



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 Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers, 57 N. Liberty St., Cumberland

DATE: March 15, 2022

I. OPEN SESSION – 6:15 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

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

Councilwoman Laurie P. Marchini was absent

Also Present: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk; Chuck Ternent, Chief of Police;

IV. Statement of Closed Meeting

1. Statements of the Closed Sessions held March 1 and March 8, 2022

Mayor Morriss announced that Closed Sessions had been held on March 1, 2022 at 5:40 p.m. and on March 8, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. and read into the record a summary of those sessions which are 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 Pfc. Bronson Becker as the Cumberland Police Department's 2021 Officer of the Year.

Chief Ternent introduced the CPD's Officer of the Year, Pfc. Bronson Becker, and provided information on how the program is run and how candidates are chosen. The

Chief provided background on Officer Becker, who joined the department in 2017, and serves on the Uniformed Patrol Division. Chief Ternent stated that Officer Becker is consistently one of their top performers, has earned various awards, and is a member of several inter-departmental tactical teams. Mayor Morriss presented the award to Officer Becker.

VI. Director's Reports

Motion to approve the reports was made by Councilman Frazier, seconded by Councilman George, and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

(A) Public Works

1. Maintenance Division monthly report for February, 2022

(B) Fire

1. Fire Department monthly report for February, 2022

(C) Police

1. Police Department monthly report for February, 2022

(D) Utilities - Treatment Plants

1. Utilities Division F/W/S monthly report for February, 2022

VII. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

1. Approval of the Work and Closed Session Minutes of October 27, 2021

VIII. New Business

(B) Orders (Consent Agenda)

Mr. Silka reviewed each item on the Consent Agenda, and Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. **Motion** to accept all items was made by Councilman Cioni, seconded by Councilman Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

Order 26,974 - accepting the bid from Burgmeier's Hauling, Inc. for the transportation and disposal of grit, scum and screenings from the John D. DiFonzo Water Reclamation Facility, City Project No. 11-21-WWTP, in the amount of \$3,401 per month (lump sum) for the contract period July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2025, allowing for two additional 1-year extensions upon mutual agreement.

Mr. Silka advised that Burgmeier's was the only bidder for this project.

Order 26,975 - accepting the bid of Harbel, Inc. for the Queen City Drive ADA Improvements Project (16-20-M) in the not-to-exceed amount of \$59,692.50, contingent upon the release of CDBG funds.

Mr. Silka advised that that this project includes sidewalk upgrades at the intersection of Queen City Drive and Bedford Street, including two ADA-compliant wheelchair ramps,

and also includes sidewalk upgrades at Queen City Drive and Frederick Street, also including two ADA-compliant wheelchair ramps. He stated that no other bids were received for this project.

Order 26,976 - accepting the proposal from Hite Associates, Inc. for the "WRF Head of Plant & Operations Building Roof Replacement Project" (5-22-WRF) in the estimated not-to-exceed cost of \$112,237.59, procured through Gordian EZ IQC using NJPA pricing to solicit a competitive bid.

Mr. Silka advised that this project is fully funded through the Sewer Fund.

Order 26,977 - authorizing execution of Change Order No. 1 to the contract with Carl Belt, Inc. for the Decatur Street 24" Crosstown Water Main Replacement Project (31-17-W) to add 160 calendar days to the completion date, setting the new completion date at August 10, 2022.

Mr. Silka advised that after the contract was awarded, the lead times for the piping were so far out in the distance that the project shut down over the winter.

Order 26,978 - 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 for specific drug enforcement activities through their partnership with the Allegany County Narcotics Task Force.

Mr. Silka advised that this is a continuation of an inter-agency agreement with HIDTA for drug interdiction.

Order 26,979 – authorizing the execution of a Grant Agreement with the MD Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) regarding their provision of a total amount not-to-exceed \$13,000 in grant funds to the City to be used for social media marketing, promotional videos, and directional signage and banners in conjunction with the Cumberland Main Street Revitalization Project.

Mr. Silka advised that this funding will help provide assistance with signage and banners to help guide patrons through the downtown during construction, as well as promoting awareness for the downtown through marketing and videos.

Order 26,980 – authorizing the execution of a Grant Agreement with the MD Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) regarding their provision of a total amount not-to-exceed \$20,000 in grant funds to the City to be used to provide technical consulting assistance to Main Street businesses in conjunction with the Cumberland Main Street Revitalization Project.

Mr. Silka advised that this funding will help to provide website and social media services to assist in strengthening businesses digital footprint to help combat the potential loss of foot traffic during construction.

Order 26,981 - designating the open space adjacent to the BMX facility in the Mason Sports Complex as the location of the skate park.

Mr. Silka advised that this order just designates the chosen location of the skate park, it does not authorize any funding or expenditure.

Order 26,982 - authorizing the abatement of City real estate taxes for City-owned properties at 107/109 S. Allegany St., 471 Goethe St., 309 Fayette St., and 502 Regina Ave.

IX. Public Comments

Mark Nelson, Jr., 113 Decatur Street, advised that he wanted to discuss the process for filling vacancies on City boards and commissions, and said he specifically wanted to talk about the presence of a pedophile on the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), Chris Myers. He stated that Mr. Myers was convicted in 2012 of child pornography, and said he served five years in federal prison. He wanted to know how Mr. Myers got on the board, what is the screening process, and wanted to know what Council was going to do about it.

Mayor Morriss advised that Council is aware of the situation, and will be looking at changing the procedures to make sure it doesn't happen again, and stated that they will seek out legal advice.

Katherine Simpson, 13605 Uhl Highway, SE, spoke on behalf of her husband, Nathan Simpson, head coach of the Cumberland Renegades, and provided background on her family and their involvement in local sports. She spoke about their opposition to the location of the skate park, not to the skate park itself, and discussed how it would affect field use at Mason Sports Complex and their concern on possibly losing that location. She read the agreements and handed out copies to M&CC.

Mayor Morriss advised that Council takes community youth sports seriously, and said they will take her proposals under consideration. He added that he will turn it over to staff and Parks and Recreation and see what the City can feasibly do.

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

X. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Minutes approved on June 21, 2022

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk