



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 S. Cohen
City Clerk Allison K. Layton

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WORK SESSION

City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room
57 N. Liberty Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Council Members: Richard Cioni (via phone), Eugene Frazier, Jimmy Furstenberg, Laurie Marchini

Absent: Mayor Raymond Morriss; Council Member Laurie Marchini presiding

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Silka, City Administrator; Allison Layton, City Clerk

Media: Bryan Gowans, WCBC Radio

Greg Larry, Cumberland Times-News

I. HOTEL/MOTEL TAX PROCEDURE DISCUSSION

Mr. Silka reviewed the Hotel/Motel tax process, advising that the budget has crept up incrementally over the years, with about \$400K earmarked. He proposed formalizing the process so that funding is included in the new fiscal year budget. He also suggested implementing a May 1st deadline this year – with letters and applications mailed out in April, allowing people a month to turn in their paperwork.

Mr. Silka explained that the application is a combination of the County's application and certain other information he himself wanted to include. He reviewed the stipulations contained in the application.

Mr. Silka advised that funds will be available as of July 1st and reviewed in detail the different sections of the application. He discussed the financial section and which documents will be acceptable, adding that he wants to see their organizational budget information. He also advised that City Hall resources **will not** be available to help organizations with their financials, saying the organizations should know this information.

There was discussion on which organizations usually submit for funding, and what they do with it. Mr. Silka mentioned ACIT, the scenic railroad, Canal Place, Heritage Days, etc. He stated that Council needs to come up with a process to validate this – to make it transparent. He added that it may take 1-2 years for organizations to get into the habit, but by year 3 it should be understood.

II. AGENDA REVIEW – FEBRUARY 21, 2023

Mr. Silka advised that it is a light agenda tonight, and called for any questions or comments. There was discussion on the 1st reading of the Frederick Street Ordinance, No. 3939, for the RAZ Development Agreement.

There was discussion about Order No. 27188, Greenway Ave. Capital Improvement Fund for an advertising panel. Council Member Cioni advised that Senator Edwards has helped with this a lot, over \$1M, and said the cost is reasonable for a 10-year advertisement.

Greg Larry had questions about 19 Frederick Street and Clock Tower Ventures. Mr. Silka advised that the ordinance starts selling the property, with a purchase price of \$1. He stated that there are certain benchmarks, and if they do not fulfill the terms of the agreement, the City can revert the sale. Mr. Silka advised that they have to do everything to code, and it's all their own money invested. He said that after doing a tour of their facilities in Hagerstown, he wholeheartedly endorses this project.

III. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Nothing from Council Members Frazier and Furstenberg

Council Member Cioni advised that he and Ryan Mackey are working with DNR at Constitution Park, checking the soil, and discussing which types of trees will grow there.

Council Member Marchini advised on the Town Hall Meeting this Thursday at Allegany HS, said it's in-person as well as virtual, and it will be live-streamed on Facebook. She noted that the Baltimore Street project will begin on April 3rd, with setting up equipment, and actual digging will begin April 10th. March 17th is the ceremonial groundbreaking, and Ms. Marchini said e-invites will be coming soon.

She noted that requests for free parking are starting to come in, and explained that the project does not take away any parking. Mr. Silka advised that there will be a global parking presentation at the next work session.

Council Member Marchini talked about the Hooley Pub Crawl and other events. She gave kudos to Ruth Davis-Rogers for setting up the tax incentive workshop last week, which had over 50 attendees.

Mayor and Council discussed the NAACP dinner.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton

City Clerk

Minutes approved on April 4, 2023