



# Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

*Mayor* Raymond M. Morriss  
*Councilman* Richard J. "Rock" Cioni  
*Councilman* Eugene T. Frazier  
*Councilman* Joseph P. George  
*Councilwoman* Laurie P. Marchini

City Administrator Jeffrey F. Silka  
City Solicitor Michael S. Cohen  
City Clerk Allison K. Layton

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## Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

### WORK SESSION

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

Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Raymond M. Morriss, President; Council Members: Richard Cioni (by phone), Joe George, and Laurie Marchini. Eugene Frazier was absent.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeff Silka, City Administrator; Michael Cohen, City Solicitor; Allison Layton, City Clerk

Media: Greg Larry, Cumberland Times-News

### I. AGENDA REVIEW - NOVEMBER 1, 2022

Mr. Silka advised on Ordinance 3934, saying that there was an official withdraw of the bid from the Sponaugles', so when it goes up for vote, nay votes are encouraged for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, which will in effect kill the ordinance.

Mr. Silka opened the floor for any other items to be discussed.

There was discussion on Order 27,116 regarding a grant for License Plate Readers. Mr. Silka advised that this order correlates with Orders 27,120 and 27,121, and said this will incur a 10% match from the City.

There was also discussion on Order 27,122 regarding a cost-sharing agreement with MD-SHA for materials testing and inspection for the Baltimore Street Access project. Mr. Silka advised that this is an 80/20 split – City's share 20% - and said this is stress testing for when concrete is poured.

Mr. Silka advised that the grant with Order 27,127 is for hiring a consultant to come in and produce the City's historic preservation plan, and stated that the City needs to have it, and it can't be done in-house.

## **II. AGENDA PROPOSED FORMAT CHANGES**

Mr. Silka stated that he had spoken to the City Solicitor about the topic, and discussed the memo he had circulated regarding agenda structure and changes, and reviewed the suggestions on the memo he provided to everyone. , He discussed the proper protocol for discussing and moving an item from the Consent Agenda, prior to vote, to the regular agenda, and said the Consent Agenda should be voted on once as 1 complete item with no discussion.

Mr. Silka proposed having a separate Public Comment section prior to agenda items, instead of grouping those comments at the end of the meeting in the regular Public Comment section. He stated that the agenda comment section would also have its own separate sign-in sheet. Mayor Morriss stated that the changes make sense to him.

## **III. CONSTITUTION PARK SPLASH PAD DISCUSSION**

Mr. Silka reviewed past discussions on the splash pad, and said that tonight he wants to solidify direction and get the order on the next meeting if it's going to get done in the spring. He discussed sole sourcing, and said if they want to go a different way chances are it won't be done in the spring. He discussed the question of 'can the project can be scaled down a bit?,' and said if it's scaled down any more, it's basically going to be buckets and hoses.

Mayor Morriss stated that although he has nothing against splash pads, he doesn't believe it would add enough value related to the cost, which, including site development, will be roughly \$850K. He discussed the upgrades that are already going to take place to the pool, the amphitheater, the pavilions, grills, tables, etc. M&CC discussed the cost of the splash pad, site construction, etc., but did acknowledge that the splash pad will last a considerable amount of time, and at this point the City is trying to attract young people to the area.

There was discussion on what else could be done, regarding recreation, with the money. A handicap swing and mountain bike trails were discussed. There was also discussion about putting the funds to Community Development. Mayor Morriss talked about the funds that are already going to be spent on the Baltimore Street project, the electrical rate increasing substantially during construction – a half million more than it is now - and the water lines on the South Side. He stated that he doesn't want the City to spend just because there's some money available right now.

Mr. Silva advised that they do have the \$850K, and explained how \$10M of the ARPA money was set aside in unrestricted funds/operations. He also explained the maintenance costs each year for the splash pad. Mayor Morriss talked about inflation rates and the economy, while Council Member George suggested putting aside money for maintenance for Parks and Rec, going forward. Council Member Marchini suggested taking some of the splash pad funds and putting it towards maintenance of the trails. There was also discussion about the ball fields.

Mayor Morriss stated that they were pretty much in agreement to move forward with just the park improvements.

## **IV. MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL UPDATES**

Mayor Morriss commented on the recent Halloween Parade on Virginia Avenue which was last week, as well as Homecoming, and said these are 2 things that are great traditions in the City. The Mayor also mentioned Boo on the Bricks, and said the DDC knocked it out of the park. He discussed the grand opening of Allegany Junction last week, and the Western MD Food Bank pop-up food distribution.

Council Member George advised on the Planning and Zoning Commission, and said Morgan Alban has resigned, and had been working on the Community Plan, which is partially complete. Mr. Silka advised that it's nice that they have 2 ½ years to get this done, and said they are a little bit ahead of the curve.

Council Member Cioni advised on some changes in members in Parks and Rec.

Council Member Marchini advised on the last Baltimore Street group meeting, and discussed the proposed Town Hall meeting with merchants and property owners. She mentioned hoping to have a big bash down on the mall before construction starts, and discussed the window decorating contest for the holidays. She also stated that the Historic Preservation Commission is going well.

**V. Adjournment**

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton  
City Clerk

Minutes approved on April 4, 2023