

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

WORK SESSION

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

Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 5:45 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey Silka, City Administrator; Marjorie Woodring, City Clerk; Chuck Terner, Chief of Police. Media: Greg Larry, Cumberland Times-News

I. PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA REVIEW-MARCH 15, 2022

Mayor Morriss reviewed the reports and minutes, and called for any questions or comments. The Mayor mentioned the presentation to Pfc. Bronson Becker for Officer of the Year. Mr. Silka asked if anyone had any questions about any of the Consent Agenda Orders, and said there were a couple of them that he wanted to break out and discuss:

Order 26,979 – authorizing the execution of a Grant Agreement with the MD Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) regarding their provision of a total amount not-to-exceed \$13,000 in grant funds to the City to be used for social media marketing, promotional videos, and directional signage and banners in conjunction with the Cumberland Main Street Revitalization Project.

Order 26,980 – authorizing the execution of a Grant Agreement with the MD Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) regarding their provision of a total amount not-to-exceed \$20,000 in grant funds to the City to be used to provide technical consulting assistance to Main Street businesses in conjunction with the Cumberland Main Street Revitalization Project.

Mr. Silka advised that the funding from 26,979 will help provide assistance with signage and banners to help guide patrons through the downtown during construction, as well as promoting awareness for the downtown through marketing and videos, and said funding from 26,980 would be used to hire a consultant to provide technical assistance to businesses to help them adapt to potential loss of foot traffic during construction.

Order 26,981 - designating the open space adjacent to the BMX facility in the Mason Sports Complex as the location of the skate park.

Mr. Silka advised that this order just designates the chosen location of the skate park, it does not authorize any funding or expenditure.

Mr. Silka advised that all other Consent Agenda items were pretty much business as usual.

Councilman George asked if businesses with rear entrances would be promoted. Mr. Silka advised that they would, and said the signage will advertise the different entrances. Mayor

Morriss commented on the work Columbia Gas is doing on Baltimore Street, but said from what he's heard they are cooperating with businesses.

There was discussion on the skate board park site selection. Mr. Silka advised that at the Parks and Recreation meeting there was a football group that attended to state their displeasure because they use that site for practice. He stated that they may also be attending tonight's regular meeting. He said that other than that there had not been a lot of blow-back from the skate park presentation. Mayor Morriss stated that whatever site is selected, someone will raise concerns. Council agreed that staff did a good job in their assessment of site location and surveying for public opinion. It was noted that the Mason Sports Complex site is contingent upon funding, going forward.

II. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Councilman Frazier advised that the HRC is working on their Fair Housing event, and said that there is a vacancy on the board. Ms. Woodring noted that advertisements for members had been posted on several boards and commissions and said she would be getting those names back to the M&CC for their consideration. Councilman Frazier also advised about the annual HRDC banquet and said they will be going to different sites throughout the County and presenting awards to employees.

Councilmen Frazier and Cioni are both on the Salvation Army board, and commented on the great work they do in the community. Councilman Cioni requested a Proclamation be done for Salvation Army Week.

Councilman Cioni discussed the Casino snack bar at the Constitution Park pool, saying that the current operator, Joyce Wormack, won't be returning for the 2022 season. It was noted that the City will be soliciting for those services through an RFP soon. The Councilman also stated that the process to reserve pavilions at the park online is now active.

There was discussion about Let's Beautify Cumberland doing a fundraiser for a new lighted monument at Liberty Parklet off Maryland Avenue. There was an idea mentioned to sell bricks for veterans to raise funds. There was also discussion about the upcoming Day of Caring and Sharing on Friday, May 13th. Councilman Cioni also mentioned that LBC is starting to attract some young people. He also noted that Dave Roach is working on cleaning up the Riverside Park area, and has engaged with some of the homeless to help clean the area as well.

Councilman George advised that the Planning and Zoning Commission will meet later this month. He also advised that the Allegany Museum board met last night, and said they are working on their 5-year strategic plan, which is almost finalized. Mayor Morriss stated that the museum is looking to coordinate their marketing with Canal Place, DDC, WWSR and Allegany County Tourism, and said he thinks it's a good initiative and in the best interest of all.

Mayor Morriss advised that the Carver Center board will have its first meeting next Tuesday at City Hall. He said there will be a discussion of the vision of what the board sees as far as what the center can be going forward. He said the key will be to establish sustainability of the Carver Center and said some good ideas have been discussed such as training, employment opportunities, etc. The Mayor stated that the building has some issues, but still has a lot of good usable space.

Greg Larry, Cumberland Times-News, asked if there was going to be room for the Renegades Peeewe Football team if the skate park goes in. The Mayor replied that they use it as a practice field, and said there is room there. Mr. Silka advised that the team's game field is across from the proposed skate park site.

III. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie A. Woodring
City Clerk

Minutes approved June 21, 2022