City has acquired.

Order 27,441 - authorizing the execution of a FY25 Arts and Entertainment Districts Operating Support Letter of Agreement for the period July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025, to define the City's role as the Local Government Entity with regard to the Cumberland Arts & Entertainment District, and to approve estimated in-kind support of \$500 (Five Hundred Dollars)

Mr. Silka advised that this is done annually to keep the Arts and Entertainment District active.

Order 27,442 - declaring certain City-owned properties located at 305 Maryland Avenue, Broadway Lot B-6, Broadway Lot B-8 and Rear Greene Street to be surplus and authorizing them for sale

Order 27,443 - authorizing the execution of an agreement with SADA Systems, Inc., for one year of Virtru Encryption Services for Google Mail/Drive in the not-to-exceed amount of \$31,048.05

Order 27,444 - accepting the proposal from Long View Systems Corporation for the migration of the City's network to Cumberland's domain (city.cumberlandmd.gov) in the not-to-exceed amount of \$64,303

Order 27,445 - executing a donation agreement between the Mayor and City Council and Larry and Samantha Moon, for the donation of the parcel of real property at 208-210 Virginia Avenue and the improvements thereon, if any, to the City

Order 27,446 - authorizing Let's Beautify Cumberland to pursue the placement of a clock on property owned by the City of Cumberland at Hendershot Park, contingent upon the successful receipt of all necessary approvals and permits

Order 27,447 - authorizing Change Order No. 2 to the Rehabilitation of Bridge A-C-06 Baltimore Street over Wills Creek (City Project 9-18-BR) with an increase of \$20,345.27, bringing the total contract price to an amount not-to-exceed \$4,856,848.65

Mr. Silka advised that this Change Order is due to a time delay by Verizon which caused storage of equipment.

Order 27,448 - authorizing Change Order No. 1 to the MSC Fuel Tank Replacement Project (2023-14-PBLD) with an increase of \$5,000, bringing the total contract price to an amount not-to-exceed \$569,594

Order 27,449 - authorizing Change Order No. 1 to the City Hall Building Elevator Modernization project with an increase of \$7,200, bringing the total contract price to an amount not-to-exceed \$220,836

Mr. Silka advised that this change order is due to a requested delay by the City.

Order 27,450 - authorizing the City Administrator to execute Park Concession Leases of less than five (5) consecutive days or less than two (2) consecutive weekends

X. Public Comments

Dr. Ahmet Sachdev, 109 Welton Drive, Cumberland, wanted to introduce himself as a new Gastroenterologist at UPMC, coming from Washington, DC, and said he met Council Member Furstenberg at a restaurant recently. He said UPMC has an excellent GI center, and said there's a lot of opportunity for technology in healthcare in the area. He said the people here are incredible, and would like to get to know everyone and to improve care in UPMC and in the area.

The doctor explained that they have lost a lot of people at UPMC and he's been asked to help rebuild and improve healthcare in the community. He explained that having lived and worked in a much larger city, the people here are top-notch.

Mayor Morriss encouraged everyone to take care of themselves and get screened – check family history. He thanked the doctor for being here tonight and for his enthusiasm in the community.

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

XI. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Minutes approved on May 7, 2024

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton, City Clerk