

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

WORK SESSION

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

Tuesday, April 20, 2021
5:45 p.m.

This meeting was held via Video-Conference

PRESENT: Raymond M. Morriss, President; Council Members: Seth Bernard, Richard Cioni and Eugene Frazier. Laurie Marchini was absent.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey D. Rhodes, City Administrator; Michael S. Cohen, City Solicitor; Marjorie Woodring, City Clerk; Robert Smith, City Engineer; Kathy McKenney, Community Development Program Manager; Lee Borrer, Community Development Specialist

I. AGENDA REVIEW – APRIL 20, 2021

Mayor Morriss reviewed the Reports and Minutes up for approval as well as the Closed Session Summary for the April 13 Closed Meeting, and called for any questions or comments. Being none, Mr. Rhodes reviewed Ordinance No. 3885, up for its 2nd and 3rd readings:

Ordinance No. 3885 (*2nd & 3rd Readings*) - granting Shenandoah Cable Television, LLC the non-exclusive right to use the city's public rights-of-way for the delivery of high-speed internet service to Frostburg State University.

Mr. Rhodes advised that this ordinance allows for Shenandoah Cable to use the City's rights-of-way, and in exchange the City gets the use of 12 strands of fiber.

Mr. Rhodes reviewed each item on the Consent Agenda:

Order 26,779 - authorizing the execution of an agreement with the Maryland Historical Trust for the receipt of \$100,000 in funding through the African American Heritage Preservation Program to assist with critical stabilization needs at Carver School, located at 340 Frederick Street, and approving a 100% City match of \$100,000 as required by the grant agreement.

Mr. Rhodes advised that the City does have \$100K budgeted for this project, and said some of the repairs due to vandalism will be replacing stolen copper piping, bathroom and fixtures, roof and window repairs, drywall, and elevator repairs.

Order 26,780- accepting the sole source proposal from Amazon Web Services, Inc. to provide hosting and support services for global cloud infrastructure for FY22 for an amount not-to-exceed \$28,000.

Mr. Rhodes advised that this is an ongoing relationship for cloud-based support services.

Order 26,781 - approving Amendment No. 9 02092021 to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program 2019 Annual Action Plan, effective April 20, 2021, to include reallocations for the 2020 South Penn Playground Project, the 20-19 PHA FCH Sidewalk Project, and 2019 Admin/Program Income.

Mr. Rhodes advised that this will allow for allocation of some unused administrative funds for the two projects listed in the order. Ms. Borrer advised the amount being re-allocated is approximately \$40K.

Order 26,782 - Accepting the bid from Carl Belt, Inc. for the Decatur Street 24" Crosstown Water Main Replacement Project (31-17-W) in the lump sum cost of \$3,112,885.95, contingent upon MD Department of the Environment approval.

Mr. Rhodes advised that this has been a critical project for quite a while, and said the bid came in well under what they had anticipated.

Order 26,783 - Accepting the sole source proposal from Hertrich Fleet Services, Inc. for one (1) 2021 Ford Expedition 4WD XL Regular Length in the amount not-to-exceed \$40,077 using joint pricing through Howard County, Maryland Contract #4400003197.

Mr. Rhodes advised that this vehicle is for the Fire Department, and was cooperatively purchased through Howard County bid pricing.

Order 26,784 - approving the submission of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2021 Annual Action Plan proposed projects to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for funding totaling \$797,370.00.

Mr. Rhodes advised that this is our annual plan submission, and will include 14 different projects for HUD funding.

Order 26,785 - appointing Reuben Lease to the Parks and Recreation Board to complete the term of Steve Bazarnik (Seat 8), with said term to be effective April 2, 2021 through February 1, 2024.

Mr. Rhodes stated that this was a good appointment and he's glad to see Mr. Lease back involved, and advised that Mr. Lease was a long-time employee of the City in the area of recreation.

Order 26,786 - authorizing an ARC Grant Agreement between the state of MD (acting through the DHCD) and the M&CC awarding grant assistance in the amount of \$300K to be used on the "Decatur Street 24" Crosstown Water Main Replacement", City Project 31-17-W, and providing a 2-year grant term.

Mr. Rhodes advised that this Appalachian Regional Commission grant provides part of the funding for City Project 31-17-W.

Discussion:

Mayor Morriss asked where the Carver School stands now, as far as getting the new Board in place, having the old Board sign documents and turn everything over to the new Board, and asked if tax returns were done, along with 501.3c status has being established. Mr. Cohen advised that the tax returns have been prepared, ready to go, but said due to an

illness he had which compromised his immune system, he held off in getting the people to sign the documents. He added that now that the illness is behind him, he is ready to get these things done.

Mayor Morriss stated that a lot of people are anxious to get to work over at the Carver School, and said after getting the vandalism damage fixed, and running some good solid projects through the Board, this will be very beneficial to the community.

Mr. Cohen advised that he was going to ask the members of the previous board to sign a limited power of attorney so that Mayor Morriss could act as proxy for their last meeting, where they would pass the ball over to the new Board. The Mayor stated that new board consists of people who know how to write grants and get programs for Carver, and are ready to go to work.

Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Smith discussed the Decatur Street project with Council, and said they were hoping the work to begin around August. Mr. Smith said the term is 150 days, and said the pipe will be replaced within that time frame, but street restoration needs time after that, and advised that paving plants will most likely be closed at the time asphalt is needed. He stated that this would involve a Change Order and time extension passed at a later date once they know the contractor's schedule, which would mean paving in the spring. Mr. Smith discussed the bidding process, saying that 3 of them were within 10% of the estimate, with the low bid coming in lower than their estimate. He added that delivery time on steel products are very delayed right now due to Covid, and said they first need approval to proceed from MDE and the MD Board of Public Works, as well.

Mr. Rhodes advised that there are a lot of utilities in the street, and said it will be a challenge, but feels sure the contractor will be able to handle it. He added, though, that it's an old street and a 24" large water main. Mr. Smith advised that Columbia Gas has already replaced pipe in that area, so that lets them know where all their active pipe is, which makes it less of a chance that they will hit it. He then mentioned the area that the work would encompass, and said the original water main was installed in 1937, and added that historically there were problems all over because of manufacturing standards, saying this pipe has seen the same failure mode throughout the country. He said although they have lasted this long, it will be good to get all of it replaced at one time.

II. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie A. Woodring
City Clerk

Minutes approved on June 1, 2021