



# Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

*Mayor* Raymond M. Morriss  
*Councilman* Richard J. “Rock” Cioni  
*Councilman* Eugene T. Frazier  
*Councilman* James L. Furstenberg  
*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 15, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeff Silka, City Administrator; Ken Tressler, Director of Administrative Services; Michael Cohen, City Solicitor; Allison Layton, City Clerk; Mark Gandolfi, City Comptroller; Denise Adams, Citizens Services Representative; Captain James Burt, CPD; Chuck Ternent, Chief of Police, CPD; Shannon Adams, Fire Chief;

Media: Greg Larry, Cumberland Times-News  
Brian Gowans, WCBC Radio

### I. **AGENDA REVIEW - NOVEMBER 15, 2022**

Mayor Morriss called for any questions or comments about tonight’s public meeting agenda.

Mr. Gandolfi discussed the second-request letters for taxes that went out. He said it’s normal - they didn’t pay first time, ignore the second. He said the next step is to review the accounts, determine likelihood of collection – determining if collection of the amount is worth it, and said he was actually impressed with the number of people that did respond.

The public hearing on tonight’s agenda – MAP Amendment Request for Seton Drive property – was discussed. Mr. Tressler reviewed the ordinance for pay grades, and said there have been a few positions created since the last time this ordinance has gone out, as well as a few removed. He went over the changes. He also talked about pay grades and advised that minimum wage is going up January 1, 2023, so Grade 6, the lowest grade, is moving to minimum wage. He added that the total compensation increase for 6 positions is \$15,000.

Denise Adams, the new Citizen Service Representative, was introduced. Mayor Morris said everyone is happy to have her on board.

Mr. Silka opened the floor for any discussion or questions about Orders.

There was discussion about the two CFD vehicles on order. Chief Adams advised that the anticipated delivery dates are February for the rescue vehicle, and May for the fire engine. There was discussion about Webex. Mr. Silka advised that this Webex is a phone provider, not a meeting service. He said they wanted to get away from the current provider, Segra, into the Webex realm, which is cloud calling, not meeting software. He advised that it's also significantly cheaper than Segra.

Mr. Silka advised that Order #8 regarding rules and regulations for M&CC meetings just added definitions and cleaned up the language.

There were no other questions.

## **II. POLICE BODY CAMS DISCUSSION**

Chief Ternent advised about previous presentations regarding body cams. Having gone through a lot of demos and quotes, the Chief said one vendor in particular meets their needs. He reviewed the all the many features of the equipment, and said the software allows sharing and redacting footage; therefore, this is the one they are recommending.

Chief Ternent also stated that they want to do the purchase with the County as a whole, and asked for fund allocation: 1<sup>st</sup> year, \$179K; years 2-5, \$169K, with a total of \$449,774 for 5 years.

Captain Burt advised that this model is the best of those they've looked at, and discussed the "officer down" feature, which can be viewed remotely. He said the equipment is trademarked and nationally recognized, and said the system can help debunk frivolous complaints. He added that they've wanted them for years, and have been looking for grants.

Chief Ternent stated that currently they have a \$100K request for a grant out, as well as a \$50K grant request, as the County funds are not happening fast enough. He added that technical and equipment questions directed to Captain Burt.

There was discussion about if working with other forces in the County, could the County choose a different provider, say, for budget reasons. The Chief said it's likely, but said they are hopeful to have everyone on the same system. Mayor Morriss stated that someone has to be the first, and with the largest police force in the area, if we put our toe in the water first, it'll be what everyone else wants to get on board with. Mr. Silka agreed, and said ahead of 2024, they should lead from the front before prices go up, and stated that he supports the funding request.

Captain Burt also advised that the battery life is infinite. He stated that at set-up, it loads into the Cloud. He said longevity is 5-8 years, and it's the best he's seen. He also mentioned that there is

24/7 technical support, and said the company has been around since 2006. He added that the IT department has sat in and are behind the idea.

Mr. Gandolfi advised that there are no objections from the Finance Department.

### **III. MISSION SQUARE 457 PLAN DISCUSSION**

Mr. Gandolfi provided background on the City's 457 Plan and 401-A Plan, which allow employees to electively defer funds into retirement savings accounts, and also allows the city to defer funds into these accounts, with CBIZ providing advisory services and Nationwide providing administrative and investment services.

Mr. Gandolfi advised that they recently learned that these 457 and 401 assets are co-mingled. They were reported separately, but were co-mingled. He stated that they have been recently separated, but need to pull out, and said costs are borne by employees 100%. He said they looked at a variety of plan administrators, and narrowed in on Mission Square as the most cost effective for the participants. He added that there are cost savings and improved investment opportunities with Mission Square, and record-keeping costs are lower. He added further that the company does the investment choices, but also protects the City from liability, provided we follow their recommendations. A handout was provided.

Mr. Silka provided background on Mission Square, and said they are a non-profit organization that specializes in local and state government entities, with over 60 years' experience in investment plan administration.

Mr. Gandolfi stated that the company is employee-oriented, and provided details and specifics about the plan, and said should we leave Mission Square, everything could be moved over 12 months, which is a deterrent to keep from moving. He said they need to keep employees well informed, and asked M&CC to review the information provided. He added that if the City moves forward, it will require resolution, and said a draft resolution is included.

Mr. Silka advised that he has had funds in this organization for over 30 years, and can speak positively to it. The Mayor said it makes sense from a financial basis. Mr. Gandolfi also noted that there are no conversion costs associated with this move, and said it will take employees' current investments and map them, then move them over. He said they can do in person meetings, or make changes over the phone. He added that he will prepare the resolution for the December 6<sup>th</sup> public meeting.

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

Council Member Frazier advised that the HRDC annual meeting went well.

Council Member Marchini said they were looking at the strategic plan responses for the HPC meeting tomorrow. She noted that the DDC may have some additional monies coming for Baltimore Steet and said Bobby Smith is trying to match up spending. She also mentioned that the Tree lighting is scheduled for the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Mayor Morriss mentioned Small Business Saturday, November 26th, and said the proclamation will be ready for tonight's public meeting.

Council Member Cioni stated that the Parks and Rec board was informed about the splash pad - disappointed - but they understood. He advised that there was discussion about adding a handicapped-accessible swing, which they thought would be a good addition to the community.

Council Member George discussed Planning and Zoning, and said there is a hearing tonight for Seton Drive. He noted that representatives are needed for the commissions. He stated that there was nothing to discuss about Evitts Creek Water Company.

Mayor Morriss discussed the Maryland Preservation tour held on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>. He stated that they did a tour of Baltimore Street, the property at 19 Frederick Street, and Western Maryland Works. He explained that Ruth Davis-Rogers has been in contact with them, and said they were blown away by Western Maryland Works.

The Mayor mentioned November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day, and said there were several nice events planned around the City. He stated that the Allegany Arts Council got a \$90K grant for music events over 3 years for the City, Canal Place, and the Constitution Park Amphitheater, bringing some great entertainment. He advised that the Embassy Theatre's Casino Night is Saturday at 7 p.m. with a Roaring 20's speakeasy concept, and noted that the liquor license has been secured.

Council Member George mentioned that he has volunteered to be a bartender at the Denim and Diamonds Event at the Women's Civic Club.

## **V. Adjournment**

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 5:57 P. M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton

City Clerk

Minutes approved on March 21, 2023