



Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

Mayor Raymond M. Morriss
Councilman Richard J. "Rock" Cioni
Councilman Eugene T. Frazier
Councilman James L. Furstenberg
Councilwoman Laurie P. Marchini

City Administrator Jeffrey F. Silka
City Solicitor Michael S. Cohen
City Clerk Allison K. Layton

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WORK SESSION

City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room
57 N. Liberty Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

Tuesday, October 3, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Raymond M. Morriss; Council Members: Richard Cioni, Jimmy Furstenberg, Laurie Marchini. Eugene Frazier was absent.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison Layton, City Clerk; Michael Cohen, City Solicitor; Ken Tressler, Director of Administrative Services; Brooke Cassell

Media: Teresa McMinn, Cumberland Times-News
Kathy Cornwell, WCBC Radio

I. PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Brooke Cassell, Director of Public Works, provided a PowerPoint presentation along with her Public Works Department update. She advised on the completed and ongoing projects in the Water Department, Sewer Department and Flood Control, Forestry, Street Department/Parks & Rec Maintenance, Central Services, and Vehicle Maintenance. She advised on upcoming projects with the Water Department, Sewer Department, Flood Control Maintenance, Streets, and Central Services. The PowerPoint presentation went into detail about each update, and she included equipment updates. Ms. Cassell also provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Timber Harvest Activity Report.

Ms. Cassell answered questions from M&CC. She stated that the temporary patching done by the gas company on Greene Street will become a permanent patch shortly, but will be repaved next year in the Spring.

Ms. Cassell talked about the schedule for redoing the sidewalks dug up by the gas company, and said they should be done before Winter.

Ms. Cassell advised that they are not sure when the next timber sale will be, but said she hopes they can continue to work with Fire Chief Shannon Adams, Consultant Forester, and said he is very knowledgeable and helpful.

II. AGENDA REVIEW SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

Mr. Silka advised that there were just two Orders he wanted to touch on – 27,335 and 27,336 regarding the Duck Pond in Constitution Park. He stated that the pond will transfer from a yucky water collection pond into a very nice water feature, with a walking track, plants, fencing, etc. He also said they will engage someone to redo the duck house to make it nicer, ultimately making this area multi-functional and visually superior.

Council Member Cioni wanted to discuss Order No. 27,333. Mr. Silka advised that this will reprogram some ARPA funds to allow for demolition assistance, also allowing for a \$10K match if someone wants to privately demolish a property.

Council Member Marchini wanted to discuss Order No. 27,329. Mr. Silka advised that this is basically housekeeping, saying this agreement had a finish date, and said this order will extend that.

III. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Council Member Cioni advised that at the recent Parks & Rec meeting, the largest discussion was about getting a turf field at Bower Field (Mason Rec). He stated that he talked to Mr. Silka about this, and said Devin Burke and Ryan Mackey felt it was time for the City to have a facility like that, seeing as soccer continues to grow and have support. There was discussion about talking to members of the WMD Delegation about getting help from this legislative session, noting that after the skate park, that should be the next big deal for the City.

Mr. Cioni also asked if there was an answer yet for LBC, about getting lights at Giarritta Park and Veterans Park, along with No Loitering signs at Riverside. Mr. Silka asked to let staff do some research into estimates of costs, and where it can be programmed into the budget.

Council Member Furstenburg had nothing to report at this time.

Council Member Marchini listed events happening: Leadership Allegany Rising, November 9th; Winter Festival at Canal Place, December 2nd and 9th; Last Friday After Five is October 27th.

Ms. Marchini also talked about HPC members receiving training via Zoom, and mentioned the Discount Cards for Downtown, and where to get them. She stated that the Town Hall Meeting on September 27th was uneventful. The Barathalon was successful, thanks to Dan Bowser, and gave thanks to all that participated in the Dragon Boat Race, saying the Y raised more than \$40K from the event. The Councilwoman also mentioned that security lights are on downtown now, and said it makes a difference. She added for Shop Small Saturday this year they have lots of things planned.

Mayor Morriss discussed the recent visit to the Hagerstown skate park to take a good look at it, and said they got some knowledge from those in Hagerstown who helped with it. He stated that their community involvement was good, and said that skate parks are growing across the country.

There was discussion about Hagerstown's dog walking park, and it was noted that it gave them ideas for one here in the City, saying that the one in Constitution Park is not centrally located.

The Mayor discussed a couple ribbon-cuttings around town – said it's good to see new businesses opening up in the City. He mentioned that Peg McKenzie retired from the Chamber of Commerce, and said she had been there for over 30 years.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on: October 17, 2023