



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 Public Meeting
Videoconference

DATE: August 18, 2020

I. OPEN SESSION - 6:15 PM

This public meeting will be held remotely as a videoconference.

To view the meeting live, go to the City's website at www.ci.cumberland.md.us and access the public meetings link under the Government tab or go to Facebook and access the page Cumberland City Hall Livestream.

To provide public comment during this video conference, citizens must go to the following webpage on Zoom Meeting and sign into the meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84356527765?pwd=ZnAyT3N3R0pOcTRKUFZOb21FZFdsUT09>

Use Meeting ID (843 5652 7765) Password (908175)

To join by phone dial: (+1 301 715 8592); Meeting ID (843 5652 7765) Password (908175)

Citizens wishing to speak will be placed in a waiting room and will be called upon at the appropriate time.

Written public comment may also be made by emailing the City Clerk at margie.woodring@cumberlandmd.gov. All electronic comments must be submitted by 2 PM on August 18, 2020. Comments received will be acknowledged during the public comment portions of the meeting.

II. Roll Call

PRESENT:

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

Also Present: Jeffrey D. Rhodes, City Administrator; Michael S. Cohen, City Solicitor; Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Public Meeting convened at 6:50 p.m.

III. Proclamations

1. Proclamation in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, guaranteeing all American women the right to vote

Mayor Morriss read the Proclamation and commented how special it was to be able to do this Proclamation on the exact day of the ratification of this Amendment, one hundred years ago today.

IV. Director's Reports

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

(A) Engineering

Engineering Division Monthly Report for July, 2020

(B) Public Works

Maintenance Division Monthly Report for July 2020

(C) Fire

Fire Department Monthly Report for July, 2020

(D) Utilities - Flood, Water, Sewer

Utilities Division (Water / Sewer / Flood) Monthly Report for July, 2020

V. Public Hearings

1. Public Hearing - to receive public comment regarding the City's proposed use of \$476,457 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) CARES Act Funds in response to the needs of residents affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. Individual wishing to speak during this hearing may should use the information provided at the beginning of this Agenda to sign into the Zoom meeting scheduled for this public meeting. Written comments may also be submitted prior to 2:00 p.m. on August 18th by contacting the City Clerk at 301-759-6447 or margie.woodring@cumberlandmd.gov.

The Hearing convened at 6:58 p.m.

Lee Borrer, Senior Community Development Specialist advised that these funds are the result of the CARES Act funding that was given out in April of this year. She stated that HUD finally came up with the code of federal regulations to advise on how to administer the funds, and added that an Amendment was created to the 2020 CDBG Annual Plan. She explained that HUD allowed waivers for the time period for public comment, in order to get the funds out as quickly as possible, and determined, along with community stake holders, how best to use the funds for low to moderate income folks in Cumberland, in response to Covid-19.

Ms. Borrer advised that just under \$500K was received and provided background on the needs of the community and talked about each category and how many would benefit. She also advised on several other grants available for businesses, emergency grants for housing and basic necessities, hazard pay for First Responders, and a South Cumberland Library program to provide advanced telecommunication capability to its patrons.

Ms. Borrer stated that public comments were accepted from August 12, 2020, until 4:00 pm. today, and advised that none had been received in writing. She added that the Order for the approval of the Amendment is in the Consent Agenda this evening.

Mayor Morriss spoke on the appropriateness of the projects chosen, and Councilwoman Marchini expressed how grateful Council is and thanked Ms. Borrer for her efforts in expediting these funds. Councilman Cioni inquired if there will be restrictions on businesses. Ms. Borrer replied that absolutely there will be, explained that there will be policies and procedures in place, and added that the CEDC will be administering those grants.

The Hearing adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

VI. New Business

(A) Ordinances

Mr. Rhodes provided background on the Ordinance and stated that this is a former blighted property, and letters had been sent to the adjoining property owners, with Mr. Kaarvaliksen being the only one interested. Mr. Rhodes added that Mr. Kaarvaliksen is doing a lot of good renovation work in that neighborhood.

