

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

WORK SESSION

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

Tuesday, September 20, 2022, 5:45 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Ken Tressler, Director of Administrative Services; Michael Cohen, City Solicitor; Marjorie Woodring, City Clerk; Robert Smith, Director of Engineering and Utilities

Media: Greg Larry, Cumberland Times-News

I. PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA REVIEW-SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

Mr. Tressler reviewed the Reports, Minutes, Unfinished Business, and New Business Agenda Items. He noted that the C.A.R.s are up for their 2nd and 3rd Readings. There was discussion about the Baltimore Street Bridge bid, that was awarded to Carl Belt, and it was stated that theirs was the best bid out of 3 by a long shot. Mr. Smith advised that it will be 4-6 months for concurrence of the award from the SHA.

II. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Councilwoman Marchini advised that 3 new members have been appointed to the DDC, and said they attended a board orientation. She discussed last weekend's events - Heritage Days, Whiskey Rebellion, and Friday After Five and said all went well. The Councilwoman stated that the Baltimore Street Access Project website should be up and running before Thanksgiving, and said that inventory of assets on Baltimore Street is completed. She discussed grants for the three phases of construction, the surveillance camera system, and stated that there is three times the normal amount of interest in buildings downtown.

The Councilwoman talked about upcoming events such as the Italian Festival on N. Centre Street, Halloween activities, Dragon Boat races, Allegany College Job Fair, and Social Services "Crabs for a Cause." She also stated that bids for the Baltimore Street Access Project will be opened tomorrow afternoon.

Councilman George advised that there will be a meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission on September 26th, which will address an application for zoning exception for MVP Counseling Services request for an office building at Seton Drive and Pinecrest Drive. He also discussed attending a Social Services board meeting of the Transportation Services Committee, which did a survey on underserved communities issues with 600 returns. He also mentioned a job fair, and reiterated the "Crabs for a Cause" event to benefit seniors.

Councilman Cioni discussed the Greenway Avenue Stadium Capital Improvement Fund, saying that it's a reasonable request for the City to partner in this. He encouraged all to go to the

stadium and look at the improvements that have been done, and asked Council to review and email him their thoughts.

The Councilman discussed a recent Parks and Rec board meeting where naming facilities like ballfields was questioned, and asked if there was an official policy for it. It was explained that there's nothing official, just a M&CC consensus. He advised on a request for the naming of 3 different ball fields, and said the Parks and Rec board wants some guidance. He added that the board meets again on October 3rd and asked M&CC to reply by then.

Councilman Cioni also stated that with help from the City, the BMX track received a \$67K grant from P.O.S. He also discussed grant money for the skatepark, the Constitution Park pool deck being removed, and pickle ball courts. Mayor Morriss discussed how to amend tennis courts to be dual purposed for pickleball.

There was more discussion on the naming of fields, with several suggestions tossed around. It was noted that fields named for a person that had donated significant monetary contributions should continue to remain the same name. Councilman George stated that it's a challenge in today's world – things named after historic figures long ago, by today's standards may have something in their background not approved by current society, so names have been changed. He questioned digging deeply into backgrounds of local citizens to say the City is comfortable naming fields after them. Councilman Cioni advised that he will advise M&CC of the names in private.

III. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:15.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved January 3, 2023