

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

WORK SESSION

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

Tuesday, July 20, 2021
5:30 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Michael S. Cohen, City Solicitor; Marjorie Woodring, City Clerk; Chuck Ternent, Chief of Police; Mark Gandolfi, City Comptroller; Kathy McKenney, Community Development Program Manager

I. AGENDA REVIEW – JULY 20, 2021

Mayor Morriss reviewed the Agenda, and went over the Directors Reports and Minutes up for approval. Ms. Woodring reviewed the ordinance, and Mayor Morriss called for any questions or comments:

Unfinished Business: Ordinance 3893 (*2nd & 3rd readings*) – accepting the bid from Robert B. Williams for the purchase of 500 Kingsley Avenue for the amount of \$300 and authorizing conveyance of the property and execution of a deed to effect the conveyance.

Ms. Woodring reviewed each item on the Consent Agenda:

Order 26,833 - authorizing the execution of an M.O.U. with Allegany College of MD for the purpose of occasionally sharing the newly constructed softball field on their campus, provided for with funding assistance from the MD Dept. of Natural Resources Community Parks and Playgrounds Program.

Ms. Woodring advised that the City was awarded this funding in 2017 to assist with this construction, said that this Order puts in writing what was previously verbally agreed to, and stated that this field is solely maintained by the college.

Order 26,834 - authorizing payment to CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc. for FY22 Risk Management Services for the period July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, in the amount not to exceed \$32,500.00.

Order 26,835 – authorizing execution of a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the UFCW Local 1994, representing certain members of the Cumberland Police Department, to be effective July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2024; with a provision to automatically renew year-to-year thereafter unless either party gives notice of intent to do otherwise, in accordance with terms of the Agreement.

Mr. Cohen advised that negotiations have gone smoothly with a good spirit of cooperation. He hit on the main points of the CBA:

- 3-year agreement

- 2% COLA each year
- Field Training pay increased by 50 cents per hour
- Court time pay now at 4 hours @ time and a half
- Comp time now capped at 160 hours – can’t accrue any more until hours drop below 160 - if can’t get comp time, will be paid overtime pay as required by applicable law
- Holiday now just paid at time and a half
- ARPA Premium Pay – 3.13 per hour for each hour officers worked between July 6, 2020 and May 15, 2021, paid by lump sum
- Union gave up request for longevity steps, shift differential and educational credits in exchange for ARPA Premium Pay

Mr. Cohen stated that with the premium pay, they were able to tie up all the loose ends that were out there regarding negotiations. Mayor Morriss advised that he heard from several officers that this was a smooth negotiation, and said he’s glad to see everyone was working on the same page.

Order 26,836 – authorizing the purchase of one (1) 2022 Ford F-550 4x4 Ambulance for the total delivered price not to exceed \$262,338 from FESCO Emergency Sales through the HGAC Cooperative Purchasing Program (HGAC Contract Am10-20).

Ms. Woodring advised that this is budgeted for FY22, and Mr. Gandolfi advised that the plan is to use CDA Bond monies for this purchase.

Order 26,837 - authorizing execution of a Lease Agreement with the New Creamery, LLC for the use of the public right-of-way in front of 108 W. Harrison Street for outside dining purposes for the term of July 20, 2021, through April 30, 2022.

Order 26,838 – authorizing payment to Link Computer Corporation for MuniLink utility billing cloud-based software hosting and support services for Fiscal Year 2022 for the total yearly amount not to exceed \$40,000.

Ms. Woodring advised that this is the system used to generate utility bills for the water, sewer and trash, and said the City has contracted with MuniLink since 2017 for these services.

Order 26,839 – authorizing the Chief of Police to enter into an M.O.U. with the Allegany County Health Dept. (ACHD) to conduct mini take-back events within the community and provide medication pick-up services to home-bound individuals between 7/7/21 and 6/30/22, with a grant amount of \$3,000 for police overtime appropriated by the ACHD.

Order 26,840 – lifting the provisions of Section 11-113 of the City Code that bans open containers of alcohol on Saturday, August 14, 2021, from 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. on the downtown mall for the City Center Summer Celebration event; notwithstanding that open glass containers shall not be permitted.

Ms. Woodring provided a PowerPoint slide showing the proposed activities and music scheduled for the day's celebration.

Order 26,841 - authorizing execution of a Certificate of Satisfaction acknowledging that the Deed of Trust dated June 26, 1987, made by Genevieve Koegal pertaining to 209 Emily Street and including terms of a rehabilitation easement (Allegany County Land Records Book 610, page 827), has been fully paid and the lien is hereby released.

Order 26,842 – authorizing execution of a Certificate of Satisfaction acknowledging that the debt on a Deed of Trust dated June 26, 1987, and made by Genevieve Koegal with regard to 209 Emily Street is fully paid and the lien is hereby released.

