



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
City Hall

DATE: July 18, 2023

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
Council Member Laurie P. Marchini
President Raymond M. Morriss

Also Present: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison K. Layton, City Clerk

IV. Director's Reports

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

(A) Administrative Services

1. Administrative Services Monthly Report for June 2023

(B) Public Works

1. Maintenance Division Monthly Report for June 2023

(C) Fire

1. Fire Department Monthly Report for June 2023

(D) Police

1. Police Department Monthly Report for June 2023

(E) Utilities - Flood, Water, Sewer

1. Utilities Division Flood/Water/Sewer Monthly Report for June 2023

V. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Council Member Frazier, 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 July 5, 2023

VI. Public Comments

No public comments

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

VII. Unfinished Business

(A) Ordinances

1. **Ordinance 3963** (*2nd and 3rd readings*) - authorizing the transfer of 325 Independence Street to Jan Rivera for the purchase price of \$100.

SECOND READING: The ordinance was submitted in title only for its second reading.

Motion to accept the reading and move to the third after comment was made by Council Member Cioni, seconded by Council Member Furstenberg, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. Being none, the ordinance 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.

VIII. New Business

(A) Ordinances **THE ORDINANCE WAS WITHDRAWN**

1. **Ordinance 3964** (*1st, 2nd, and 3rd readings*) - amending Ordinance 3961, approved June 20, 2023, with the additional transfer of the parcel at 402 N. Mechanic Street to the Allegany Historical Society.

(B) Orders (Consent Agenda)

Mr. Silka reviewed each item on the Consent Agenda, and Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. **Motion** to approve Orders 27,271 – 27,277; 27,279 & 27,280; 27,282 – 27,284 was made by Council Member Cioni, seconded by Council Member Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 5-0. **Motion** to approve Orders 27,278 & 27,281 *only*, was made by Council Member Furstenberg, seconded by Council Member Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 4-0, with Council Member Marchini recusing herself from the vote on those two Orders.

Order 27,271 - accepting accept the State bid proposal from Hertrich Fleet Services Inc. for four (4) road ready 2024 Ford Police Interceptor Utility police vehicles at \$50,803 each for a total cost not to exceed \$203,212.

Order 27,272 - authorizing the Chief of Police to accept the FY24 MCIN Grant in the amount of \$295,965 to be used in support of crime reduction patrols, targeted enforcement, intelligence gathering, apprehension of violent criminals and streamlining information sharing to address gang and drug trafficking, with grant funds obligated for contractual salaries, personnel services and overtime for increased manpower within allied agencies.

Order 27,273 - authorizing the Chief of Police to accept the FY24 Sex Offender Compliance grant in the amount of \$17,851 for Cumberland Police Department and Allegany County Sheriff's Office overtime to perform compliance checks by conducting home visits of registered sex offenders to confirm residency.

Order 27,274 - authorizing the Chief of Police to accept the FY24 Police Accountability, Community and Transparency (PACT) Grant entitled "Body Worn Camera Program" in the amount of \$174,553 for the salary for an IT employee, the Body Worn Camera program and the purchase of Body Worn Camera software and equipment.

Order 27,275 - accepting the proposal from Hite Associates, Inc. for City Project 5-22-WRF to replace shingled roofs for the Maintenance, Chlorine, and Electrical buildings at the Water Reclamation Facility in the estimated unit cost not to exceed \$125,794.67, using NJPA pricing to solicit a competitive bid.

Order 27,276 - authorizing the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding by and between the MD Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the Mayor and City Council of Cumberland for the administration of the federally funded Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program in the City of Cumberland for the term retroactive to July 1, 2023 and through June 30, 2026.

Order 27,277 - authorizing payment to various community groups from the hotel/motel tax receipts in an amount not to exceed \$45,000.

Order 27,278 - accepting the proposal from CBIZ Insurance Services for risk management services for FY24 in the amount not to exceed \$35,750.

Order 27,279 - accepting the proposal from PMA Companies to provide Workers Compensation Insurance for Fiscal Year 2024 for the estimated amount of \$1,058,487 and authorizing execution of a Prefund Deductible Reimbursement and Security Agreement to effect the coverage.

Order 27,280 - accepting the proposal from Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) to provide insurance coverages for FY24 for property, general and excess liability, police legal liability, auto comprehensive and liability, and boiler/machinery for the amount not to exceed \$396,489.

Order 27,281 - accepting the proposal from CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc. to provide Public Officials Liability coverage for FY24 through Ace American Insurance for the amount not to exceed \$27,300.

Order 27,282 - accepting the proposal from CDW Government for the upgrade of existing Cybersecurity infrastructure with replacement firewalls and failover redundancy in the amount not to exceed \$89,561.06.

Order 27,283 - declaring vehicles and equipment to be surplus and authorizing them for sale, trade in or scrap.

Order 27,284 - rescinding Order No. 27,152 and approving the purchase of a 2023 Ford F-350 Service Body Truck from Keystone Ford with an upfit by J&J Equipment in the not to exceed amount of \$68,956.

IX. Letters / Petitions

1. Letter from the City Clerk advising that the deadline has passed for receiving a referendum on Annexation Resolution No. 2023-01-ANNX, approved May 2, 2023, for property located on the south side of Maryland Route 144 in Allegany County, MD, Election District No. 22, consisting of 8.848 acres +/- and owned by the Ali Ghan Club, Inc., with the resolution becoming effective June 16, 2023.

X. Public Comments

Kevin Kiff, Kiff Towing and Recovery, 426 Chestnut Street, spoke of his concerns about the streets, saying that he represents several people that were promised Chestnut Street was next for paving back with Mayor Grimm was in office, and said that so far all that has been done is 1,110 coal patches on the street. He suggested talking to Burgmeier's about not coming through so heavy, and tearing up the street, and asked that the Street Supervisor come and look at it.

Mayor Morriss replied that they will talk to the Street Supervisor and to Burgmeier's.

Helen Hendrickson, 505 Valentine Avenue, stated that she has been having a problem at her house with lots of rainwater flooding her house from the neighbor's house. She claimed that she has lost her entire belongings in the house due to flooding, and said the neighbor won't handle it. She also claimed that she has lost \$1700 from her garden being ruined. Gary Price, speaking on Ms. Hendrickson's behalf, described the situation in more detail. He stated that there needs to be new storm drains that don't collapse, and said Miss Utility was called to mark the lines. He stated that he was harassed by the County and by someone in Community Development for not putting up a silt fence. Mr. Price noted that silt wasn't the problem, the water is coming from the culvert, and said he has been flooded 3 times this week, noting that the water shoots out of the pipe like taking a shower. He stated that this comes across the neighbor's yard into the basement. Mr. Price stated that there is a new guy moving in there, and said hopefully he fixes it. He provided several photos of the flooding to M&CC. He stated that he's made all the arrangements he could possibly make, and said when they get these torrential downpours, it's just a matter of time before they lose the house.

Mayor Morriss stated that he appreciates Mr. Price coming in and said they will take a good look at it and get Engineering to check it out.

Jerry Frantz, 1513 Bedford Street, spoke about the article in the Times-News about raising the stipends for M&CC. He stated that he is in favor of the raises, saying they are long overdue, and is also in favor of periodic increases. He said, though, that he is not in favor of the method that the raises will be given, and said they need to come up with a different method that should be

approved by a public vote. He asked if the stipend increase is for the next term of M&CC, or for the current M&CC, and if so, said that would be M&CC voting themselves a raise. Mayor Morriss stated that the increase is effective as of July 1, 2023, and said he and Council are worth it, have been worth it the whole time, and it is being done now. He thanked Mr. Frantz for his input.

Council Member Marchini stated that she understands Mr. Frantz's perspective, but said if other cities the same size of Cumberland are compared, as well as comparing M&CC to the County Commissioners, the City elected officials' stipends are excessively less, and they do not get a benefits package at all.

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

XI. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes approved on: August 15, 2023

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor:

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton, City Clerk