



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
Allegany Museum, 3 Pershing Street

DATE: June 18, 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 Ternet, Chief of Police; Shannon Adams, Fire Chief; Media Representatives

IV. Presentations

1. Presentation of Employee Retirement Awards

Mayor Morriss opened the meeting by acknowledging Kevin Ogle’s departure from the City of Cumberland with 52 years of employment. Chief Ternet spoke about Kevin’s career with the Cumberland City Police Department and highlighted a timeline of his career. In October of 1972 he was hired as a Police officer. In 1992 promoted to Corporal, 1995 promoted to Sargent, 1998 promoted to Lieutenant, 2003 promoted to Captain, 2006 named Active Chief, 2009 he retired as Deputy Chief. A few months later he was hired as supervisor of the Cumberland Parking Authority and announced his final departure from the City of Cumberland on June 21, 2024. Chief Ternet spoke about the people who were fortunate to work with Kevin and how much of a mentor he was to them, Kevin trained hundreds of Police Officers. When Kevin was hired, he made \$2.73 an hour, his total salary was \$5,600 a

year. On Kevin's original application he had 2 choices to apply for, his 1st choice was for the Police, his 2nd choice was for the Fire, so his entire legacy was based on a checkbox. After reading Kevin's retirement letter, Ternet stated how happy and blessed the city had been to have him as a part of their family. During Kevin's career he designed a new badge that was more reflective of the City and is now a part of his new legacy. The officers have been wearing the badges since he designed them. He was presented with a large version of the badge he designed with the Deputy Chief on it. A photo was taken with Kevin, his wife, members of the M&CC, as well as Chief Ternet.

2. Recognizing the Allegany Girl's Softball Team for winning State Championship.

Mayor Morriss acknowledged the Allegany Girls Softball Team for winning the State Championship and finishing their season with a record of 22-0 and presented them with a Certificate of Recognition. Coach Brandon Monahan thanked everyone for recognizing the girls and spoke how great of an opportunity it has been to have watched 5 of these girls, who stuck together through the years and now achieved a championship together, seeing them develop and see all the hard work and effort that they put in as well as time and training. Brandon mentioned the girls and their positions, Abi Britton, Senior Pitcher, Maylee Blank, second baseman and Mackenzie Monahan, Short stop. Abi has been pitching for eight years and with a speed of 101mph. A group photo was taken with M&CC.

V. Statement of Closed Meeting

On June 18, 2024, the Mayor and City Council met in closed session at 4:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Allegany Museum at 3 Pershing Street to discuss matters that relate to contract negotiations with the International Association of Firefighters Local #203. Authority to close the session is provided by Section 3-305(b)(9) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

VI. Director's Reports

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

(A) Administrative Services

1. Administrative Services Monthly for May 2024

(B) Public Works

1. Maintenance Division Monthly Report for May 2024

(C) Fire

1. Fire Department Monthly Report for May 2024

(D) Police

1. Police Department Monthly Report for May 2024

VII. Approval of Minutes

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

1. Approval of the Work and Regular Session Minutes from May 21, 2024 and June 4, 2024

Public Comments - Agenda Items Only

No Public comments

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

VIII. New Business

(A) Resolution

1. Resolution 2024-03 (*one reading only*) - approving an application to the MD Department of Housing and Community Development for Revitalization 2025 Projects totaling up to \$400,000

READING: The Resolution was submitted in title only for its reading 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 order was made by Council Member Furstenberg, seconded by Council Member Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

1. Order 27,476 - approving the 2024 Annual Action Plan projects for the Community Development Block Grant Program
2. Order 27,477 - authorizing the abatement of taxes, interest and water/sewer for the City-owned properties at 208 Virginia Avenue, 513 Fayette Street, 26 Industrial Blvd. and 317 Cecelia Street in the total amount of \$16,022.28
3. Order 27,478 - declaring equipment to be surplus property and authorized for sale, scrap or disposal

4. Order 27,479 - rescinding the bid of Aylen Milanes for surplus equipment "2014 Cub Cadet Tank LZ Commercial" due to non-compliance with bid procedures, and accepting the bid of \$2,525 from Donelly Bohrer for said equipment
5. Order 27,480 - accepting the proposal from Cleveland Brothers CAT, for the purchase of one new Caterpillar 246D3 Skid Steer Loader in the total amount not to exceed \$46,520, in accordance with City Code Sec 2-171 (c) relating to to purchasing cooperatives and piggyback contracts
6. Order 27,481 - accepting the proposal from Cleveland Brothers CAT, to purchase one new Caterpillar Weiler P385C Asphalt Paver in the total amount not to exceed \$267,390, in accordance with City Code Sec 2-171 (c) relating to to purchasing cooperatives and piggyback contracts
7. Order 27,482 - accepting the proposal from Stephenson Equipment for the purchase of one new LeeBoy L300 Trailer Mounted Tack Tank in the total amount not to exceed \$24,955.40, in accordance with City Code Sec 2-171 (c) relating to to purchasing cooperatives and piggyback contracts
8. Order 27,483 - accepting the proposal from Stephenson Equipment for the purchase of one new Bomag BW120AD5 Asphalt Roller in the total amount not to exceed \$60,279, in accordance with City Code Sec 2-171 (c) relating to to purchasing cooperatives and piggyback contracts
9. Order 27,484 - authorizing the execution of an Encroachment Agreement by and between the Mayor and City Council of Cumberland and Thomas J. and Lori M. Cehlarik for the purpose of installation, maintenance, repair and replacement of a chair lift at their residence
10. Order 27,485 - authorizing the sole source renewal of the LOGOS.net Finance/HR system support and maintenance contract for a one year term at a cost not to exceed \$56,838.52
11. Order 27,486 - approving the sole source purchase from Amazon Web Services, Inc. to provide server hosting and support services for FY25 in the not to exceed amount of \$37,000
12. Order 27,487 - authorizing the City Administrator to execute all FY25 Employment Agreements for part-time employees of the City of Cumberland
13. Order 27,488 - authorizing the City Administrator to execute all Seasonal Employment Agreements for the 2024 Spring/Summer season which shall not exceed 6 months from the date of execution
14. Order 27,489 - authorizing the execution of an Outdoor Dining Lease Agreement with Coachs Entertainment Enterprises, L.L.C. (Mezzo's), Uncle Jack's Pizzeria and Pub, Inc., SHAFCO T/A City Lights American Grill and Bar, Embassy Theatre Corporation and Baltimore Street Grill for the use of the public right of way immediately in front of and adjacent to the property for outside cafe dining for a term effective June 1, 2024 through October 31, 2025

16. Order 27,490 - declaring certain City-owned properties located at 454-456 Goethe Street, 404 Furnace Street, Lots 63-65 Young's Terrace and Lots 5-6-7, Blk 28 Sperry Terrace, to be surplus and authorizing them for sale
17. Order 27,491 - approving the sole source purchase from L/B Water Service, Inc. for one new Mueller CL-12 Large Tapping Machine for the Water Department in the total amount not to exceed \$52,341.99

IX. Public Comments

Chris Meyers addressed the M&CC that he is a resident of 15 S. Liberty Street, a local business owner and an employee of the local radio station. Chris stated that he is here tonight because he and the DCBA and Allegany County Historic Society have secured a special event permit for the “Rock the Block” event for October 12, 2024, a free community event. It will be a two-stage event on Pershing Street and Merchant’s Alley that will celebrate the end of construction on the Baltimore Street redesign as well as a thank you to the community for supporting small businesses during the construction. Chris is requesting an open container permit for the event. They have secured three music acts and are working on a fourth. One of the bands is an 80’s East Coast tribute Band and will bring outside locals to the event.

Councilwoman Marchini asked Chris if he has worked with the DDC about this event because they did not hear anything about it at the meeting. Chris responded that the DDC is aware of the event.

Frank Clark addressed the M&CC that he had sent out an email on May 19, 2024, regarding a space that was provided on Johnson Street for trees to be planted. His concern is the size of the tree being on a 45 sq foot space due to utilities. Frank asked who he could contact about when the sidewalks get replaced to have the utilities moved so we can plant trees. Says he addressed M&CC a few months ago concerning a \$50K program called Reimagine Greene Street that was done in 2015 and one of the recommendations was to plant trees on Greene Street and he feels that we missed that opportunity to replace the utilities because of those sidewalks being replaced. He feels that someone needs to oversee contacting utility companies to have this work done when a project like this is taking place to increase the number of trees that can be planted.

Mayor Morriss thanked Frank for coming in and sharing his concerns and agreed that the City needs to a better job of following plans that were done in the past and do better moving forward.

Senator Mike McKay presented the M&CC with a 90-day report stating that the Senate President, Speaker of the House presents a 90-day report to every member of the MD General Assembly. The report has listed every bill that his office has entered, 36 for this year, 14 that have passed and 4 that went to summer studies. The reason for this 90-day report is to show full transparency on how he is voting in Annapolis. In Realtime third reader votes for a bill (final votes) are posted on Facebook as well as his website along with every vote that has been passed by the General Assembly for the last 10 years. That information is compiled, an end of session letter is put together along with a spreadsheet representing Garrett, Allegany and Washington Counties showing all of the state dollars that are secured coming back to the three jurisdictions, which includes money that goes to Frostburg State University, Department of

Corrections and really gives a Snapshot of how well or not we do at bringing money back to the state of Maryland. Anything that we win is a team effort, we thank you for testifying on bills and funding and for your support of the General Assembly.

This idea started with a 3-ring binder that the Department of Legislative Services would copy for him and because he is the only one who does this, he was told that they could no longer do that for him. So, this year he was able to have it published on Amazon for \$4.75. He went on to say that he thinks it is important that the M&CC know what he is doing in Annapolis. Mike thanked the M&CC for allowing him to represent them in the Maryland General Assembly this past year and he is looking forward to working with us on priorities for the City of Cumberland in the 2025 session.

Mike added that they were also able to get \$500K for the Harrison Street intersection, passed an Oral Health bill for the 10th year in a row and were able to obtain \$500K to train emergency room doctors on administering pain medications and educating patients who may be addicted to Opioids on getting them the mental health services that they need. The bill was passed bipartisan support. Councilwoman Marchini asked Mike if he would have time to meet with the M&CC to discuss future Legislation before his return to Annapolis, Mike said yes and that his office would send out email on behalf of the delegation in October asking if they would like to meet with Legislation.

Peggy Keene greeted the M&CC and began by stating that she came to them in February of 2024 and December of 2023. When she recently went to the George Washington Headquarters for her shift on Saturday around 10:00 am, she found the grounds covered in trash. 10 lbs. of trash were picked up from around the headquarters and there was a garbage can also overflowing with trash, an area used as a bathroom and flies all over the location. On the porch there was a rat that disappeared under the house. As their shift ended and the next shift came in, they witnessed rats scampering up trees and in the holes in the foundation. During the shift change they found several individuals sitting in the grass eating behind the HQ and they were informed that visitors were being expected. Upon coming back to check on her employee, 2 hours later, there was a police car parked under the bridge and the people behind the HQ had disappeared, however one man was sleeping behind the monument with all of his belongings which cannot be observed from the street.

On the following Saturday, June 15, 2024, she began her shift at 10:00am to find more trash around the HQ. At the back of the building, she found a cardboard box that contained human feces, with the flies still everywhere. She greeted visitors but some just came up to the door and left. One woman was afraid to walk back to her car at the train station, so she waited for a group to walk with them while another group of people left due to all the flies. When the next shift arrived, she informed them that they needed to close the HQ due to all the trash, feces, rats and flies. Peggy updated that there have only been 40 visitors to the HQ which is very low and went on to address the M&CC that they need help now, the vagrancy situation around the HQ is out of control, as it is being used by patrons to charge their phones, eat food, use as a garbage dump, outside bathroom facility and drug distribution center. Peggy apologized for presenting these issues in a public meeting, but she asked for a private meeting back in February. The Daughters of the American Revolution are asking for a port a potty under the bridge, removal of the outdoor electrical outlets, install a locked outlet box, provide garbage pickup on days and weekends with a larger can, lights to illuminate the HQ at night and a ramp with a pipe rail for disabled and elderly visitors. Respect should be shown for this piece of history that the father of our County George Washington stayed in.

Mayor Morriss thanked Peggy for providing that information and stated that Mr. Silka, Chief Ternet and he would discuss the issue and work with her to discuss holding people accountable for their actions. Peggy added that she wanted to thank Eugene Frazier and Chief Ternet for all their help.

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

X. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes approved on July 2, 2024

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton, City Clerk