



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 Scott Cohen
City Clerk Allison K. Layton

MINUTES

M&CC Regular Public Meeting
701 Kelly Road

DATE: April 02, 2024

I. OPEN SESSION – 6:15 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

PRESENT:

Council Member Richard J. "Rock" Cioni
Council Member James L. Furstenberg, III
Council Member Laurie P. Marchini
President Raymond M. Morriss, President

Absent: Council Member Eugene T. Frazier

Also Present: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison K. Layton, City Clerk; Chuck Ternent, Chief of Police; Shannon Adams, Fire Chief; Lee Borrer, Senior Community Development Specialist.

IV. Statement of Closed Meeting

Mayor Morriss announced that a closed session had been held on March 20, 2024 and read into the record a summary of that meeting which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes as required under Section 3-306 (c)(2) of the General Provision Articles of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

V. Presentations

1. Presentation of a Certificate of Recognition to the Allegany High School Mock Trial Team for capturing the State Championship

Mayor Morriss recognized the team and read the Certificate and presented it to the Coach and team. Principal Heidi Laupert spoke about Mr. Brian White's teams winning three

state championships, saying they competed against both public and private schools where 142 began the season, with this team being the last one standing. She said they went to a lot of matches and she just knew after the opening statements that they were going to win.

Coach Brian White thanked M&CC and the principal. He advised that his team will be representing the State of Maryland in the National Mock Trial competition in Delaware.

2. Presentation of awards given in recognition of employee career milestones

Jessica O'Baker, C3I, CPD - 5 years. Chief Ternent stated that Jessica is an Administrative Assistant assigned to C3I, said her responsibilities include keeping the detectives straight from all the law enforcement departments in the County assigned to C3I, and does all the administrative work for them. The Chief said he was very proud of her and appreciates all the work she does.

VI. Approval of Minutes

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

1. Approval of the Work and Regular Session Minutes of March 5, 2024

VII. Public Hearings

1. A second public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2024 Annual Action Plan.

Hearing Convened: 6:35 p.m.

Ms. Borrer talked about CDBG, saying this is the 2nd public hearing for the Annual Action Plan. She provided an overview of the process for the plan and the timeline, and provided a PowerPoint presentation. She said the plan is estimated and projects cover administration, facilities and infrastructure, and public services. Some of the recommendations for public services include CPD foot and bike patrols, abuse intervention program, YMCA homeless shelter food program, DSS – emergency rental and utility assistance, and SOAR – mental health issues and improving quality of life. No one signed up to speak.

Hearing Adjourned: 6:45 p.m.

Ms. Borrer wanted to remind everyone about April being Fair Housing month, and talked about the event on April 23rd at Allegany College. She said it's free and open to the public and said people can meet with reps from fair housing agencies. She said they are also working with the NAACP, who is having an event prior to this one, and will relay the questions they receive to Ms. Borrer at the Fair Housing event.

VIII. Public Comments – Agenda Items Only

No public comments

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

IX. Unfinished Business

(A) Ordinances

1. Ordinance 3976 (2nd and 3rd readings) - authorizing the execution of an Infill Development Agreement with Teabow Residential LLC for the purpose of conveying certain surplus real property located at 602, 606, 610, 612-614, 616-618, 622 and 624 Maryland Avenue, 301-303, 305, 307 and 309 Arch Street, 220-222 Lee Street, 321-323 and 325 Pennsylvania Avenue, 215-217 Knox Street and 252 Elder Street in the City of Cumberland to Teabow Residential LLC for the development of said properties for market-rate residential housing.

SECOND READING: The ordinance was submitted in title only for its second reading. **Motion** to accept the reading and move to the third after comment was made by Council Member Marchini, seconded by Council Member Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

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 4-0.

X. New Business

(A) Orders (Consent Agenda)

Mr. Silka reviewed each item on the Consent Agenda, and Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. **Motion** to approve each item was made by Council Member Furstenberg, seconded by Council Member Marchini, and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

Order 27,436 - authorizing the purchase of one new Caterpillar Cold Planer PC306 from Cleveland Brothers CAT for an amount not to exceed \$20,900 in accordance with City Code Section 2-171(c), which pertains to purchasing cooperatives and state and local government contracts (piggyback contracts)

Order 27,437 - declaring vehicles and equipment to be surplus and authorizing them for sale, trade in or scrap

Order 27,438 - declaring certain City-owned properties to be surplus and authorizing them for sale

XI. Public Comments

Ben Gallagher, 951 Braddock Road, came to address the topic of the necessity of deer crossing signs on Seton Drive and Braddock Road, saying he's lived there his whole life and deer cross frequently. He stated that it's more hazardous as there's a tree line where deer can run out unseen, and mentioned all the young, inexperienced drivers at BW and Allegany High Schools using those roads. He advised M&CC of research he has done regarding SHA and County recommendations for MSHA deer signs.

Mayor Morriss responded that he saw a large herd above Camden Avenue recently, and thanked Mr. Gallagher for doing the research. He said M&CC will look into it, notify the Traffic Group

and get back with him. Council Member Marchini noted that the guardrail on Braddock is also an issue, in addition to the tree line.

Larry Wolfe, 53 N. Liberty Street, President-WMD Trade Construction Council, advised M&CC that the WMD Building Trades has moved back into Cumberland, and said they're excited about dealing with the challenges of the Baltimore Street construction. He discussed Triton as the general contractor for downtown, and Carl Belt doing the Baltimore Street Bridge. He also noted that Yoder & Sons are currently doing the work downstairs at City Hall. He talked about monies from the grant going towards the barriers downtown, and to AYEPS, giving a shout-out to Chief Ternent, Mr. Zapf and Mr. Hedrick. Mr. Wolfe also mentioned that they are vested with the Career Center, and said they are glad to be a partner in redevelopment downtown.

Mayor Morriss thanked Mr. Wolfe for his comments, and said Triton was under the radar for a long time, and said it's good that we recognize them as a local contractor. He agreed with Mr. Wolfe, and said when it comes to the programs and developments, the City wants to use the local people for projects.

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

XII. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Minutes approved on April 16, 2024

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton, City Clerk