Ordinance 3875 (*1st reading*) - authorizing the terms for the conveyance of 27 Ridgeway Terrace to Greis Kaarvaliksen for the amount of \$1,500 and authorizing execution of a deed to effect the conveyance

FIRST READING: The Ordinance was presented in title only for its First Reading. Motion to approve the First Reading and table until next meeting was made by Councilwoman Marchini, seconded by Councilman Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

(B) Orders (Consent Agenda)

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

Order 26,691 - declaring a 1950 Mack Fire Engine (VIN No. 85LS1481) to be surplus equipment and authorizing it for sale

Order 26,692 - authorizing Residential Exemptions from the 2020-2021 Special Taxing District Levy for 101 S. Centre Street and 237 N. Centre Street

Order 26,693 - approving an Amendment to the 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Plan to allocate \$476,457 in CDBG CARES Act Funds in response to the needs of residents affected by the Coronavirus pandemic

Order 26,694 - authorizing acceptance of the deed for 130 Polk Street from its current owners upon the City's receipt of a release of the lien of the deed of trust encumbering the property (Allegheny County Land Records Book 1246, Page 84), authorizing the City Solicitor to record the deed, and abating the real estate taxes due upon the property contingent upon recordation of the deed

Order 26,695 - authorizing execution of a Donation Agreement with First Works Capital Solutions, LLC for their donation of 417 Broadway (Tax Acct. 22-002929) to the City, authorizing the City to accept the deed of transfer, authorizing an extension of the closing date if necessary, and authorizing the City Administrator and City Solicitor to execute documents to effect the transfer

Order 26,696 - reauthorizing City-owned property at 17/19 N. Waverly Terrace as surplus property and authorizing it for sale through public bidding

Order 26,697 - rescinding Order No. 26,595 that declared property at 400 N. Mechanic Street and surplus with the intent to transfer to the Cumberland Economic Development Commission (CEDC) as the CEDC no longer has use for the property

Order 26,697 - accepting the sole source proposal from Carl Belt, Inc. to make repairs to the Green Street Storm Conduit (Project No. 24-20-FPM) in the estimated unit cost of \$40,150

Mr. Rhodes advised that this has been a real problem area for the City, and stated that the storm conduit has blown out of the ground and been repaired a couple of times. Mr. Rhodes explained the details of the potential permanent solution, adding that it will hopefully alleviate the problem, although they are not sure yet what's causing the surge at that location.

VII. Public Comments

John Slocomb, 1 Baltimore Street, Apartment 205, advised that he was still waiting on a response to questions he posed in a reader commentary he wrote that responded to an article by Greg Larry of the Cumberland Times-News on July 7, 2020 regarding selling timber at the City watershed. He wanted to know if the Mayor and City Council were going to respond. Mayor Morriss stated that they have been working on a response, and reviewed his questions and provided answers. Mr. Slocomb explained his concerns on the harvesting of timber being done appropriately. The Mayor stated that the City felt comfortable with the process that Ms. Anita Simmons, City Forester, described, and thinks the public will be happy with how it's being done as well. Mr. Slocomb stated that the City appears to be doing the least amount of damage, it's been researched well, and Cessna Brothers are certified by several people. He thanked Mayor and Council for their time, stating this is important because it is our water supply.

Mayor Morriss thanked Mr. Slocomb for being a concerned citizen, and stated he was glad that Mr. Slocomb brought this up because it's important for people to know that with projects like this the City is being considerate, and is doing its best to make sure it's doing things right.

Mr. Slocomb inquired if his questions might be answered in the paper in a short commentary to note some of the protections in place for this harvest. Mayor Morriss stated that he will get with Ms. Simmons and see if she will provide a commentary and responses.

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Minutes approved on October 6, 2020

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk