

# Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

## WORK SESSION

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

Tuesday, February 1, 2022  
3:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Raymond M. Morriss, President; Council Members: Richard Cioni, Eugene Frazier, Joseph George (via Zoom), and Laurie Marchini.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeffrey Silka, City Administrator; Marjorie Woodring, City Clerk; Mark Gandolfi, City Comptroller; Ken Tressler, Director of Administrative Services; Chuck Ternent, Chief of Police; Shannon Adams, Fire Chief; Brooke Cassell, Public Works Operations Manager;

Greg Larry, Cumberland Times-News

### I. DEPARTMENT UPDATES – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Chuck Ternent provided a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation detailing the department's 2021 statistics to everyone, and reviewed the main topics:

- Crime – Arrests and Total Incidents
  - 13% rise in incidents since last year – 88 calls per day
  - Arrests less than high point of 2019 – 4 per day
  - Aggravated assaults & murders up; overall crime down

The Chief reviewed the 4 murder cases for 2021 and advised on court timelines.

- City of Cumberland Overdoses
  - 75% of crimes are drug-related
  - All overdose deaths related to fentanyl now
  - Opioid overdoses in City at 9% fatality rate

The Chief provided detailed specifics and demographics for fatal and non-fatal overdoses in the City in 2021, and the amount of times Narcan was administered for each month.

- Review of CPD Personnel

The Chief provided a Personnel chart, and reviewed:

  - Nationwide police officer shortage
  - CPD supposed to be at 51, currently at 43; 4 – long-term sick leave
  - Trying to attract and retain officers with programs and incentives
  - Overtime budget 10% over where it should be this time of year
- Review of CPD Vehicles
  - Asked M&CC for support to obtain police vehicles – 4 new this week
  - Maintenance costs down
  - 72% of officers have take-home vehicles

- Community Policing
  - Not a lot due to Covid
  - School-based programs; mental health; domestic violence
  - Community and holiday programs; social media
  - Would like Neighborhood Advisory Commission to start again
- Use of Force
  - 58 documented out of 32K calls; mostly with mental health calls
  - Predominantly all physical force – no shootings
  - Offender hospital visits – 21 times; Officers – 13 times
- Vehicle Pursuits
  - CPD has pretty stringent pursuit policy – violent felony or danger to public
  - Only called out 5 times during 2021
  - No crashes, no injuries
- Bias Report
  - CPD does study on bias to obtain CALEA accreditation
  - Traffic stops; criminal citations, arrests – make sure no group more than any other
  - White males arrested higher than any other group due to City’s demographics
- SWAT Analysis
  - Strengths – leadership; professionalism
  - Weaknesses – supervisor training; canine capabilities
  - Opportunities – training; improve crime rate
  - Threats – recruitment/retention; community mental health
- 2022 Goals and Objectives
  - Enhance pedestrian safety; enforcement of illegal gun possession
  - Career development; retention; recruitment
- Strategic Plan
  - Crime reduction
  - Retain and attract highest quality officers; workforce development
  - Intelligence and data-driven policing; body camera implementation
- 2022 Challenges
  - Administrative: retention/recruitment; new legislation; unfunded mandates; weapon replacement
  - Operations: mental health; additions; drug and violent crime

Chief Ternent discussed School Resource Officers (SROs), and said they have state grant money to do 1-2 additional on overtime funding – they have 1 in place – so that at any given time they have two officers working at any given time. He added further that the BOE wants more, and will pay, but stated that he doesn’t have officers to give them.

In answer to a question from Council, Chief Ternent advised that body cameras are required by 2025 for every agency.

## II. DEPARTMENT UPDATES – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Adams stated that they are making strides with improvements, and advised they are working towards a 5-year plan. He provided handouts and reviewed the information and updates:

- Personnel
  - Fully staffed as of 1/24/22; 1 off due to long-term illness
  - Covid issue on 1/25/22 with 8 members – all mild as of 2/1/22
- EMS calls for January 2022
  - Total - 514; Medic Assist - 5; Mutual Aid - 27
- Vehicles
  - New Ladder truck – in final process of getting equipment mounted
  - New Command unit – in service – waiting on few small equipment items
  - New Fire Marshal unit – Ford F-150 – delivered in a couple days – equipment added soon
  - New Fire Chief unit – ordered - current Chief unit will replace Car 3
- Recruits/Testing
  - 3 new recruits just finished training – have started on crews
  - Testing on 1/22/22 – 16 applied; 9 showed; 3 passed
- Recent Promotions
  - Fire Marshal, Chris Ratliff
  - Captain, Doug Beitzel
  - Lieutenant, Scott Flaskamp
  - Equipment Operator, JR Monahan
- Training
  - EMTs and Paramedics completing recertifications for medical license renew
  - Fire Officer training - 8 currently completing training
  - Ladder truck training - will begin next week
  - Instructor training - 5 currently in process for academy; takes 2 years to become MICRB certified – current issue for department
- Software Programs
  - New Fire Reporting System for County and City started 1/1/22 – “I Am Responding” NFRIS program – free countywide and statewide
  - EMS Reporting on tablets now to streamline patient care reporting – assisted with paperless EMS billing
- Budget Items
  - Working on obtaining new air packs
  - Pricing issues – going up all the time – difficult to order anything at all

- Biggest budget challenges right now – aging fleet and training needs
- Officer Standards/Response Policies
  - CFD Fire officers exceed the standard set by the County
  - Response Policy – need to have 3 person minimum on structure calls
- Baltimore Funeral of Fallen Firefighter Tomorrow
  - M&T Stadium – CFD has an engine crew of 5 assisting – just guys who are already off that day
  - Begin 6:00 a.m.; return by 6:00 p.m.
  - First time Baltimore City has been completely out-of-service
  - Huge outpouring of help – everything staffed and covered

### III. DEPARTMENT UPDATES – PUBLIC WORKS

Brooke Cassell, Public Works Operations Manager, provided handouts of the January 2022 monthly reports for the 8 departments under Public Works:

- Maintenance Division – includes:
  - Street Branch, Parks & Recreation, Fleet, Central Services, Forestry
- Utility Division – includes:
  - Water Department, Sewer Department, Flood Control
- Public Works Key Points – Winter Operations
  - Plowing, shoveling, equipment repairs
  - After snow removal, filling salt barrels, potholes, sign repairs, thoroughly clean all equipment
  - Thaw meters, also removal and installation of meters, water line breaks, hydrant repairs
- Projects
  - Fayette Street Water Line Replacement
  - Cross Connection Program
  - Water Department replacing larger meters around town – over ¾”
  - Sewer Department replaced 34” storm line on Reynolds Street recently
  - Extending sewer main on Durham Drive
  - Service Center – getting new fencing around complex – begins this coming Monday
  - Blaine Bender – promoted to Arborist last August
  - Roadside tree care work
  - Second timber harvest- Evitts Creek watershed – Blue Triangle Logging awarded - trees being marked for third sale – bidding April or May
  - Fall Tree Removal – Kiddy Contracting – 75% complete

- Central Services traffic signal – replacing underground wiring at Baltimore and Mechanic Streets
  - Central Services building maintenance – upgrades to Public Safety Building – painting offices and installing carpet, fire suppression system
- Staffing
  - Not fully staffed for last two years
  - Two new hires in Street Department
  - Losing a 40-year Parks and Recreation employee on March 1st
  - Covid – employee sick time – last month five out; two out currently
  - Start next summer doing cross training
- Equipment
  - New V Box Spreader, will help with large dump truck size issue
  - New Skid Steer – purchasing saw attachment
  - New Camera truck coming soon – already approved
  - Some larger equipment on a 2-year wait

#### **IV. PROPOSED ARPA FUNDING USES**

Mark Gandolfi, City Comptroller, gave background on the American Rescue Plan Act and discussed the four “pillars” of requirements. He advised that the first half was received last June, and the second half is expected this coming June. Mr. Gandolfi provided a PowerPoint presentation:

- Total of \$19,595,850
  - Mr. Gandolfi provided a pie chart of current utilization
  - Review recommended utilization of remaining funding
- Address COVID-19 negative impacts - non-profits; small businesses, etc.- \$3.7M
  - Allocations for Janes Place, YMCA Bus Replacement, Affordable Housing Assistance, Community Development Property Improvement, Union Rescue Mission
  - Government services through revenue loss funding
  - Invest in water infrastructure

Mr. Silka advised that Reverend Ziler of the Union Rescue Mission was advised that they need to define a project, as the City is under time constraints, and said they have to demonstrate that there is means for other financial support. Mr. Tressler added that the City will have to monitor to make sure it can be completed within the time frame.

Mr. Gandolfi discussed that any program funded can still be changed in the future if it's not working as it was thought to be.

- Support public health expenditures - \$1.8M
  - Promoting community
  - City COVID-19 mitigation supplies
  - Constitution Park improvements and additions
  - Prisoner processing improvements
  - HVAC improvements-City Hall & Public Safety buildings
  
- Essential workers premium pay - \$0.8M
  - \$3:13 per hour – onsite front line emergency responders
  - \$1.57 per hour – onsite second line emergency responders
  - *(Actual allocation in pie chart, page 10)*
  
- Government services - \$10M
  - COVID-19 caused a reduction of revenues in the most recent full year
  - \$6.5M adopted previously by M&CC; Treasury Final Rule increased annual escalation to 5.2% from 4.1%
  - New Ruling: Any ARPA recipient may elect up to \$10M without calculation for government services
  
- Investments in water, sewer, broadband infrastructure-\$5.1M
  - South End Water Main Replacement
  - Industrial Boulevard Water Main Replacement
  - Replace 4” Water Lines with 6” (City-wide)

Mr. Silka advised that everybody came together to come up with a matrix, ranking and reviewing each project. He stated that after that, it came down to him, Mr. Tressler, and Mr. Gandolfi to choose the final projects for recommendation. He said the goal was to meet the “pillars”, get the most bang for the buck, and meet the public good. He added that these will impact the most citizens on a daily basis.

Mayor Morriss commented on his appreciation of all the work the staff put into this, and said each project is good and gives them a lot of flexibility going forward.

Mr. Gandolfi discussed sharing the transit loop program with the County. He advised that he got nothing solid from the meetings he had with them, and heard nothing that would give an indication that it was a viability.

Mr. Silka discussed applications that didn’t make the priority list. He advised that once they get the final approved project list, they will alert those that didn’t make the cut of the opportunity to reapply.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m. With a **motion** from Councilman Frazier, seconded by Councilman Cioni, the meeting moved into Closed Session.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marjorie A. Woodring  
City Clerk

Minutes approved on: June 7, 2022