

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

WORK SESSION

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

Tuesday, December 1, 2020
5:30 p.m.

This meeting was held via Video-Conference

PRESENT: Raymond M. Morriss, President; Council Members: Richard Cioni, Eugene Frazier, and Laurie Marchini. Council Member Bernard was absent.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey D. Rhodes, City Administrator; Sherri Nicol, Assistant to the City Clerk

I. PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA REVIEW – DECEMBER 1, 2020

Mr. Rhodes reviewed the Reports and Minutes up for approval, and provided background on Ordinance No. 3879, up for its second and third readings, which will modify City Code to provide for Board and Commission members to continue to serve until replaced, to keep the seats populated. Mr. Rhodes also provided background on New Business Ordinance No. 3880, up for its first reading, which will revise the Zoning Map to correct a mistake in zoning designation for five parcels at the intersection of Maple Street and E. Oldtown Road.

Mr. Rhodes provided background on the two Consent Agenda items:

Order 26,737 - approving the award of \$5,000 in Canal Place Preservation District Residential Facade Improvement Program Funds to 224 Washington Street, owned by Joshua Adrian and Jarrett Perlow

Mr. Rhodes advised that this is a matching grant program, and said the owners would be contributing \$5K as well for this funding.

Order 26,738 - authorizing the Mayor to sign and accept a FY21 Maryland Heritage Area Authority Grant Agreement in the amount of \$5,000 for emergency repairs to Washington's Headquarters Cabin

Mr. Rhodes advised that he reviewed paperwork on historical easements or restrictions for these repairs, and stated that he did not see any.

II. BOARD & COMMISSION UPDATES

Mayor Morriss advised that the board of the Allegany Museum has been meeting virtually, and it has been going pretty well. He advised that he has a meeting tomorrow with Executive Director Matt Miller of the CEDC to discuss ongoing projects. He added that there was a proposed date for groundbreaking of the Maryland Avenue project, and said they will be able to announce that date pretty soon.

Mayor Morriss advised that there will be a WMSR meeting tomorrow that either he or Councilman Frazier will try to attend, as they are both on the board, and stated that due to Covid-19, the railroad has been struggling a good bit this year.

Councilwoman Marchini advised on the recent virtual Tree Lighting, and said there were also carols and Christmas stories during the event. She also advised on the Baltimore Street Committee meeting, where decisions were made for lighting, benches, bike racks, etc. She said there was a virtual meeting held on November 19th for building owners to discuss tap funds and fiber, adding there was very positive feedback, and was done very well by Allegany Media.

The Councilwoman said that artist renderings for the Baltimore Street design are underway with a grant from the Arts Council, and stated that there is also a marketing plan that will be broken down into three phases, and they will resurrect the slogan "Reimagine Cumberland". She also discussed funding and grant opportunities, and mentioned the Allegany County Restaurant Relief Fund, urging restaurant owners to take advantage. Mayor Morriss added that the County has already put out \$450K of those funds to local businesses; especially restaurants, and said a second phase will be forthcoming.

Councilwoman Marchini advised on the Historic Preservation Commission, saying they had a presentation a couple weeks ago regarding impacts of historic preservation, which she said was very interesting, adding it is available to anyone who wants to see it.

Councilman Frazier advised on HRDC, saying they will be meeting virtually this coming Thursday, and added they continue to see clients either virtually, or bring them in one at a time. He also advised that regarding the HRC, Senior Community Development Specialist Lee Borrer had just put out the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER), and it is on the website.

Councilman Cioni advised that he has not met with any boards or commissions, but added that Let's Beautify Cumberland folks have been out around town doing Christmas decorating work.

Councilman Cioni advised on the Parks and Recreation board, saying that he has heard there is discussion wanted regarding resurrecting the skateboard park and Mr. Rhodes provided some background on the fundraising efforts a couple years ago that didn't materialize. He added that the City had put some seed money in because no funds or other seed money was

ever raised, and ultimately the money was deposited as revenue for Parks and Rec, and went towards the Sound Garden at Constitution Park. The Mayor advised that he had been approached by a couple people, and said he told them that if money can be raised, the City will support a skateboard park. Rock advised that he had spoken to the director of parks and recreation in Winchester, VA who stated they had one that closed, and said they'd never have another – too many problems.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Nicol
Assistant to the City Clerk

Minutes approved January 19, 2021