



# 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

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## MINUTES

M&CC Regular Public Meeting  
Via Video Conference

DATE: November 17, 2020

### I. OPEN SESSION - 6:15 PM

To view this meeting live, go to the City's website at [www.cumberlandmd.gov](http://www.cumberlandmd.gov) 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, go to <https://zoom.us> and enter the following:

Use Meeting ID (899 1023 6973) Passcode (276741)

To join by phone, dial: (+1 301 715 8592); Meeting ID (899 1023 6973) Passcode (276741)

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

### II. 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; Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk; and Morgan Alban, Engineering Consultant

### III. Proclamations

1. Proclaiming the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 28, 2020, as Small Business Saturday in Cumberland

Mayor Morriss read the Proclamation and mentioned Governor Hogan's Covid restrictions going to 50% capacity in businesses, and said that while the City is supporting this event, we are doing it with the restrictions imposed. He asked everyone going into a business to wear a mask and to maintain their social distancing. The Mayor stated that he believes we can do both: stay safe, and support our local businesses. Becky McClarran of McClarran and Williams accepted the Proclamation on behalf of the Downtown Cumberland Business Association. She thanked the M&CC and said she appreciated their support, and stated that shopping and dining are very important to the community all year round. She invited the M&CC and staff to come downtown on Small Business Saturday and enjoy the uniqueness and flavor of Cumberland.

#### **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 4-0

##### **(A) Engineering**

1. Engineering Department monthly report for September, 2020

##### **(B) Fire**

1. Fire Department monthly report for October, 2020

##### **(C) Police**

1. Police Department monthly report for October, 2020

##### **(D) Utilities - Flood, Water, Sewer**

1. Utilities Division for Water / Sewer / Flood monthly report for October, 2020

#### **V. 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 Work Session Minutes of October 13, 2020 and the Regular Session Minutes of October 20, 2020

#### **VI. Public Hearings**

**Convened: 6:27 p.m.**

1. Public Hearing - to receive comment on the proposed Zoning Map Amendment (ZMA #20-02) to rezone five (5) parcels at the intersection of Maple Street and East Oldtown Road to correct a mistake in their zoning designation. The subject tracts are currently zoned "Local Business" and the correct designation should be "Urban Residential."

Morgan Alban advised that while investigating potential future development on a few parcels at the intersection of Maple Street and E. Oldtown Road, the Engineering Department identified an error in the zoning. She stated that the parcels were originally zoned Residential, and then were rezoned to Local Business to accommodate a project that subsequently fell through. She spoke with former City Planner Dave Umling, who

advised he had intended to revert them back to Residential in the last comprehensive rezoning, but the task was overlooked because there wasn't a lot of activity going on in that area. Ms. Alban advised that she presented this to the Planning and Zoning Commission on September 14, 2020, and was recommended by a 4-0 vote.

Mayor Morriss opened up the floor for comments. Being none, the Hearing was closed.

**Adjourned: 6:29 p.m.**

## **VI. Unfinished Business**

### **(A) Ordinances**

Mr. Rhodes provided background on the Ordinance which will correct an inadvertent error in the Zoning Map showing 30 parcels in the Canal Place Historic Preservation District that don't belong there, and said this will correct the map to reflect that.

1. **Ordinance 3878** (*2nd and 3rd readings*) - to amend the official zoning map of Cumberland (ZMA #20-01) to correct the map by removing thirty (30) parcels of record between Alley No. 224 and Canal Parkway from the Canal Place Historic Preservation District

**SECOND READING:** The Ordinance was presented in title only for its second reading. Motion to accept the second reading and move to the third after comment was made by Councilman Cioni, seconded by Councilwoman Marchini, and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

The Mayor called for questions or comments. Being none, the Ordinance moved to its third reading.

**THIRD READING:** The Ordinance was presented in title only for its third reading and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

## **VII. New Business**

### **(A) Ordinances**

Mr. Rhodes reviewed the Ordinance which will provide for the terms of Board and Commission members to continue until successors are appointed.

1. **Ordinance 3879** (*1st reading*) - to enact Section 2-194 of the City Code to provide that, unless otherwise provided for, the terms of service of board and commission members shall continue until such time as their successors are appointed.

**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 Councilman Frazier, seconded by Councilwoman Marchini, and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

### **(B) Orders (Consent Agenda)**

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

**Order 26,731** - authorizing the Chief of Police to enter into an agreement with the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Agency (HIDTA) to receive grant funding in the amount of \$16,435 for specific drug enforcement activities through their partnership with the Allegany County Narcotics Task Force.

**Order 26,732** - authorizing the Chief of Police to accept the FY21 MD Center for School Safety SRO Grant in the amount of \$49,052. These funds will be used to provide adequate police coverage in and around city schools and pay officers overtime to supplement school resource activities, including providing additional officers to patrol schools and interact with children during school and during extra-curricular activities.

Mayor Morriss stated that these two grants once again show how hard the Cumberland Police Department works to get grants, to help keep the community safe. He also mentioned the authorization for funding a couple weeks ago for the playgrounds on First Street, and said they will be a great addition to the neighborhood.

**Order 26,733** - accepting the proposal from Turnbull, Hoover and Kahl, P.A. to audit the financial statements of the City for FY20 for the amount not-to-exceed \$154,800.

**Order 26,734** - authorizing a Special Taxing District Exemption for the 2020-2021 tax year for 33 N. Centre Street (Sasaki / Gusella) in the amount of \$625.39.

**Order 26,735** - rescinding Order No. 26,718 which referenced an incorrect business entity, and authorizing execution of a contract with the Housing Authority of the City of Cumberland /dba Cumberland Housing Group regarding the use of \$149,000 in MD Community Parks and Playgrounds grant funding for upgrades to the playground located at 635 East First Street.

**Order 26,736** - accepting individual bids for the "2020 Bid for Surplus Vehicles and Equipment" project.

## **VIII. Public Comments**

James Lough, resident of Keyser, WV, wanted to speak about Mineral and Allegany Counties working together, as they both have an increased spike in Covid-19. He said his neighbor is a nurse in Cumberland, and said the river (Potomac) doesn't mean anything as far as what the virus means to the community. He stated that he is working with the Mineral County Chamber of Commerce, and also wanted to thank M&CC for the Small Business Saturday proclamation, as he supports small businesses in Cumberland.

Mayor Morriss thanked Mr. Lough for his comments and agreed that the second wave is here. He stated that there's a surge nation-wide, but this area has been hit especially hard. The Mayor mentioned the Governor's comments today, advising that more and more are getting infected, are hospitalized, and are dying from Covid-19. He added that there was vigilance in March, April, and May, and we need to get back to how things were handled then. The Mayor stated that hospitals in our area are getting near capacity, and said there needs to be an end to this wave now. He said the number one way to do that is to stay home – only go out when necessary. He said supporting small businesses is a good thing, but only go out when needed. The Mayor reiterated how critical it is to wear masks and social distance, and said by doing these things, it's the only way to stop the surge.

The Mayor stated that the City has asked people to call the Health Department or the Police Department when they see a violation of the masking directives, and said they will respond. He advised that they have responded to every call they've received. He wanted people to know that to the extent we can, we are enforcing, and advised that things will be stepped up a bit. Mayor Morriss stated how important it is for all to take responsibility, and to make sacrifices for themselves and for their families.

Council discussed mask-wearing, social distancing, and how everyone seems to be Covid-weary. They also discussed how the medical experts have been predicting this second wave, how some see masking as a political objective, and wished people would pay attention to medical experts. Council all agreed Covid-19 has gotten rampant in our area, discussed transmission and long-term effects of the virus, and held hope that the two vaccines now out will show great promise.

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

**IX. Adjournment**

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Minutes approved on January 19, 2021

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk