

# Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

## WORK SESSION

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

Tuesday, December 21, 2021  
5:45 p.m.

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ken Tressler, Interim City Administrator; Michael S. Cohen, City Solicitor; Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk; Robert Smith, City Engineer

### I. PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA REVIEW-DECEMBER 21, 2021

Mr. Silka asked if anyone needed updates on any particular items in the Consent Agenda. Councilwoman Marchini wanted to confirm that Order 26,928 was for a ladder truck for the Fire Department, and not another department. Mr. Silka assured it was, and said the Chief and staff were in Ohio yesterday to check it out, advised that there's some minor things to get done, and said that it should be delivered Monday with training on it beginning that same day.

Councilman Cioni asked for more information about Order 26,931. Mr. Silka advised that it's a co-op between the County, City and Canal Place for the River Park project. Mayor Morriss advised that it's the first year for it, and stated that Consultant Bill Atkinson is working with all three entities in an initiative to work the funding through. He stated that the City's share is \$17.5K.

Mr. Silka reviewed Order 26,927 regarding the purchase of road salt from Cargill, Inc. at \$82/ton, which he advised is a Maryland State rate.

There were no more questions or comments.

### II. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Councilman Frazier advised on Tri-County Council, and stated that Commissioner Shade will be the new Chairman. He added that the organization will be moving to 11 S. Lee Street in March or April, 2022. The Councilman also advised that the Human Relations Commission (HRC) met last week and said April 27, 2022 will be their housing event at Allegany College of MD (ACM), which highlights responsibilities of both tenants and landlords.

Councilwoman Marchini advised that there is a lot going on with the Downtown Development Commission (DDC), and said the Tree Lighting was a huge success, with the goal being to aim for some normalcy. She stated that Shop Small was going really well, and said the dumpster placed in Merchant's Alley was overflowing, so that was also successful. She added that they hired part-time help for the holidays, and advised that the New Year's Eve celebration will include a DJ, live music, and fireworks, along with the open containers of alcohol provision dropped during the festivities.

Councilwoman Marchini also mentioned all the holiday activities that have been going on downtown. She advised that there was a request to do a mural on the side of Sunshine Days, which was approved by the owner, a request to remove all dead wires from Merchant's Alley, and said they are still waiting to hear about the Main Street grant.

Regarding the Baltimore Street Project, Councilwoman Marchini advised that the Governor's office has requested information about the project, which she said is a good sign that they are paying attention. She also advised that the Marketing Committee has met and are working on creating three videos for downtown, with the hope that David Romero will be able to help with that. The Councilwoman also advised that Larry Jackson is the new Historic Preservation Commission's (HPC) president.

Mayor Morriss advised on the Western MD Scenic Railroad's (WMSR) Steam Engine 1309 has been a fantastic success and its Polar Express trips were all sold out, with over 20,000 people buying tickets. He talked about tourism and seeing more people downtown, which he said is because of the 1309 being such a tremendous attraction for the City and County. The Mayor also advised that tickets for next year's Polar Express are already being sold. He added that the Allegany Museum board did not meet this month, but said the museum is doing really well.

Councilman Cioni discussed the Salvation Army and said Captain Smith has stated that the generosity in the City has been amazing, with the goals being met for this year. He also mentioned that he had met with a gentleman about Constitution Park, to get his ideas on ways to improve and enhance the park. The Councilman also advised that the Jaycees are not on-board if the skatepark is located within Constitution Park, and explained that they think site preparation would make it cost-prohibitive, and would diminish how nice the attraction itself would be. He reminded everyone that the Jaycees had previously said that they would provide lighting and security for the skate park.

Councilwoman Marchini wanted to give a shout-out to all the guys picking up leaves, saying that they have been by three separate times in her neighborhood, and always being nice and courteous.

Greg Larry, Cumberland Times-News, inquired about the Messick Road lot location, with Mayor Morriss explaining that it's in the southeast quadrant, going South on Industrial Blvd., on the left just past Messick Road.

### **III. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie A. Woodring  
City Clerk

Minutes approved May 3, 2022