

# Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

## WORK SESSION

City Hall Council Chambers  
57 N. Liberty Street  
Cumberland, MD 21502

Tuesday, August 31, 2021  
4:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Raymond M. Morriss, President; Council Members: Seth Bernard, Richard Cioni, Eugene Frazier, and Laurie Marchini

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ken Tressler, Interim City Administrator; Michael S. Cohen, City Solicitor; Marjorie Woodring, City Clerk; Robert Smith, City Engineer

Media: Greg Larry, Cumberland Times-News; Brian Gowans, WCBC Radio

### I. PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA REVIEW – DRAFT OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

Mayor Morriss reviewed the Reports and Minutes, and called for questions or comments. Being none, Mr. Cohen reviewed the first two ordinances, with Mr. Tressler reviewing the remaining two:

**Ordinance No. 3896** (*1<sup>st</sup> Reading*) - to repeal and re-enact with amendments Article II of Chapter 14 pertaining to noise nuisances.

Mr. Cohen advised that the existing ordinance is dated, and extremely subjective, and added that the goal was to set up objective standards subject to measurement rather than individual whim.

**Ordinance No. 3897** (*1<sup>st</sup> Reading*) - amending Section 11-93 of the City Code to except indoor shooting ranges from the general prohibition against the discharge of firearms in the city

Mr. Cohen advised that this ordinance will make an exemption to allow shooting ranges in the City.

**Ordinance No. 3898** (*1<sup>st</sup> Reading*) - authorizing execution of a deed to convey surplus property at 455 Baltimore Avenue to Andrea C. Moore for the amount of \$3,111 with terms included to cause the property to revert back to the City should certain terms for rehabilitation not be met.

Mr. Tressler advised that this property was bid on at Surplus Sale II, and was a rehab property. He added that they have been working on getting the reverter cause in place, and said it's now complete, so that the property can be conveyed.

**Ordinance No. 3899** (*1<sup>st</sup> Reading*) - authorizing execution of a deed to convey surplus property at 424 Goethe Street to Sandesh Sreenivas for the amount of \$1,200 with terms included to cause the property to revert back to the City should certain terms for rehabilitation not be met.

Mr. Tressler advised that this ordinance is the same as the previous one, and said it's a rehab property as well, with a reverter clause to insure that the property is rehabilitated within two years.

Mr. Tressler reviewed the Orders on the Consent Agenda:

**Order 26,863** - granting a residential Special Taxing District exemption of \$372.59 to Robert and Rosario Chevez for 47 Baltimore Street for the tax years 2020-2021; and \$640.16 to JoAnn Circosta for 107 S. Centre Street for the tax years 2021-2022.

Mr. Tressler advised that this is a tax exemption for the residential portion of the properties.

**Order 26,864** - declaring certain computer equipment to be surplus property (3 Samsung 50" plasma monitors, and 1 Samsung 42" plasma monitor) and authorizing them to be scrapped or e-cycled.

Mr. Tressler advised that this is the old equipment from the Council Chambers.

**Order 26,865** - declaring a 1990 580K Backhoe (VIN: G0028571) surplus and authorizing it for scrap, sale or trade-in.

Mr. Tressler advised that the old backhoe will be traded in to purchase a new one.

**Order 26,866** - authorizing execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Allegany County Board of Elections outlining terms for their use of the City Hall Council Chambers as an alternate election office during peak election periods in the event of an emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

Mr. Tressler advised that this allows the County to utilize the Council Chambers in case of an emergency during elections.

**Order 26,867** - authorizing the City Solicitor and the City's opioid case attorneys to cast bankruptcy plan ballots for plan approvals and rejections, as recommended by the City's attorneys.

Mr. Tressler advised that there are several potential settlements, and this order allows the City to take advantage of those settlements through the Solicitor's and case attorney's ballots.

**Order 26,869** - approving the Evitts Creek Water Company's (ECWC) execution of a Public Access Program Cooperative Agreement with the PA Game Commission (PAC) providing terms by which ECWC land is made available to public use for hunting and, in exchange, the PAC patrols the land, provides law enforcement, and is granted certain right of entry and wildlife and habitat development rights.

Mr. Tressler advised that the City allows hunting at the property at the watershed, and said that this agreement makes the PA Game Commission take responsibility for policing and providing patrols.

Mr. Cohen advised on another order to be added to the Agenda: a Donation Agreement to be executed for 471 Goethe Street. He advised that they were able to get the current property owners to come by and sign the agreement, and added that he has already had the deed executed.

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

Councilman Frazier advised that he had been out of town and wasn't able to attend the last WMSR meeting, but said the new Executive Director was doing a good job. Mayor Morriss stated that he was bringing new enthusiasm and new ideas, and added that the Ice Cream Train has sold out every ride. He talked about the Pumpkin Patch Train, where everyone gets their own pumpkin, and said the Scenic Railroad is bringing different things in for local people, and is getting the community involved.

Councilman Bernard spoke a response email from the Community Trust people. Mayor Morriss advised that he spoke to Lee Borrer, Senior Community Development Specialist, and said he thinks they're going to be able to get it worked out.

The Mayor advised that he met with the skateboard group yesterday, and said they are still talking locations, and said they are looking for a place downtown. He stated that they had some good conversations, and said that the group needs to look at options and be open, but said he understands why they prefer downtown. He advised that if they can't find a place downtown, there's always Constitution Park, and added that although it's not the group's number one choice, they are still enthusiastic.

Councilman Cioni advised that Let's Beautify Cumberland had their kick-off luncheon, and said they have a couple of really unique projects, with one of the projects being a designed obelisk for Liberty Park that they are considering, and said they are deciding on 25 feet or 40 feet for the obelisk. The Councilman added that they will take a tour of the park and discuss input for beautification.

Mayor Morriss advised that several members of M&CC were at Allegany College for correctional training last week, and said the opioid town hall meeting also took place with some of them attending.

Councilwoman Marchini advised that today was officially Jane Gates Day, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her signing the deed to her house on Greene Street. She also advised that she is working on preparing an RFP for the Historic Preservation Plan, and also working on revising the tax credit ordinance. The Councilwoman said that she had a good conversation with the DDC about coordinating events with the downtown and Canal Place. She also advised that the Baltimore Redesign Committee is going to do a walking tour of Merchants Alley next Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. to do a walk-through before construction on Baltimore Street begins, in order to look at where the main entrances for those businesses will be temporarily during construction. She added that there has been discussion about use of the parking lot there for dining, but said nothing has been finalized, as some restaurants feel that it would be hard to move serving to the back because of the way they are situated, and it will be hard to get meals out that way.

Mayor Morriss advised that they may be able to get the Preservation Plan on next week's agenda, and asked the Councilwoman to discuss it with Mr. Tressler.

Mr. Tressler spoke about Hurricane Ida remnants heading towards Cumberland, and said there are varying predictions about flooding. He advised that staff met today, and said Chief Ternent was

really impressed with all the contingency planning being done throughout the departments. He added that the Fire Department has their water rescue apparatus ready, and said other departments are prepared to be activated if need be. Mayor Morriss expressed how pleased he was, and noted that emergency preparedness always has to be on the front burner with a potential event like this.

Brian Gowans from WCBC Radio inquired about the deadline for the applications for City Administrator, and asked if the City will be releasing the names of candidates. Mayor Morriss advised that the deadline is September 3<sup>rd</sup>, and replied that they will not be releasing names.

### **III. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m., with Councilwoman Marchini making a motion to move into Closed Session, seconded by Councilman Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marjorie A. Woodring  
City Clerk

Minutes approved December 21, 2021