



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 K. Layton

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WORK SESSION

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

Tuesday, December 20, 2022, 5:45 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Raymond M. Morriss; Council Members: Richard Cioni, Eugene Frazier, Joseph George, Laurie Marchini

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Silka, City Administrator; Sherri Nicol, Assistant to the City Clerk; Michael Cohen, City Solicitor; Ken Tressler, Director of Administrative Services; Kevin Thacker, Code Compliance/Risk Manager; Denise Adams, Citizen Services Representative

Media: Bryan Gowans, WCBC Radio

Greg Larry, Cumberland Times-News

I. AGENDA REVIEW, DECEMBER 20, 2022

Mr. Silka opened the floor for any questions or comments on tonight's public meeting agenda.

Mr. Tressler reviewed Order 27144, which will amend the City's Municipal Dept Policy. He advised that this is basically a general housekeeping update due to a new release of technical terms, and said this will just make it official.

Mr. Tressler also reviewed Order 27155 which will amend the ARPA funding allocation previously approved. He stated that they have been seeing a lot more interest and activity in home improvement grants, and said most have been awarded – he's looking at 2 applications now. He said this order will request less popular money from ARPA be moved to home improvements.

Mr. Thacker provided a hand-out, and said they have awarded 10 deals already, and once completed he will provide a PowerPoint presentation. He reviewed the properties and their improvements, (all of which were on the hand-out with before and after photos). He stated that they've been having a hard time with contractors, and said most are booked through next year.

Mr. Tressler explained that the paperwork for the application takes a bit longer, said the City handles everything, there's lots to do, and it's difficult to administer.

Mr. Thacker stated that all rehabs, except for one, are from local people, investing back into our area

Mayor Morriss stated it makes perfect sense to transfer the money. He asked if there were any other questions on the agenda.

Council Member George asked for a summary of new equipment bought this past year, and said he understood all were in the budget except the fire trucks. Mr. Tressler advised that he will put something together.

II. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Mayor Morriss called for any updates from Council.

Council Member Marchini discussed the window contest with DDC, Moonlight Madness, Girl Scout caroling, tech grants for Mainstreet, façade grants, and reviewed phases for the upper story residential development. Ms. Marchini also went over the sprinkler and broadband upgrade for downtown businesses, the surveillance grant, and New Year's Eve downtown.

Council Member George advised that there was nothing to report on Evitts Creek or P&Z.

Council Member Frazier advised there was nothing to report on HRC.

Council Member Cioni advised that he had introduced incoming Parks & Rec Director Ryan Mackey to the P&R board, and discussed Let's Beautify Cumberland's work at Riverside Park and Veteran's Park.

Council Member George thanked everyone for his time on Council and said he appreciated the opportunity. He stated that he's proud of Cumberland, and said staff and all departments are just tremendous. He acknowledged all the hard-working employees, and said citizens can be proud of staff as well, and noted that public safety in Cumberland is one of the best in the state.

Mayor Morriss and Council said it's been an honor to work with Mr. George, and said they made a great selection. He said they appreciate all he has brought to the table – lots of effort and hard work – and said Mr. George has made a real difference.

III. 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 April 4, 2023