Order 26,843 - authorizing acceptance of funding awards from the Allegany County Community Enhancement Program for the 600 Block of Maryland Avenue in the amount of \$145,800 with 100% City in-kind/cash match; and for the 6 Virginia Avenue Demolition Project in the amount of \$155,000 with 100% City in-kind/cash match

Ms. Woodring provided a PowerPoint slide and advised that the 600 Maryland Avenue project is now complete with City match provided by assessed value of properties already acquired; Ms. Woodring advised that funding for the 6 Virginia Avenue project was received in February of this year and said the match for that is part cash and part acquisition of 927 Grand Avenue as property swap for 6 Virginia Avenue.

Order 26,844 - authorizing acceptance of \$98,000 in Community Parks and Playground funding for the Allegany College of Maryland Outdoor Volleyball Court Facility, which was jointly submitted by the City of Cumberland and Allegany College (No matching funds from the City required).

Ms. McKenney advised that she has a Scope of Services drafted for this project, and will be drafting a Use Agreement similar to the Allegany College softball field agreement.

II. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Councilman Frazier advised that the HRC is getting ready for National Night Out, and said they are in the process of making the doors for the Doors for Opportunity project.

Mayor Morriss advised that the WMSR had their second successful weekend of the Ice Cream Trains, and said the Polar Express will be back this year. The Mayor also advised that the Executive Director, Wesley Heinz, is planning on being at the public meeting this evening for introductions and comments and to meet the M&CC.

Councilman Frazier advised that the HRDC meeting was cancelled once again due to lack of quorum. He also advised that the meeting he and the Mayor attending regarding concerts at Canal Place went well, and said they were looking to see what bands are available next year for 3 “pay concerts” and 3 free. He added that Dee-Dee Ritchie and Matt Miller were on board now as well. Mayor Morriss advised that this committee will be working under the CEDC so that when they gain sponsorships, they will be tax deductible, with Mr. Miller agreeing to set up separate accounts to handle the funds.

Mayor Morriss stated the with the skate park project, they are figuring out the right location, and said Community Development has been working on finding sources of funding for the skate park as well as the Splash Pad at Constitution Park. The Mayor also advised that Parks and Recreation is working on a strategic plan, have already had several meetings, and said that should be completed in a few months.

Councilwoman Marchini advised that the Baltimore Street Redesign committee meets every week, with the next meeting scheduled for tomorrow. She stated that they've reviewed the web page and have made some changes and updates, and said all is going well. She added that when it comes out it will be a good resource for the community and for visitors.

Councilwoman Marchini advised that the DDC is moving along, and said regarding the HPC, she was in New York for the day for that meeting. Ms. McKenney provided a quick update on the meeting, saying it was an unusually short agenda for the summer, and advised that there were no particular hot spots. She added that they were very great working with the new owners of the Ruhls building, with the unexpected outcome from the removal of metal from the façade. Councilman Bernard mentioned that he received a good compliment from Drew Knippenburg for Ms. McKenney, saying she had been very helpful with the process. Ms. McKenney stated she knows that he had a bit of a challenge with expecting to see a brick façade, when it was far from that.

Mayor Morriss reminded everyone about the Farmers Market downtown every Thursday. He also mentioned the Rock 'n' Ribs at the park on July 31st.

Chief Ternent mentioned the Back the Blue rally on August 1st, organized by the Ladies Republican Committee, and advised that they will assemble at City Hall at 2:00 PM, and said there will be several speakers. He added that they will be blocking off Bedford Street to keep the crowd down, and said the assembly will be over at 4:00 PM.

The Mayor reminded everyone that the Regular M&CC Meeting will move to Wednesday, August 4th, due to National Night Out being on the regular meeting day of Tuesday, August 3rd. Chief Ternent advised that it's from 5:00 – 8:00 PM at the Salvation Army, and said Terri Hast, Community Development Specialist is the organizer, adding that there are over 70 booths this year. The Chief stated that he has invited all of M&CC and said if anyone wants to speak they are welcome to. He added that both Councilman Frazier and Mayor Morriss will take turns in the dunk tank this year.

Chief Ternent also mentioned that there will be a free swim at Constitution Park on August 2nd, sponsored by National Night Out, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM, with some freebies for the kids, and invited M&CC to come up for a group picture.

Mayor Morriss advised that August 14th will be the Tunnels to Towers Foundation with the "Never Forget" walk coming through town. He stated that there will be a parade at 10:00 AM, and then a barbecue in the Public Safety Building parking lot. He advised that Mr. Frank Siller's walk started at the Pentagon, going on to Shanksville, PA with a stop in Cumberland, and will end in New York City on 9/11/21. The Mayor advised that the City was getting national attention for this event, and has seen the advertisement.

III. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie A. Woodring
City Clerk

Minutes approved October 5, 2021