

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

WORK SESSION

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

Tuesday, November 17, 2020
5:45 p.m.

This meeting was held via Video-Conference

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

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey D. Rhodes, City Administrator and Marjorie Woodring, City Clerk

I. REVIEW OF THE AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 17

Mayor Morriss advised that he would be presenting a proclamation for Small Business Saturday, which is November 28th this year. He mentioned Governor Hogan's recent mandate of lowering business capacity down to 50% due to the recent surge in Covid-19 cases and deaths, but said the City will promote what it can for the downtown businesses.

The Mayor advised on the Directors Reports, and Approval of Minutes on the Agenda. He reviewed the Public Hearing regarding a Zoning Amendment correcting a mistake in zoning classification of 5 parcels at the intersection of East Oldtown and Maple, by reverting them back to Urban Residential. He advised that Habitat for Humanity is planning on using those lots to build new homes, which will be good for the community. Mayor Morriss then reviewed the Ordinances:

Ordinance 3878, up for its 2nd and 3rd readings, will amend an error on the zoning map by removing 30 parcels in the Canal Parkway area from the Canal Place Historic Preservation District.

Ordinance 3879, up for its 1st reading, will provide for the terms of board and commission members to continue until successors are appointed.

Mr. Rhodes reviewed the Consent Agenda's six Orders, saying that one new item had been added since the November 10th Work Session review:

Order 26,731, authorizing the Chief of Police to enter into an agreement with the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Agency (HIDTA) to receive grant funding in the amount of \$16,435.00 for specific drug enforcement activities, through their partnership with the Allegany County Narcotics Task Force.

Order 26,732, authorizing the Chief of Police to accept the FY21 Maryland Center for School Safety (SRO) grant in the amount of \$49,052.00 in funds that will be used to provide adequate police coverage in and around City schools, as well as pay officers overtime, to supplement school resource activities, which include providing additional officers to patrol schools and interact with children during school days as well as during extra-curricular activities.

Order 26,733, accepting the proposal from Turnbull, Hoover and Kahl, P.A. to audit the financial statements of the City for FY20 in the amount not-to-exceed \$154,800.

Mr. Rhodes advised that the amount for this is usually closer to \$120K, but a higher cap was put on in case there is a need to run over that amount.

Order 26,734, authorizing a Special Taxing District Exemption for the 2020-2021 tax year for 33 N. Centre Street (Sasaki/Gusella) in the amount of \$625.39.

Order 26,735, rescinding Order No. 26,718 which referenced an incorrect business entity, and authorizing execution of a contract with the Housing Authority of the City of Cumberland dba Cumberland Housing Group regarding the use of \$149,000.00 in Maryland Community Parks and Playgrounds grant funding for upgrades to the playground located at 635 East First Street.

Order 26,736, accepting individual bids for the “2020 Bid for Surplus Vehicles and Equipment” project.

Mr. Rhodes advised that there are 27 pieces of equipment and vehicles, totaling a little over \$31,000 for the City.

Councilwoman Marchini asked for clarification for Ordinance 3878. Mr. Rhodes advised that the area mentioned is considered a boundary. He stated that the overlay inadvertently showed those parcels in the Historic District, and they are removing the overlay to correct the map.

II. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie A. Woodring
City Clerk

Minutes approved January 19, 2021