

# Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

## WORK SESSION

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

Tuesday, December 17, 2019  
5:00 p.m.

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeffrey D. Rhodes, City Administrator; Michael S. Cohen, City Solicitor; Marjorie Woodring, City Clerk; Bobby Smith, City Engineer; Greg Hildreth, Allegany County Economic Development Specialist

### I. PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA REVIEW

Mr. Rhodes provided background on items on the December 17, 2019 Public Meeting Agenda. He reviewed Resolution No. R2019-6, which authorizes certain businesses within the Gateway Enterprise Zone to receive tax credits for the tax year 2020/2021. He introduced Greg Hildreth from Allegany County, who stated that businesses have to apply and be certified by an advisory committee which meets once a year to ensure the businesses meet the criteria. He stated that each zone has their own local standards for determining eligibility. Mr. Hildreth added that if a business is adding jobs, they can be eligible for income tax credit per job. He further added that the City is required to pass a Resolution to certify the businesses so that the State, in turn, can certify them. Mr. Hildreth also discussed that although he wasn't sure how much outreach was being done, businesses do take advantage of these credits the Gateway Zone had 17 companies this year.

Mr. Rhodes then provided background and entertained discussion on the nine (9) Orders on the Consent Agenda:

- No. 26,575 – purchase of 3 police interceptors from Hertrich Fleet Services by State Bid. CPD was down several cruisers, and these were budgeted.
- No. 26,576 – abatement of taxes and utilities for several blighted properties acquired by the City.
- No. 26,577 - lifting the Open Containers provision of the City Code on December 31, 2019 at 10:00 p.m. through 1:00 a.m. on January 1, 2020 on the downtown mall for the New Year's Eve celebration.
- No. 26,578 – approval of appropriations and transfers for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 and increasing the General Government line item by \$60K, as well as increasing the Debt Service line item by \$70K. Mr. Rhodes provided background information on the increases.

- No. 26,579 – approving amendments to the CDBG program effective 12/17/19 for moving leftover funds from the 2019 Bellevue St. Sidewalk Improvements project to the 2019 Constitution Park Grove 4 Inclusive Playground project, which will be retrofitting the Grove 4 area where the marbles rings have been upgraded, and buying new equipment to make it handicap accessible.
- No. 26,580 – execution of a Koon Dam Bridge inventory inspection cost-share agreement with PennDot with the City paying 20%, which will cover inspections for five (5) years. Bobby Smith, City Engineer, provided information on the inspections.
- No. 26,581 – appointing Larry Jackson to the Historic Preservation Commission for a three (3) year term effective 12/31/19 through 12/31/22.
- No. 26,582 – sole source proposal from System Integration Technologies for Phase 2/Year 2 of the SCADA Control System Upgrade, for the JJD Water Reclamation Facility; this being the only provider the City is aware of that is available to code the SCADA system, and they have specific knowledge about the City’s system.
- No. 26,583 – sole source proposal from Taylor Sports and Recreation to furnish and install Phase I of the playground equipment for the accessible area at Grove 4 in Constitution Park, with Taylor being the local representative for Miracle Equipment, which is the equipment that is currently in Constitution Park.

There was discussion regarding the purchase of new police cruisers, with Mr. Rhodes advising that he believed the Police Department was down a total of 6 vehicles, so not everyone officer that’s eligible has a vehicle to take home. Council felt it was a priority that the City acquires more police vehicles in the future, and to budget for them. They also discussed the struggle to keep Police officers. Mr. Rhodes advised on the current staffing level for the Police Department and discussed officer shifts and down-time.

## **II. DISCUSSION OF DOWNTOWN PARKING MATTERS**

Mr. Rhodes provided a blow-up of the downtown City brochure. He advised on the current upgrade of the Centre City garage and the George St. garage, and updated everyone on the Center City garage repairs to-date. He added that the Allegany Arts Council had recently painted some murals on the different levels in the Center City garage, and provided pictures of the Art Council’s work.

Mr. Rhodes advised that since the garages don’t function as modern garages, they have ordered a lot of controls, some of which have been installed, with more being delivered today for the kiosks. He stated this will roll out in conjunction with some changes to parking lots downtown. City Engineer Bobby Smith advised on the mechanics of the controls, saying that the gates have been installed, but work still needs to be done to make them operational. He added that they will be fully functional once the kiosks are fully installed, and explained the work was delayed due to weather. He explained where the new kiosks would be located and how they will be operated. He added that more cameras would be added as well.

Mr. Rhodes also advised on the new 2-tier permit system and some rate changes that will be in conjunction with changes to the surface lots.

Mr. Rhodes moved on to Lot 1 and advised on the recommendation to go back to \$35/month, with kiosks charging 50 cents/hour. He advised that Lot 6 is currently charging \$35/hour and recommended that lot be changed to a "free" lot. He added that Lot 4 would also be free, allowing 54 free parking spaces in total for both lots. He felt some permit holders would move back into the garage if these changes are made. Mr. Rhodes said with these recommendations, he believes they can go fully live by February 1, 2020.

A discussion followed concerning rates, lighting and potential lost profits with the new recommendations. Mr. Rhodes advised that with having kiosks and working gates, the City will recover more parking funds to cover the loss. Mr. Smith stated that after doing a traffic study in the garage, they found that a significant number of people were leaving without paying.

Mr. Rhodes asked for Council to mull it over and get their thoughts together, and stated he needs an answer by no later than mid-January to be able to go live on February 1<sup>st</sup>. He added that the reality is, there is a lot of parking downtown, just not where people want it all the time, and mentioned that the George St. garage is half-empty, with over 200 available spaces every day. Mr. Rhodes stated that even though people have been wary, there have been no safety issues there, and that the garage is well-lit – more than it was a few years ago. Once the control gates and cameras are installed there will be a better sense of security.

### III. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further, the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie A. Woodring  
City Clerk

Minutes approved April 7, 2020