



# 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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## MINUTES

M&CC Regular Meeting  
City Hall Council Chambers, 57 N. Liberty Street, Cumberland

DATE: December 20, 2022

**I. OPEN SESSION 6:15 P.M.**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Roll Call**

**PRESENT:**

Council Member Richard J. "Rock" Cioni  
Council Member Eugene T. Frazier  
Council Member Joseph P. George  
Council Member Laurie P. Marchini  
President Raymond M. Morriss

**Also Present:** Jeffery Silka, City Administrator; Michael Cohen, City Solicitor; Sherri Nicol, Assistant to City Clerk

**IV. Statement of Closed Meeting**

1. The Mayor announced that a closed meeting had been held on December 20, 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 by Section 3-306 (c) (2) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

**V. Presentations**

**1. Retirements**

Mayor Morris announced the retirements of two long-time City employees:

Diane Johnson, Director of Parks and Recreation, has been with the city since 1993. She is retiring on January 1, 2023 with just under 40 years of service, 29 of those years with Parks and

Recreation. Diane oversaw Constitution Park programs, pools, pavilion rentals, Halloween and Fourth of July activities and tree lighting ceremonies.

Debbie Helmstetter, Codes Technician, has been with the City since August, 2013. She assisted with code enforcements, mentored new employees. Debbie will also be retiring on January 1, 2023.

Both employees will be missed.

## **VI. Directors' Reports**

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

### **(A) Administrative Services**

1. Administrative Services Monthly Reports for October and November, 2022

### **(B) Public Works**

1. Maintenance Division monthly reports for October and November, 2022

### **(C) Police**

1. November 2022 Monthly Police Report

### **(D) Utilities - Flood, Water, Sewer**

1. Utilities Division (Water/Sewer/Flood) November Monthly Report

## **VII. Approval of Minutes**

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

1. Approval of the Closed, Work, and Regular Session Minutes of September 6, 2022, and the Closed Session Minutes of September 13, 2022.

## **VIII. Public Comments – For Agenda Items Only**

*No public comments*

All public comments are limited to five minutes

## **IX. Unfinished Business**

### **(A) Ordinances**

1. **Ordinance No. 3936** (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings)-an ordinance to repeal and re-enact with amendments sections 19-2 to 19-5 of Chapter 19 of the Code of the city entitled “Public Ethics” for the purpose of complying with state law.

**SECOND READING:** The Ordinance was submitted for its second reading. **Motion** to accept the second reading and move to the third, after comment, was made by Council Member Frazier, seconded by Council Member Marchini, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Morriss opened the floor for questions and comments. Being none, the ordinance moved to its third reading.

**THIRD READING:** The Ordinance was submitted for its third reading and was passed on vote of 5-0.

2. **Ordinance No. 3937** (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings) - an ordinance to approve the petition to amend the official zoning map to rezone property located at the intersection of Seton Drive and Pinecrest Drive from R-S (Suburban Residential) to B-L (Local Business)

**SECOND READING:** The Ordinance was submitted for its second reading. **Motion** to accept the second reading and move to the third, after comment, was made by Council Member Frazier, seconded by Council Member George, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Morriss opened the floor for questions and comments. Being none, the ordinance moved to its third reading.

**THIRD READING:** The Ordinance was submitted for its third reading and was passed on vote of 5-0

## **X. New Business**

### **(A) Orders (Consent Agenda)**

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

1. **Order 27,144** - amending the City of Cumberland Municipal Debt Policy, originally adopted by Order 25,001 and dated September 29, 2009, to establish comprehensive guidelines for the issuance and management of the City's debt
2. **Order 27,145** - accepting the retirement of John C. Ternent, Chief of Police effective January 1, 2023
3. **Order 27,146** -appointing Captain James D. Burt as acting Police Chief, effective January 1, 2023
4. **Order 27,147** - authorizing \$25,000 in initial start-up funds for the Carver Center for the purposes of utilities and insurance
5. **Order 27,148** - authorizing the sole source proposal from Carl Belt, Inc. for the emergency repair work on the 18" Sewer line in Mechanic Street for an amount not to exceed \$157,718.10
6. **Order 27,149** - authorizing the purchase of a new Ford F-600 dump truck with plow and spreader for the Water Department from Keystone Ford for a price not to exceed \$116,485
7. **Order 27,150** - authorizing the purchase of a new Ford F-550 service body truck for the Water Department from Keystone Ford for an amount not to exceed \$110,435

8. **Order 27,151** - authorizing the purchase of a new Ford F-250 regular cab pickup truck with plow for the Flood Control Department from Keystone Ford for an amount not to exceed \$55,160

9. **Order 27,152** - authorizing the purchase of a new F-350 service body truck for the Street Department from Keystone Ford and J & J Equipment for an amount not to exceed \$64,491

10. **Order 27,153**, authorizing the transfer of 309 S. Cedar Street from Richard A. Pravlik to Kevin Knisely.

Mr. Silka advised that the bid was awarded to Mr. Pravlik who is choosing to transfer the property to Mr. Kniseley.

11. **Order 27,154** - authorizing the forgiveness of loans within the Deferred Loan Program due to deficiencies with the program documents

12. **Order 27,155** – amending the ARPA funding allocation approved by Order 26,961, approving an increase of \$100,000 to Affordable Housing Assistance and a decrease of \$100,000 to Community Development Property Improvement

13. **Order 27,156** - declaring certain City-owned properties to be surplus and authorizing them for public sale

## **XI. Letters / Petitions**

1. Letter from the City Clerk advising that the MD State Board of Canvassers certified the 2022 General Election results on December 12 2020, and that the Mayor, Raymond M. Morriss, was re-elected and Richard J. “Rock” Cioni and James Leo Furstenberg, III., having received the two highest number of votes for the office of Council, are hereby declared nominated and will be sworn into office on January 3, 2023

### **Recognition of Fort Hill High School 2022 State Champion Football Team**

Mayor Morris read City of Cumberland Certificate of Recognition to the Fort Hill High School Football Team in honor of the team winning the Maryland State Class I-A 2022 Football Championship. Certificate presented to Coach Zachary Alkire, players, and coaches. Mayor Morris: The team has been consistent representatives of Fort Hill and the City of Cumberland, we appreciate their outstanding performance, and we want you to know how we feel about what you've done on the field and in representing our community.

Mayor Morriss presented the certificate, and photos were taken.

Council Member Marchini stated that for many years she would travel downstate for meetings while working at the Board of Education, and said she would always hear comments from

representatives from other counties about the Fort Hill football players, who said they didn't mind losing to our team because the players were such gentlemen, both on and off the field.

**XII. Public Comments**

*No public comments*

All public comments are limited to five minutes

**XIII. Adjournment**

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 P. M.

Minutes approved on March 21, 2023

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton, City Clerk