



# Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

*Mayor* Raymond M. Morriss  
*Councilman* Richard J. "Rock" Cioni  
*Councilman* Eugene T. Frazier  
*Councilman* Joseph P. George  
*Councilwoman* Laurie P. Marchini

City Administrator Jeffrey F. Silka  
City Solicitor Michael S. Cohen  
City Clerk Marjorie A. Woodring

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## MINUTES

M&CC Special Public Meeting  
City Hall Council Chambers, 57 N. Liberty Street, Cumberland

DATE: March 29, 2022

### CLOSED SESSION

1. **5:45 p.m.** - Convene in open session for the purpose of closing the meeting pursuant to Section 3-305(b)(3) of the General Provisions article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to discuss the Cumberland Economic Development Corporation's acquisition of a certain parcel of City-owned land

Mayor Morriss convened the public meeting.

Motion to close the meeting was made by Council Member Cioni, seconded by Council Member Frazier, and approved on a vote of 5-0.

2. Closed Session

### OPEN SESSION

1. **6:15 p.m.** - Reconvene into Open Session

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Roll Call

Councilman Richard J. "Rock" Cioni

Councilman Eugene T. Frazier

Councilman Joseph P. George

Councilwoman Laurie P. Marchini

President Raymond M. Morriss

### Statement of Closed Meeting

1. Summary statements of the closed meetings held March 22 and March 29, 2022

Mayor Morriss announced that Closed Sessions had been held on March 22, 2022, and March 29, 2022, and read into the record summaries of those meetings, which are 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.

## **Public Hearings**

1. Public Hearing - to discuss the proposed plan and application to the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development to redesignate the existing Arts and Entertainment District in Historic Downtown Cumberland, and to allow for public comment

### **Mayor Morriss convened the Public Hearing at 6:25 p.m.**

Julie Westendorff, Executive Director of Arts and Entertainment District of Cumberland, advised that the last 10-year designation period for the local Arts and Entertainment District was coming to an end and had to be formally redesignated by the Mayor and City Council.

The Arts and Entertainment Districts program had been established in 2001 by the Maryland General Assembly as an economic development tool designed to attract artists and other creative enterprises to Maryland's towns and cities. The program offers tax incentives and tax abatements to encourage artists to locate and work within the Districts.

The local district is comprised of the original designated area of the Canal Place Heritage Area, plus the two (2) subsequent expansion areas of the corridors of North Mechanic and North Center Streets, and the Decatur Heights area.

Prior to 2019, the District was funded by a yearly \$2,500 Technical Assistance Grant from the State, with a \$2,500 match from the Downtown Development Commission. As of 2019, a yearly General Operating Grant of \$15,000 has been awarded by the State in addition to a \$2,500 Technical Assistance Grant. There is opportunity in 2022 for an additional \$10,000 in funding through a Network Organization Development Grant, which the local District will be applying for.

Ms. Westendorff discussed key accomplishments, which included improvements to Merchant's Alley, the creation of an Arts and Entertainment District marketing video, a Public Arts Planning Grant, Baltimore Street Revitalization Renderings, and Quilt Walk 2021.

Future strategic initiatives were discussed and included incentivizing creative enterprise development through technical assistance and support of investors, development of artful initiatives to enhance underserved commercial and residential areas in the District, development of an artist makerspace, development of programs to showcase creative entrepreneurs, development of opportunities for impromptu performances and creative work.

The Mayor and City Council members expressed their support of the Arts and Entertainment District and value that it brings. Council further expressed their appreciation for the A&E's collaboration with the Downtown Development Commission and the Cumberland Economic Development Corporation.

No comments from the public were offered.

### **Mayor Morriss closed the public hearing at 6:51 p.m.**

## New Business

### (A) Resolutions

1. **Resolution No. R2022-03** - endorsing an application to the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) for the re-designation of the existing Arts and Entertainment District in Historic Downtown Cumberland

The Resolution was read in Title only and Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments, of which there were none.

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

### (B) Orders (Consent Agenda)

1. **Order 26,983** - authorizing execution of a FY 2023 Arts & Entertainment District Operating Support Letter of Agreement to define the City's role as the local government with regard to the Cumberland Arts & Entertainment District, and to approve estimated in-kind support of \$500

Mr. Silka reviewed the Order and Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments.

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

## Public Comments

*All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person.*

There were no public comments.

## Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Minutes approved on: April 5, 2022

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk