



# 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 Marjorie A. Woodring

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## MINUTES

M&CC Regular Meeting  
City Hall, 57 N. Liberty Street, Cumberland, MD 21502

DATE: December 21, 2021

**I. OPEN SESSION – 6:15 p.m.**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Roll Call**

**PRESENT:**

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

**Also Present:** Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Michael S. Cohen, City Solicitor; Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk;

**IV. Statement of Closed Meeting**

1. Summary statement of closed meetings held December 14 and 21, 2021

Mayor Morriss announced that closed sessions had been held on December 14, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. and at 6:10 p.m., and on December 21, 2021 at 4:30 p.m., and read into the record a summary of those meetings which are attached hereto and made a part of these minutes as required under Section 3-306 (c) (2) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

**V. Director's Reports**

**Motion** to approve the reports was made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Marchini, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

**(A) Public Works**

1. Maintenance Division monthly report for November 2021

**(B) Fire**

1. Fire Department monthly report for November, 2021

**(C) Police**

1. Police Department monthly report for November, 2021

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

1. Utilities Division monthly report for November, 2021

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

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

1. Approval of the Work Session Minutes of August 31, 2021, and the Work and Closed Session Minutes of September 7 and 21, 2021

**VII. 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 approve all Consent Agenda items was made by Councilman Frazier, seconded by Councilwoman Marchini, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

**Order 26,924** - authorizing the execution of an Easement Agreement with the Kensington Algonquin, LLC, and Cumberland Senior Partners, LLC, granting the City a one-year temporary construction easement and a permanent construction easement to facilitate the rehabilitation of the Baltimore St. Bridge.

Mr. Silka advised that this easement is needed to take out sidewalks and the retaining wall on the Kensington property to facilitate the bridge rehabilitation, with the cost being \$1,765.

**Order 26,925** - accepting a FY21 Dept. of Justice COPS Hiring Grant in the amount of \$375,000 to hire 3 police officers and partially pay their salary and benefits for 3 years.

Mr. Silka advised that this is a declining grant, and at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> year 100% of the money would be refunded.

**Order 26,926** - accepting a FY21 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$12,391 to be used to purchase weapons for use by the CPD, CERT, and the ACSO to support tactical missions in Cumberland and Allegany County.

Mr. Silka advised that there is no match for this grant.

**Order 26,927** - accepting the sole source purchase of road salt from Cargill, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$200,000, with pricing obtained through the Statewide Contract.

Mr. Silka advised that the budget for this line item is \$175K, with the City asking for \$200K in case of extreme weather, with the cost per ton of delivered salt being \$82.27.

**Order 26,928** - authorizing the execution of Change Order No. 1 to the existing Purchase Order (M&CC Order 26,623) for the new Sutphen Aerial Ladder Truck in the increased amount of \$2,500.89 for various minor adjustments to the specifications, bringing the total invoice for the truck to \$1,300,070.10.

Mr. Silka advised that this will be the final price, and said the truck is slated to be delivered next week.

**Order 26,929** - accepting the sole source quote from InSource Solutions to provide upgrades to the SCADA software system and enter into a 3-year Maintenance Service Agreement for both the Water Reclamation Facility and the Water Filtration Plant for the not-to-exceed cost of \$49,677.80.

Mr. Silka advised that this software runs all the operations and monitors the plants, and added that if not sole-sourced, plant operations would have to be completely re-configured.

**Order 26,930** - authorizing execution of Donation Agreements to convey to the City properties at 421 S. Central Ave., 439 Andrews Street (Central Ave.), 409 S. Central Ave., and 406-408 Goethe Street; authorizing acceptance of the deeds, and authorizing the City Administrator and City Solicitor authorize to execute documents necessary for the transfer.

Mr. Silka advised that these are all demo properties in targeted areas.

**Order 26,931** - authorizing a payment of \$17,500 to the Allegany County Commissioners as the City's contribution towards the County's one-year consulting services contract with Atkinson Eco, LLC, for the project management of the Canal Place River Park Project.

Mr. Silka advised that this is a 3-way project with the County, Canal Place, and the City of Cumberland.

**Order 26,932** - authorizing execution of a Non-Endowed Restricted Fund Agreement with the Community Trust Foundation, Inc. regarding the establishment of the City of Cumberland Skatepark Task Force Fund, to be used to provide financial support for the creation of a skatepark in the City, and authorizing a City donation of \$10,000 to launch the fund.

Mr. Silka advised that this has been discussed in prior meetings, and will allow funding to be set up.

**Order 26,933** - abating taxes and utilities on City-owned properties obtained through tax sale foreclosure: 309 S Cedar St., 14 W. First Street., 443 Columbia Street., 105 Grand Avenue, 107 Springdale Street, 109 Springdale Street.

Mr. Silka advised that these properties are slated for demo, except 309 S. Cedar St., which is going to be rehabbed.

**Order 26,934** - authorizing execution of an Agreement with the Cumberland Economic Development Corporation and the Allegany County Commissioners regarding the purchase of 39.19 acres of property owned by Avirett Development and located on Uhl Highway at Messick Road for the amount of \$250,000 and authorizing the City's contribution of \$125,000 towards purchase of the property contingent upon the County's contribution of \$125,000 towards the purchase.

Mr. Silka advised that the City worked with the CEDC to purchase this property for economic development purposes.

**Order 26,935** - declaring City-owned properties at 471 Goethe Street and 502 Regina Avenue to be surplus and authorizing them for sale.

Mr. Silka advised that these are properties the City would like to get back on the tax rolls.

Mayor Morriss said this bodes well for economic development in the area, with the willingness of the County, City and CEDC to work together to develop projects jointly that will help going forward. He added that this is a step in the right direction, and that hopefully it leads to more collaborations in the future between the three groups.

#### **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 6:30 p.m.

Minutes approved on April 19, 2022

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

Attest: Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk