



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 Marjorie A. Woodring

MINUTES

Regular M&CC Public Meeting
City Hall Council Chambers, 57 N. Liberty St., Cumberland, MD

DATE: June 21, 2022

I. OPEN SESSION – 6:15 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

PRESENT:

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

Also Present: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk; Shannon Adams, Fire Chief; Lt. Andy Tichnell, Criminal Supervisor

IV. Statement of Closed Meeting

1. Statement of closed meeting held June 21, 2022

Mayor Morriss announced that a closed session had been held on June 21, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. and read into the record a summary of that session which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes as required under Section 3-306 (c) (2) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

V. Presentations

1. Recognition of Employee Retirements

Mayor Morriss recognized each retiree, and their supervisors spoke of the years of service in their position(s). Mayor and Council, along with supervisors, expressed their appreciation.

Robert Fryer 20 years of service
Roger Collins 22 years of service
Anna Landis 38 years of service
William Patch 45 years of service

VI. Director's Reports

Motion to approve the reports was made by Councilman Frazier, seconded by Councilwoman Marchini, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

(A) Engineering

1. Engineering Division monthly report for May, 2022

(B) Public Works

1. Maintenance Division monthly report for May, 2022

(C) Fire

1. Fire Department monthly report for May, 2022

(D) Police

1. Police Department monthly report for May, 2022

(E) Utilities - Flood, Water, Sewer

1. Utilities Division Flood/Water/Sewer monthly report for May, 2022

VII. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman Cioni, seconded by Councilman George, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

1. Approval of the Work Session Minutes of February 15, 2022, the Work, Closed, and Regular Session Minutes of March 1, 2022, the Closed Session Minutes of March 8, 2022, and the Work and Regular Session Minutes of March 15, 2022

VII. Unfinished Business

(A) Ordinances

1. **Ordinance No. 3921** (*2nd and 3rd readings*) - authorizing execution of a deed to convey certain surplus property that is the former site of the Memorial Hospital to the Cumberland Economic Development Corporation.

SECOND READING: The ordinance was submitted in title only for its second reading.

Motion to accept the second reading and move to the third after comment was made by Councilwoman Marchini, seconded by Councilman Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. Being none, the ordinance moved to its third reading.

THIRD READING: The ordinance was submitted in title only for its third reading, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

IX. New Business

(A) Resolutions

1. **Resolution R2022-04** - approving an application to the MD Department of Housing and Community Development for Community Legacy 2022 Projects totaling up to \$150,412.57

Mr. Silka advised that this is just a recommendation, not an acceptance of funding.

The resolution was read in title only and Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments, of which there were none. **Motion** to accept the resolution was made by Councilwoman Marchini, seconded by Councilman Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 3-0, with Councilman George and Mayor Morriss abstaining.

2. **Resolution R2022-05** - approving an application to the MD Department of Housing and Community Development for 2022 Strategic Demolition Funds in the amount up to \$500,000.

Mr. Silka advised that this funding is for upper story redevelopment of the McMullen Building.

The resolution was read in title only and Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments, of which there were none. **Motion** to accept the resolution was made by Councilman Cioni, seconded by Councilwoman Marchini, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

(B) Orders (Consent Agenda)

Mr. Silka reviewed each item on the Consent Agenda, and Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. **Motion** to approve all items was made by Councilman Frazier, seconded by Councilman George, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

Order 27,022 - authorizing execution of a Consent Agreement with Potomac Edison Company providing terms by which the City shall be allowed to cross and/or occupy Potomac Edison transmission rights-of-way with a combined sewer overflow (CSO) pipeline in conjunction with the 78" Parallel Pipeline from Mill Race to CSO Storage Project (19-16-S).

Mr. Silka advised that this authorizes Potomac Edison's right-of-way agreement to the City.

Order 27,023 - authorizing execution of a Resilient Maryland Program Grant Agreement with the MD Energy Administration (MEA) regarding the City's receipt of up to \$100,000 to complete a study to analyze the feasibility and public benefit of a potential microgrid for the City; and to authorize the City Comptroller to accept the grant funding.

Order 27,024 - declaring certain Fire Department equipment to be surplus and authorizing it to be scrapped or donated.

Mr. Silka advised that this equipment is from the old firehouse that is being closed down, and said the various equipment is 30-40 years old.

Order 27,025 - authorizing the City Comptroller to commit and pay \$20,000 a year for three (3) years to the Canal Place Concert Series Project.

Mr. Silka advised that this is multiple agencies coming together to match a grant for which the Arts Council is applying, for 3 years of concerts.

Order 27,026 - adopting a revised City of Cumberland Fund Balance Policy, effective June 21, 2022.

Mr. Silka advised that this updates the language to make it current.

Order 27,027 - authorizing the Mayor to execute a services agreement with Turnbull, Hoover & Kahl, P.A. for the provision of audit services for Fiscal Years 2022-2024 for the amounts not to exceed \$114,975 for Year 1, \$121,975 for Year 2, and \$128,975 for Year 3.

Mr. Silka advised that this is recommended by the Comptroller and the Director of Administrative Services.

Order 27,028 - authorizing the City Administrator to execute all FY23 Employment Agreements for part-time employees.

Order 27,029 - authorizing the City Administrator to execute all Seasonal Employment Agreements for the 2022 spring/summer season.

Order 27,030 - authorizing execution of Outdoor Dining Leases for the use of the public right-of-way for outside cafe dining for one (1) year with Mezzos, City Lights American Grill and Bar, Embassy Theater Corp., Uncle Jack's Pizzeria and Pub, and Baltimore Street Grill.

X. Public Comments

Tifani Fisher, President, 184 N. Centre Street, Allegany County NAACP, thanked M&CC and employees who attended their Juneteenth event. Ms. Fisher spoke about her previous public comment two years ago regarding the Carver Center not being used. She mentioned that she had heard that funding was received to set up a board, and discussed issues with her not being on the board.

Ms. Fisher talked about other issues regarding access and the Carver Center, and stated that the NAACP has an entire plan of programming and financial stability, grant writers, educators, and organizations willing to lease parts of the building.

Ms. Fisher discussed issues with how the board was filled, and issues she has with Mayor Morriss. She also talked about the history of the Carver building, and stated the building didn't belong to the city, but to the community, in particular the black and brown community. She stated the NAACP has asked several times to meet with the Mayor and the board, with no response.

Tiffany Frazier, 630 Lincoln Street, Allegany County NAACP, also spoke about the Carver Center and about working together as key stakeholders. She discussed not being involved in planning and decision making for the Carver Center, and said the black community should not be brought in only to discuss the services they shall receive. She also stated that she has reached out on several occasions and has been dismissed by M&CC, and spoke about a request for information that she was told would take 3 months to receive.

Ms. Frazier discussed concerns about access to information and about a public meeting that was held without the NAACP's input. She also spoke about accountability, online access and stated that the NAACP engages the community, makes connections and working relationships, and said they can provide valuable input and contributions. She stated that their exclusion doesn't align with objectives and goals of public leaders. She requested documents pertaining to Carver and data in writing. Ms. Frazier discussed doing better with the black community, advised M&CC to see the NAACP's input, and said they provide solutions. Lastly, she mentioned misinformation and miscommunication barriers, and said they need broken down.

Mayor Morriss advised that the M&CC are not the Carver Center board, although he and Councilman Frazier sit on the board. He said, although, that he City is interested and wants to collaborate and make the Carver Center a true community center, and said the City wants to work with all.

The Mayor stated that he wanted to get some facts straight, and said he had a list of emails from Ms. Fisher showing his responses. He stated that he provided the names of the Carver board members. He advised that the board contained 12 members, and said the initial board included 5 people of color. He advised that he was speaking as Mayor and also as the President of the Carver board.

Mayor Morriss advised Ms. Fisher that he had initially wanted to put her on the board, but said one of the requests from the former board was that she not be a part of that board. He advised that is why Carmen Jackson, representative of the NAACP and former president, is on the board, and said Councilman Frazier, who is also a member of the NAACP, also sits on the board.

The Mayor advised Ms. Fisher that he will deal with the board, and said they will determine what information they want to give her. He advised that they are a private board, and are not subject to the Public Information Act.

Mayor Morriss advised that they want the NAACP to participate, and said one of the first steps is to reach out to local leaders such as Ms. Fisher and Ms. Frazier, to hear their vision for the Carver Center. He advised they have a subcommittee that wants to meet with people individually to hear what they want to offer in their community, then they will work on the ultimate visions. He added that's the way the board decided to do it.

The Mayor advised Ms. Fisher to bring a written proposal of partners, the square footage they will need, how much rent they're willing to pay, and the types of activities, and it will be considered. He added that he is really proud of the board they have appointed, and said the members are all very qualified. He mentioned their ability to reach out to the community, set up programs, and find grants.

Councilman Frazier advised that he is a member of the black community, does sit on the board, and said they will not do anything that is going to harm the Carver Center. He advised that they are still a long way from being fully organized. He stated that it bothers him that they are saying negative things, and said there are 4 black members on the board (originally 5 – David Smith resigned) that are looking out for the black community. He said they will make sure it serves that community, and will make sure the history remains.

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

XI. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Minutes approved on September 20, 2022

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk