



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 Scott Cohen
City Clerk Allison K. Layton

MINUTES

M&CC Regular Public Meeting
57 N. Liberty St.

DATE: January 02, 2024

I. OPEN SESSION – 6:15 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

PRESENT:

Council Member Richard J. “Rock” Cioni (by phone)
Council Member Eugene T. Frazier
Council Member Jimmy L. Furstenberg, III
Council Member Laurie P. Marchini
President Raymond M. Morriss

Also Present: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison K. Layton, City Clerk; Robert Smith, Director of Engineering and Utilities; Captain Jim Burt, acting Chief of Police; Shannon Adams, Fire Chief; Media Representatives

IV. Presentations

1. Presentation of a Certificate of Recognition to the Fort Hill Unified Flag Football Team for capturing the inaugural State Championship Gold Medal in their division in the Maryland Special Olympics Unified 5vs5 Flag Football Tournament.

Mayor Morriss read the Certificate of Recognition, presented it to the team, and photos were taken. M&CC gave accolades to the coach and team for all their hard work.

2. Presentation of a Certificate of Recognition to the Fort Hill High School Football Team for capturing the Class 1A Maryland State Football Title.

Mayor Morris read the Certificate of Recognition, presented it to the team, and photos were taken. M&CC gave accolades to the coach and team, saying it's quite an accomplishment.

3. Presentation of awards given in recognition of employee career milestones.

5 Years:

Cassidy Lease, CPD – Detective and Patrol Officer First Class

Captain Burt provided background on the officer and her current assignment – C3I (County Combined Criminal Investigations Unit), and said she is the first officer in their history to receive the Medal of Valor Award.

Kori Smith, CPD – Patrolman First Class

Captain Burt provided background on the officer, and his current assignment - Patrol Division, and said he is also currently a certified operator on the CERT (Cumberland Emergency Response Team).

Kevin Campbell, WRF - Tech II – Not present

Director of Engineering and Utilities Robert Smith said a few words about Kevin, saying he's close to becoming a Tech III, and said they are fortunate to have him, and does an all-around great job.

Collin Carney, Vehicle Maintenance – Not present

Mayor Morriss read some words by Supervisor Brian Broadwater, saying Collin started his career in November 2018, he is the first technician to help a co-worker when there is an emergency breakdown, and sets the standard in the Fleet Management garage for diagnostics and electrical repairs. He added that Collin is dependable and is always ready to work.

Louis Schadt, Water Distribution – Not present

Mayor Morriss read some words by Supervisor Marty Watts, saying Louis started his career as a seasonal employee with Sanitary Sewers/Flood Control in April 2018, his work ethic providing him the opportunity to be employed as an Entry Level Pipe Technician in November 2018, and has advanced to Pipe Technician II and III. He added that he has been a valuable and dependable employee.

Chip Watkins, IT – Not Present

Mayor Morriss said some words about Chip, saying he's one of the ones that keeps the computer systems up and running and does a good job to keep everyone informed as to what's going on.

Craig Adams, Community Development – Code Enforcement Officer – Not present

Mayor Morriss read some words by Supervisor Kevin Thacker, saying that Craig has become an integral part of the CD team, and has learned there are always different ways to handle cases they are presented with daily. He said he has become the person on the team with the "soft-handed" approach to finding resolutions, said they receive calls and emails about Craig and his caring ways, and is a great employee and friend.

15 Years:

Aaron Grove, WRF – Senior Technician

Robert Smith provided background on Aaron, saying he does just about anything they ask of him, primarily focusing on maintenance day-to-day, if there's something broke he can fix it, and said they're lucky to have him.

20 Years:

John "JR" Monahan, CFD – Equipment Operator/EMT

Fire Chief Shannon Adams provided background on JR, saying back in 2003 he was one of the original Swift-Water Techs. He said JR is the type of guy who just goes and does things without being told and doesn't complain about it.

25 Years:

Brent Croston, CFD – Not present

Chief Adams said a few words about Brent, saying he began in November 16, 1998 and is currently an Operator/Paramedic.

Lt. Scott Carlson, CFD – Not present

Chief Adams said a few words about Scott, saying he started on November 30, 1998.

Vincent McKenzie, WRF – Superintendent

Robert Smith provided background on Vince, saying they are really lucky to have him, he does an incredible job in that very complex facility, and said day in and day out Vince is able to orchestrate 6-7 people keeping the facility running. He added that Vince is a credit to the whole City.

V. Approval of Minutes

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

1. Approval of the Closed, Work, and Regular Session Minutes of December 19, 2023

VI. Public Comments – Agenda Items Only

No Comments

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

VII. New Business

(A) Resolutions

1. **Resolution R2024-01** (*1 reading*) - authorizing certain businesses located in the Gateway Enterprises Zone to receive tax credits for the year 2024-2025.

READING: The resolution was submitted in title only for its reading. **Motion** to approve the resolution was made by Council Member Furstenberg, seconded by Council Member Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

(B) Orders (Consent Agenda)

Mr. Silka reviewed each item on the Consent Agenda, and Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. **Motion** to approve each order was made by Council Member Frazier, seconded by Council Member Furstenberg, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

Order 27,383 - approving the Cumberland Historic Preservation Plan, as presented by the Lakota Group, to guide the strategies for strengthening and enhancing local preservation efforts in the City of Cumberland.

Order 27,384 - authorizing an appointment to the Downtown Development Commission.

Order 27,385 - accepting the bid from Gwin, Dobson & Foreman, Inc. for the preliminary engineering services for the design of a new membrane filtration building at the City's Water Filtration Plant (City Project 2023-20-WFP) in the amount not-to-exceed \$34,000.

Order 27,386 - accepting the proposal from Belt Paving, Inc. to provide, mill, patch and paving work on Browning Street (City Project 2023-07-PVG) in the total amount not-to-exceed \$122,433.

Order 27,387 - accepting the bid from Global Action Sports Solutions for the Constitution Park Trails Contract (City Project 2022-32-RECR) to design and construct multi-use mountain bike and pedestrian trails in Constitution Park in an amount not-to-exceed \$378,336.82.

VIII. Public Comments

No Comments

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

IX. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Minutes approved on January 16, 2024

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton, City Clerk