

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

WORK SESSION

City Hall Council Chambers
57 N. Liberty Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 5:05 p.m.

PRESENT: Raymond M. Morriss, President; Council Members: Richard Cioni, Eugene Frazier, Joe George, and Laurie Marchini.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey Silka, City Administrator; Michael Cohen, City Solicitor; Marjorie Woodring, City Clerk; Robert Smith, City Engineer; Matt Miller, CEDC Executive Director; Stu Czapski, Economic Development Specialist

Media: Greg Larry, Cumberland Times-News

I. BALTIMORE ST. ACCESS PROJECT UPDATE

- *MITIGATION PLAN*

Mr. Miller advised that the plan has been finalized and they are sending it out to print. He stated that a lot of time and research went into it, and said McClarran & Williams added finishing touches to it. He said that hard copies would be delivered to all business and building owners, as well as residents downtown. Mr. Czapski added that Downtown Manager Melinda Kelleher has tentatively scheduled June 8th for the official review of the mitigation plan.

There was discussion about parking needs. Mr. Miller advised that it has been recommended to lift parking fees during construction. Mr. Czapski noted that they had a meeting a while back regarding parking enforcement during construction, and what options would be available, like maybe making the first hour or two free. Mayor Morriss cautioned that they need to be careful with however it's done, but said M&CC does understand the problem.

Mr. Miller stated that they have had several meetings and think-tanks, and said the Baltimore Street Access Committee meets bi-weekly now, with representation from every aspect downtown, looking at contingencies. Mayor Morriss advised that there has been extensive community input from business owners and organizations. Mr. Miller stated that with the book they're giving the message that the City is committed to assisting throughout the process.

Councilman George asked if there had been any discussion with the current owners of the Times-News about opening up their parking lot in the evenings for restaurant patrons. Mr. Czapski noted that no parking will be lost, since the work will be only on Baltimore Street, but said it would, in fact, make it more convenient for them to come. He stated, though, that they have not spoken to Times-News directly.

II. CEDC STRATEGIC PLAN RE-ASSESSMENT

Mr. Czapski advised that RKG has finished the work, and said the CEDC is currently proofing the final draft. He stated that Mr. Hutcherson will present it to M&CC in an upcoming work session in May or June.

III. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie A. Woodring
City Clerk

Minutes approved August 16, 2022