



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 Allison Layton

MINUTES

M&CC Public Meeting
City Hall

DATE: September 06, 2022

I. OPEN SESSION – 6:15 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Councilman Joseph P. George
Councilwoman Laurie P. Marchini
President Raymond M. Morriss

Councilmen Eugene T. Frazier and Richard J. "Rock" Cioni were absent

Also Present: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Michael S. Cohen, City Solicitor; Marjorie Woodring, City Clerk; Chuck Ternent, Chief of Police; Shannon Adams, Fire Chief

IV. Statement of Closed Meeting

1. Summary Statement of the closed meeting held September 6, 2022

Mayor Morriss announced that a closed meeting had been held on September 6, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. and read into the record a summary of that meeting, which is 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 City Star Awards to individuals who have gone above and beyond the expected to make a difference in our community.

Mayor Morriss read the list of the 5 people nominated for the City Star Award.

Holly Fetters – nominated by Stephanie Williams for her work in the community, specifically opening her home to foster children and providing presents for families with children that don't have the resources to do so.

John Wunderlick – nominated by Mary Kiraly for his work in supporting the City, and his discovery of the 1753 George Washington Trail and connection in Butler County, PA, helping to secure permission to use the established Trail Medallion in Maryland.

Joe Metzner – nominated by Jeff Hedrick, for delighting kids and parents alike in every neighborhood for about 40 years. Affectionately known as “Sno-Cone Joe” he is the property manager of the Value City Shopping Center and works tirelessly to keep the area clean and crime-free, while often helping regulars there to get connected to services, jobs, etc.

Alan Zapf – nominated by both Renee Kniseley and Bill Kimble for his work in supporting the City's youth by starting a non-profit for area kids (Allegany Youth Enrichment Program) and devoted time to working directly with youth in the community. This was a team effort, and Ms. Kniseley and Mr. Kimble want to commend AYEPS for their work with youth as well.

Doug Widdows – Doug was nominated by Maria Kiefer as the perfect example of leadership, compassion, and drive. Doug's career in USA BMX spans 20 years, with his winning of multiple state, regional, and national races. Doug recently changed his focus to bettering the community and has dedicated all of his free time to volunteer work, as well as donating his personal funds to local causes he holds dear. He has also donated personal funds and assisted in the rebuild of the Riverside BMX track.

The City Stars received their awards, as well as a round of applause and a sincere thank you from M&CC for their selfless work in supporting communities in the City of Cumberland.

VI. Director's Reports

Motion to approve the report was made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Marchini, and was passed on a vote of 4-0

(A) Engineering

1. Engineering Department monthly report for July, 2022

VI. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Councilwoman Marchini, seconded by Councilman Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

1. Approval of the Work and Closed Session Minutes of April 26, 2022, and the Closed, Work, and Regular Session Minutes of May 3, 2022, and the Closed and Regular Session Minutes of May 17, 2022

Councilman Cioni connected into meeting via phone at 6:31 p.m.

VII. Public Hearings

1. Public Hearing - to receive comment on proposed **Charter Amendment Resolution No. 149** to rescind Charter Amendment No. 145 and to repeal Section 75 of the Charter, which prohibits the carrying of a concealed weapon in accordance with Section 4-101 of the Criminal Law Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

Convened 6:34 p.m.

No public comments

Adjourned 6:34 p.m.

2. Public Hearing to receive comment on proposed **Charter Amendment Resolution No. 150** to rescind Charter Amendment No. 146 and to repeal and reenact with amendments Charter Section 24 pertaining to the publication of ordinances, when ordinances take effect, and the admissibility of codification in evidence.

Convened 6:35 p.m.

No public comments

Adjourned 6:35 p.m.

3. Public Hearing to receive comment on proposed **Charter Amendment Resolution No. 151** to rescind Charter Amendment No. 147 and to repeal Charter Sections 192-203 pertaining to the Mayor and City Council's authority over the Memorial Hospital.

Convened 6:35

No public comments

Adjourned 6:36

VIII. Unfinished Business

(A) Ordinances

1. **Ordinance No. 3925** (*2nd and 3rd readings*) - to authorize the transfer of City-owned property at 728 Baker Street to Floyd F. Gregory, Jr. for the purchase price of \$500.

SECOND READING: The ordinance was submitted in title only for its second reading. **Motion** to accept the second reading and move to the third after comment after comment was made by Councilman Cioni, seconded by Councilwoman Marchini, and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. Being none, the ordinance moved to its third reading.

THIRD READING: The ordinance was submitted in title only for its third reading and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

IX. New Business

(A) Ordinances

1. **Ordinance 3926** (*1st reading*) - approving the transfer of 471 Baltimore Avenue to Bechance, LLC for the purchase price of \$100 and authorizing execution of a deed to effect the transfer.

FIRST READING: The ordinance was submitted in title only for its first reading.

Motion to accept the first reading and table until next meeting was made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 3-0, with Councilwoman Marchini leaving the meeting at time of vote.

(B) Orders (Consent Agenda)

Order 27,074 - authorizing the Chief of Police to accept a FY23 Sex Offender Compliance Grant in the amount of \$18,071.00 for Cumberland Police Department and Allegany County Sheriff's Office overtime to perform compliance checks by conducting home visits of registered sex offenders to confirm residency.

Order 27,075 - authorizing the Chief of Police to accept a FY23 Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) SRO grant in the amount of \$49,245.00 to provide adequate police coverage in and around city schools, pay officers' overtime to supplement school resource activities, and provide additional officers to patrol during school time and extracurricular activities.

Order 27,076 - accepting the State bid from Hertrich Fleet Services Inc. for five (5) police vehicles at a total not-to-exceed cost of \$247,140.00.

Order 27,077 - rescinding Order No. 27,055 because of a misstated purchase amount and accepting the sole source proposal from L/B Water Service, Inc. to provide water meters and smartpoints for FY23 in the amount not-to-exceed \$335,000.

Order 27,078 - appointing Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator, as a City representative to the Enterprise Zone Advisory Committee effective this date.

Order 27,079 - accepting the proposal from MuniLink to provide FY23 software hosting and support services for the City's utility billing system in the amount not-to-exceed \$43,016.62.

Order 27,080 - abating real estate and special taxing district taxes for 118 Baltimore Street, owned by the Cumberland Economic Development Corporation.

Order 27,081 - approving a residential exemption from the Special Taxing District Levy for the 2022-2023 tax year for 33 N. Centre Street in the amount of \$600.72.

Order 27,082 - reappointing Dan Bowser to the Downtown Development Commission and Harold Hipsley to the Shade Tree Commission.

Order 27,083 - accepting the proposal from KONE, Inc. to rehabilitate two (2) elevators in the Public Safety Building for the amount not-to-exceed \$440,000.

Mr. Silka advised that this proposal was budgeted for this fiscal year.

Order 27,084 - authorizing execution of Change Order No. 1 to the Residential Grass Mowing Project (14-22-M) with Casey Smith, LLC dba/ ServicePro, for the increased not-to-exceed amount of \$6,300.00; bringing the total contract amount to \$59,690.00.

Mr. Silka advised that there were six properties added into this contract.

X. Letters / Petitions

1. Report from the City Clerk advising of the official results of the 2022 Cumberland Municipal Primary Election as certified by the Maryland Board of Elections, showing that the four (4) highest vote getters and those whose names will be placed on the General Election Ballot for November 8, 2022, are Rock Cioni, Mary Conlon, James Leo Furstenberg, III, and Joseph Paul George

XI. Public Comments

Maria Stallings, 12801 Cresap Street, Apt. 4, Cresaptown, talked about tourism and expanding the bike trail from Cumberland to Bowling Green, via the railroad tracks on Beall Street and Kelly Road.

Mayor Morriss advised that they will take a look at it with the County, and see if it's possible.

David Biser, 17 Long Drive, Cumberland, retired law enforcement officer, talked about the shortage of police officers in Cumberland. He stated the City does need a fully staffed police department, and advised that it's a long process to become an officer, with only a small portion of those that sign up making it through. He encouraged M&CC to work with the Police Department to get them fully staffed. Mr. Biser continued and repeated the same sentiments to the Fire Department and the Water Department, saying they should be fully staffed and supported.

Mayor Morriss assured Mr. Biser that M&CC fully support these departments and are very proud of them. He agreed that hiring and retention is difficult, and said they will do their best to hire and retain in all the departments.

Council agreed, saying the City is blessed to have so many good officers in both the Fire and Police Departments, and stated that Cumberland's public safety and leadership is the envy of small towns all over the country.

Chief Ternent advised that Mr. Biser had trained past officers at the CPD, as well as himself.

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

XII. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Minutes approved on December 20, 2022

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton, City Clerk