



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

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

DATE: February 15, 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; Chuck Ternent, Chief of Police; Shannon Adams, Fire Chief

IV. Presentations

1. Recognition of Firefighter Matthew Rumphrey, Firefighter Colby Santmyire, and Firefighter Robert Bower upon their successful completion of the Firefighter Recruit Training approved by the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute.

Fire Chief Shannon Adams provided background on each of the new recruits and recognized family and friends who were in attendance.

2. Recognition of employees upon their retirement from the City of Cumberland.

Streets Supervisor Jason Deal spoke on behalf of Michael Nicholson, who has been employed at the City for 40 total years. He stated that Mr. Nicholson has worked both in the Street and Water departments, until furloughed in 1979. He came back to the City in 1981, and has been with Parks and Recreation since 1995. Mr. Deal spoke about Mr.

Nicholson's dedication, training, and qualifications, and added that he had been the "City Santa" for the last 27 years.

V. Director's Reports

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

(A) Engineering

1. Engineering Division monthly report for January 2022

(B) Public Works

1. Maintenance Division monthly report for January 2022

(C) Fire

1. Fire Department monthly report for January, 2022

(D) Police

1. Police Department monthly report for January, 2022

(E) Utilities - Flood, Water, Sewer

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

VI. Approval of Minutes

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

1. Approval of the Regular Session Minutes of November 2, 2021

VII. New Business

(A) Ordinances

1. **Ordinance No. 3908** (*1st reading*) - accepting the bid from EZ Out, Inc. for the purchase of surplus properties at 32 Laings Avenue., 105-107 Fifth Street, and 305-307 Fifth Street for the total amount of \$600 and authorizing execution of a deed to convey the properties to EZ Out, Inc.

Mr. Silka advised that these are properties that were declared surplus and were included in the Round II bids.

FIRST READING: The ordinance was presented in title only for its first reading.

Motion to approve the first reading and table until next meeting was made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 5-0

2. **Ordinance No. 3909** (*1st reading*) - repealing City Code Sections 2-171 to 2-175 pertaining to the City's purchasing policy and reenacting them with amendments, and enacting Section 2-177 pertaining to Change Orders.

Mr. Gandolfi advised that the policy has not been updated in 5 years, and said that some sections were administrative burdens and other sections were added. He said that this ordinance increases certain dollar limits and a threshold on lower limits, and added that departments can now have more latitude in purchases.

FIRST READING: The ordinance was presented in title only for its first reading.

Motion to approve the first reading and table until next meeting was made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 5-0

(B) Orders (Consent Agenda)

1. **Order 26,956** - authorizing the Chief of Police to accept a GOCCP (Governor's Office of Crime Prevention) FY22 BJAG Crisis Negotiation Equipment Grant in the amount of \$57,571.00 for the purchase of crisis negotiation equipment.
2. **Order 26,957** - declaring a 1999 Bobcat Skid Steer Loader, Model 763 (Serial No. 512243447) as surplus and authorizing it for sale or trade-in.
3. **Order 26,958** - approving Amendment No. 1-12212021 to the Community Development Block Grant Program effective February 15, 2022.

Mr. Silka went over the list of projects, and advised that they have been advertised for the last several weeks, with no public comment received.

4. **Order 26,959** - authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Housing and Community Development regarding the award of \$125,000 in grant assistance to use for development of a demonstration project for expanding fiber optic broadband accessibility through the installation of fiber lines within the Baltimore Street Access Project (12-16-M), and authorizing acceptance of the funds.
5. **Order 26,960** - authorizing the Chief of Police to offer certain incentives to Cumberland Police Department employees.

Mayor Morriss stated that the CPD is a dedicated group serving the community through trying times, and has not always been given the respect they deserve. He stated that the market for hiring new officers is now very competitive, and said they are due these additional incentives, as the CPD does a wonderful job of community policing. Chief Ternent expressed his appreciation for helping the department to get through personnel shortages. Council commented on the professionalism and excellence of the CPD.

6. **Order 26,961** - approving the expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for certain projects, programs, and for revenue loss.
7. **Order 26,962** - authorizing execution of a First Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the UFCW 1994, dated July 1, 2021, representing members of

the Cumberland Police Department, to address wage enhancements and to extend the term of the Agreement by one (1) year, which shall be through June 30, 2025.

8. **Order 26,963** - accepting the proposal from Tyler Technologies, Inc. to extend their current contract for maintenance and support services for the Logos.NET Finance/HR System for one additional year, which shall be through June 30, 2023, for the amount not-to-exceed \$51,067.80, authorizing the execution of documents to effect the renewal, and approving automatic one-year renewals upon mutual agreement of both parties.

9. **Order 26,964** - declaring an electric motor from North American Electric, Inc. (Serial No. 16073103) to be surplus equipment and authorizing it for sale or scrap.

10. **Order 26,965** - approving the renaming and dedication of the Baltimore Street Bridge as the Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Memorial Bridge, and authoring execution of all local, state and federal documents necessary to effect the renaming.

Councilwoman Marchini emphasized how much Casper Taylor has done for the community, and Mayor Morriss stated that this is a small way of recognizing what he's done throughout his political career.

VIII. Public Comments

Dana Tinnen, 223 Wallace Street (*not in attendance at time of Public Comments*)

Ed Taylor, 400 S. Allegany Street, President of the Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization (CHCO), spoke on two separate issues. He wanted to thank M&CC for their support of the building of a monument to police officer August Baker, who was killed in the line of duty in 1907. He advised that the unveiling will be on October 8th at Greenmount Cemetery.

Mr. Taylor also spoke about Heritage Days, saying there has been a problem with Dave Williams of the Allegany Historical Society, saying he has hijacked the festival. He proposed having Councilman Eugene Frazier and County Commissioner Dave Caporale appointed to the Heritage Days committee, and said every organization that wants to take part should get a seat at the table with one vote. He said many organizations are currently being discriminated against.

Mayor Morriss thanked Mr. Taylor and said the M&CC appreciates all the CHCO has done over the years, and added that he's looking forward to the unveiling of the monument to August Baker. He advised Mr. Taylor that they will consider all he has said, and see if something can be worked out to include everyone.

Councilman George added that he's noticed that Heritage Days folks are on Facebook and have provided information on how to register for the festival - so the information is out there - but said M&CC want it to be an inclusive and successful festival.

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

IX. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Minutes approved on June 7, 2022

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk