



# 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 Regular Public Meeting  
City Hall Council Chambers, 57 N. Liberty St., Cumberland

DATE: April 05, 2022

**I. OPEN SESSION – 6:15 p.m.**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Roll Call**

**PRESENT:**

Councilman Richard J. "Rock" Cioni  
Councilman Eugene T. Frazier  
Councilman Joseph P. George  
Councilwoman Laurie P. Marchini

Also Present: Jeffrey Silka, City Administrator; Michael S. Cohen, City Solicitor; Marjorie Woodring, City Clerk; Ken Tressler, Director of Administrative Services; Lee Borrer, Senior Community Development Specialist

**IV. Statement of Closed Meetings**

Mayor Morriss announced that Closed Sessions had been held on March 22, 2022 at 3:00 p.m., and on April 5, 2022 at 5:00 p.m., and read into the record summaries of those sessions 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.

**V. Presentations**

1. Presentation of a Certificate of Recognition to Brianna Lavelle, Fort Hill HS Freshman Wrestler, for her many tournament achievements in wrestling.

Mayor Morriss read the Certificate and presented it to Ms. Lavelle, congratulating her for her achievements in Fort Hill H.S. wrestling tournaments.

2. Quarterly presentation of awards to employees who have reached career milestones with the City of Cumberland.

Mayor Morriss read the list of recipients, noting that Michael Shaffer, 10 year recipient, was unable to attend.

Fire Chief Shannon Adams recognized Lt. Garrett Parsons and Capt. Cody Pearce, 15 years, both hired in February 2007, who both graduated from the Training Academy. He added that Lt. Parsons is currently in charge of turn-out gear, and said Capt. Pearce is heading up the Academy.

Mayor Morriss recognized Tom Tressler, 20 years, hired in Jan 2002 at WFP (worked 10 years there, transferred to Water Dist.) Highly skilled, jack of all trades. 20 years total.

Mayor Morriss also recognized Brian Emrick, 20 years, hired in March 2002, and was initially part of Property Improvement Program, and then transferred to General Services. The Mayor stated that Brian is involved in lot of projects in all City buildings, and is very well respected and reliable; truly a craftsman.

Fire Chief Adams recognized Chris Ratliff, 30 years, hired in March 1992, and rose in ranks to Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain, and currently serves as the new Fire Marshall. Chief Adams stated that he and Chris have been friends a long time, and says Chris is one he relies on every day. Mayor Morriss stated that since he's gotten to know Chris, he's found that he is really a special man, and a real attribute to the CFD.

The Chief also recognized Tim Malone, 35 years, hired in March 1987, and said he came up through the ranks as Firefighter, equipment operator, and currently is a Lieutenant in the CFD. The Chief said Tim has been instrumental through the years keeping track of the Keybox system, as well as the department's Station 2.

Mayor Morriss recognized Diane Johnson, 40 years, hired in 1982 to the Parks and Recreation Department and worked her way up through the department having a variety of positions, to finally being the Director. The Mayor stated that Diane does a fabulous job and said they appreciate all she has done, adding that her job is very big since she is "the one" in that department. He also stated that Diane has been very instrumental in developing the City's 5-Year Strategic Plan.

Fire Chief Adams recognized Julie Davis, 45 years, hired in January 1977, said he has known her for 27 years, she is the one behind the scenes keeping the CFD going, and said that in the last 12 years of being downstairs in the department he has seen it daily. Chief Adams stated that he can't say enough about Julie. Mayor Morriss stated that Julie is probably one of the most important City employees, and remarked on how much she means to the Fire Department and the value that she brings keeping all the guys and everything together running smoothly.

## **VI. Proclamations**

1. Proclaiming April 5, 2022 as Cumberland Arbor Day

Mayor Morriss read the proclamation and advised that Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at Constitution Park the City is having a celebration of Arbor Day starting at 4:00 p.m.

2. Proclaiming the month of April in Cumberland as Fair Housing Month

Mayor Morriss read the proclamation and presented it to Lee Borrer, Senior Community Development Specialist.

**VII. Director's Reports**

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

**(A) Administrative Services**

1. Administrative Services monthly report for January 2022

**(B) Engineering**

1. Engineering Division monthly report for February, 2022

**VIII. Approval of Minutes**

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

1. Approval of the Work Session Minutes of November 16 and 23, 2021, and the Closed Session and Work Session Minutes of December 7, 2021, and the Special Public Meeting Minutes of March 29, 2022

**IX. Public Hearings**

1. Public Hearing to present project recommendations and receive comment on the Draft 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan.

Ms. Lee Borrer provided a PowerPoint presentation and gave background on the Community Development Block Grant funding, through HUD, for recommended projects in the City, advising that the goals and objectives followed were developed in 2020 for a 5-year plan. She mentioned the publication of recommended projects being in the Times-News on March 11<sup>th</sup>, and provided the list of projects, which are in the PowerPoint presentation. She also reviewed the application process which began in January, and said the timeline was also published in the Times-News, with the first public hearing in February. She added that the comment period goes through April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Hearing Convened: 6:52 p.m.

*There were no comments*

Hearing Adjourned: 7:02 p.m.

**X. New Business**

**(B) Orders (Consent Agenda)**

Mr. Silka reviewed each item on the Consent Agenda, and Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. **Motion** to approve all items was made by Councilwoman Marchini, seconded by Councilman Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

**Order 26,984** - approving a Special Taxing District residential exemption of \$334.93 for 27 N. Centre Street.

Mr. Silka advised that this exemption is for businesses downtown that are 50% or more residential use.

**Order 26,985** - approving the hiring of James T. Wilson as a construction inspector for the Decatur Street 24" Crosstown Water Main Replacement Project (31-17-W) to provide onsite technical advice on a day-to-day basis for the amount of \$32,000.

Mr. Silka advised that this onsite inspector will be paid \$25/hour for a total of 1280 hours for this project.

**Order 26,986** - authorizing the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MDOT - SHA to award Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant assistance in the amount of \$6,291,232.63, or 80% of eligible project costs, with a \$1,572,808.16 City match, to be used for the Baltimore Street Access Project.

Mr. Silka advised that this application allows the City to access the grant funding.

**Order 26,987** - approving the sole source purchase of 2 new Ford Escape SUVs from National Fleet Group for the not-to-exceed amount of \$59,777.48 using Sourcewell Contract No. 091521-NAF in accordance with City Code Section 2-171(c).

Mr. Silka advised that these vehicles are budgeted, with one being for the Public Property/Street superintendent, and the other for the Sewer Department superintendent.

**Order 26,988** - authorizing execution of a Contract of Sale with Steve and Wendy Herker for the sale of their property at 306 Fayette Street (*Allegany County Land Records, Book 2075 / Page 164*) to the City for the amount of \$125,000, authorizing acceptance of the deed, and granting the City Administrator and City Solicitor the authority to execute documents necessary for the transfer.

Mr. Silka advised that the City's control of this property is vital to the construction of the Fayette Street Bridge.

**Order 26,989** - accepting the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission, dated March 28, 2022, to (1) approve a Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA #22-01) to amend the "Recreation, Amusement, Entertainment" section of the Use Regulations Table (Section 25-132) to define Fantasy Gambling as a permitted use in all city zones besides residential; (2) amend Section 11-132, entitled "Gambling," to support the proposed amendments to the Use Regulations Table; and (3) authorize the commencement of procedures to effect the amendments.

Mr. Silka advised that this will allow fantasy competitions and sports wagering at physical locations that was authorized through the referendum in November

2020, and said there will be 30 competitive licenses available within the state, with the City having no role or authority in granting the licenses. He added that this will go to a public hearing and ordinance as part of the process.

**Order 26,990** - appointing Joseph P. George to the Evitts Creek Steering Committee as the City Council representative effective April 5, 2022.

**XI. Public Comments**

*No public comments*

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

**XII. Adjournment**

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Minutes approved on July 19, 2022

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk