



Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

Mayor Raymond M. Morriss
Councilman Seth D. Bernard
Councilman Richard J. "Rock" Cioni
Councilman Eugene T. Frazier
Councilwoman Laurie P. Marchini

City Administrator Jeffrey D. Rhodes
City Solicitor Michael S. Cohen
City Clerk Marjorie A. Woodring

MINUTES

M&CC Regular Meeting
Video Conference

DATE: May 04, 2021

I. OPEN SESSION

II. Roll Call

III. Statement of Closed Meeting

1. Summary Statement of the closed session held April 27, 2021

Mayor Morriss announced that a Closed Session had been held on April 27, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. and read into the record a summary of that session, which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes as required under Section 3-306 (c) (2) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

IV. Director's Reports

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

(A) Administrative Services

1. Administrative Services monthly report for March, 2021

(B) Engineering

1. Engineering Division monthly report for April, 2021

V. Approval of Minutes

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

1. Approval of the Closed Session and Regular Session Minutes of April 6, 2021

VI. New Business

(B) Orders (Consent Agenda)

Mr. Rhodes provided background on all Consent Agenda items, and Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. **Motion** to approve Consent Agenda Order Nos. 26,787 and 26,788 was made by Councilman Frazier, seconded by Councilman Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Order No. 26,789 **only** was made by Councilman Frazier, seconded by Councilman Bernard, and was passed on a vote of 4-0, with Councilman Cioni voting **no**.

Order 26,787 - authorizing the purchase of a new Caterpillar 430 07A Backhoe Loader from Cleveland Brothers Caterpillar for the not-to-exceed amount of \$109,858 through a cooperative purchasing agreement with Sourcewell (Agreement #032119CAT).

Mr. Rhodes advised that this is a budgeted item, and will replace the old backhoe in the Water Department, which in turn will be transferred to Parks and Recreation.

Order 26,788 - authorizing execution of a letter of support regarding the Passages of the Western Potomac Heritage Area's request for MD Heritage Areas Authority FY22 grant funding to hire a consultant to update the 2012 PWPCHA's Management Plan and approving the provision of \$25,000 in funding towards the required match for the grant.

Dee-Dee Ritchie thanked Mayor and Council for considering this request, and advised that the Management Plan update is a requirement and is overdue. She also advised on the expansion of the Heritage Area in Allegany County, Frostburg, and especially Cumberland. She also wanted to reiterate that there are no restrictions when you become part of a heritage area, and said it is not an overlay of zoning.

Order 26,789 - authorizing the Mayor and City Council to hire a recruitment firm to support the hiring process for the City Administrator position.

Councilman Cioni advised on and reviewed the applicant process that was initiated prior to this order, and stated that the advertisement cost for the City was \$3200. He discussed Mr. Rhodes' credentials with ICMA, and talked about the position being advertised on multiple sites, as well as reminding everyone of 26 applications received from various places across the country. He stated that in his opinion the 4 applicants that survived the screening process was a really good percentage. The Councilman also discussed the rubric, and the scoring process, and said he thought there was a misinterpretation of how to use the rubric, and thought there were flaws in scoring by the members of the committee.

Mayor Morriss advised that he appreciated all the work from the committees for the applicant process, and said that in his opinion, when looking for applicants for a position of this importance, it's good to reach out to people that understand how to do this, and to hire a firm to see if that leads to a better group of candidates.

Councilwoman Marchini advised that in her opinion most of the resumes received were far and away not remotely qualified and said she thinks it depends on the person's frame of mind when scoring on the rubric. She added that there

was some reluctance on her part to say that any one of those applicants was the candidate they wanted, and said she thought that was the vast majority's feeling. She stated that if Council wants to move forward to the next committee with the 4 surviving applicants, and with another resume she received today, she is with them 100%. She said that this is a very important position in the City, especially at this time, and so she also supports going with a recruiter who can find someone in that type of position who is looking for a move. She added that she thinks her committee did their due diligence, she knows that there was diversity in scoring, but said they did what they were supposed to do and it's time to pass the baton.

Mayor Morriss stated that he thinks they take the 4 surviving applicants, along with the resume that Councilwoman Marchini has, and give them to the search firm, and follow their process. He stated that this will give them the same opportunity, as well as giving Council the opportunity to say they've had professionals look at the people that have applied.

Councilman Frazier suggested reaching out to the 4 surviving applicants, let them know that a recruiter has been retained for the search, and ask them to submit their application to that firm. Mayor Morriss agreed and said that was a reasonable idea. He stated that the key to the recruiting firms, as stated in the packets they sent, is Council will follow their process, and said all of Council will be involved. He added that the firm chosen will engage Mayor and Council and ask what they want and what their expectations are.

Mayor and Council wanted to recognize members of the Cumberland Fire Department, Braydon Pennington and Nick Miller, for their rescue work at the Cumberland Arms recently. They were granted the Kenneth P Schell Award, the highest service honor the department bestows, and it was presented by Fire Chief Donnie Dunn.

VII. Public Comments

No Public Comments

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Minutes approved on June 15, 2021

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk