



# 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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## Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

### WORK SESSION

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

Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Raymond M. Morriss; Council Members: Rock Cioni, Eugene Frazier, Jimmy Furstenberg, and Laurie Marchini

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison Layton, City Clerk; Mark Gandolfi, City Comptroller; Chuck Ternent, Chief of Police

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

#### **I. RE-ALLOCATION OF BALTIMORE ST. ACCESS PROJECT DEBT FROM GF TO WATER & SEWER FUNDS**

Mr. Gandolfi began the discussion saying that what he's sharing does not require M&CC action. He provided background on the General Fund, Sewer Fund, and Water Fund in 2021. He said everything coded to the GF and they have used \$1.1M of that debt. He explained that rather than borrow, it makes sense to reallocate that money, and said they will wipe out the remaining debt that the WF (\$590K) and SF (\$516K) would have needed. He said the great part is that about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of it is now at 30-year, at 1.8%; remainder is 20-year, at 2.2%, which he stated cleans up the books.

#### **II. SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS DISCUSSION**

Mr. Silka opened the discussion with background on the current parades and events application process, which was revamped in 2020, with permits being issued for events with more than 50 people.

Mr. Silka explained that for events that meet the thresholds, there is a \$150 permitting fee that cannot be waived, and it includes 8 hours of OT from the Fire, Police, and Street department; also, insurance has to be provided for the event. He explained that OT over the 24 hours is paid separately, but said Heritage Days and the Halloween Parade are exempt. He stated that last year

an Events Planning Committee was created with all departments sitting at the table. He said sporting events will be included this year, that must go through the process.

Mr. Silka advised that they feel that there's a gap in their permitting for small events that require not OT or City support. He said their recommendation is to add into the definition of a "special event," if it provides music, amplified speakers or sound, live or recorded, it kicks the event into the \$150 permit fee.

In addition, Mr. Silka stated that they are coming up with a lower fee for small events for City-based non-profits, religious, or community groups, to host low-impact events on City property, for \$25. He provided a handout with details. He explained that these events can offer nothing for sale, no amplified music, no OT, and can *only* be on City property. He mentioned, however, that OT can be waived by the City Administrator.

Mayor Morriss stated that this makes it more manageable, and said he has no issues. Mr. Silka clarified that no OT doesn't necessarily mean no police presence – there can be if it's during a normal shift, or if they are needed to block intersections.

There was discussion about the Halloween parade costing more than Heritage Days. Chief Ternent explained that the parade uses a lot of OT to close down intersections.

Mr. Silka advised that they will craft the ordinance to amend the City Code.

### **III. AGENDA REVIEW FEBRUARY 6, 2024**

Mr. Silka discussed the ARPA funds that will be moved around between projects that can't use it, and mentioned the first two micro-revolving loan funds coming through for approval.

There was discussion on Order 27,395. Mr. Silka advised on the specifics of the RoadBotics system to assess and prioritize roads in need of paving. He stated that they had used RoadBotics at his previous job, said it was developed at Carnegie Mellon, and that it's a good program.

There was discussion about if Order 27,401 should be pulled and discussed separately. Mr. Silka advised that it can be, and said the Mayor can be asked to pull it from Consent Agenda and have it voted on separately. He also advised that it is being administered by the County. Mayor Morriss stated that since he essentially disagrees with it, he is happy to let them administer it, so when people complain about it the City is not on the hook. He added that if the City hadn't had money in the revolving loan fund, they couldn't have done it. Council Member Marchini noted that the City did appropriate over \$1.6M to help downtown businesses, and said she would send around the breakdown as to what they did, which was done mostly through grant dollars and was very specific in nature.

### **IV. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES**

Council Member Frazier discussed the Community Café launch last week, and said there was a nice-sized crowd.

Council Member Cioni mentioned that there is something this coming Thursday at ACM related to the Community Café, in the Continuing Ed. building. He also provided an Evitts Creek update, saying the acorn supply is good and damage to trees is minimal. He said he enjoyed going out there and mentioned the next Parks and Rec. meeting the first week of March.

Council Member Furstenberg said while downtown this past weekend he met two couples from Ohio and Pennsylvania who said they cannot wait to come back to Cumberland. He said this shows that people outside the area are excited about changes going on in the City.

Mayor Morriss said when talking about the downtown and money, it's important for the citizens to determine who or what business they want to support, and said he encourages everyone to continue to do that. He added that downtown businesses need continued customers, and said anyone who says they can't walk anywhere downtown is mistaken. He mentioned now being able to park in front of restaurants on Baltimore Street, and encouraged everyone to come down.

Council Member Marchini advised that Council attended a recent Bishop Walsh event. She also mentioned that there was a recent wayfinding sign meeting to combat criticism that wayfinding in the City is not consistent. She said it was a good, active group, and will provide more information as it unfolds. She added that the wayfinding will start downtown and branch out throughout the City.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton  
City Clerk

Minutes approved on: February 20, 2024