



# 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, Cumberland, MD

DATE: March 07, 2023

**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 James L. Furstenberg  
Council Member Laurie P. Marchini  
President Raymond M. Morriss

Also Present: Jeffrey Silka, City Administrator; Allison Layton, City Clerk

**IV. Statement of Closed Meeting**

Mayor Morriss announced that a closed meeting had been held on March 7, 2023 at 5:00 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 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 Council Member Frazier, seconded by Council Member Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

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

1. Utilities Division Water/Sewer/Flood monthly report for February 2023

## **VI. Public Comments – Agenda**

Mayor Morriss called for any questions or comments regarding the agenda. There were no sign-ups for discussion.

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

## **VII. Unfinished Business**

### **(A) Ordinances**

1. **Ordinance 3939** (*2nd and 3rd readings*) - authorizing the execution of an agreement of sale and a development agreement with Clock Tower Ventures, LLC for the sale of the property at 19 Frederick Street

**SECOND READING:** The ordinance was submitted in title only for its second reading. **Motion** to approve the second reading and move to the third after comment was made by Council Member Furstenberg, seconded by Council Member Marchini, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Morriss called for any questions or comments. Being none, the ordinance moved to its third reading.

**THIRD READING:** The ordinance was submitted in title only for its third reading and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

## **VIII. New Business**

### **(A) Ordinances**

1. Ordinance 3940 (*1st reading*) - authorizing the transfer of 13 W. Clement Street to Richard Pravlik for the purchase price of \$7,500

**FIRST READING:** The ordinance was submitted in title only for its first reading. **Motion** to approve the first reading and table until next meeting was made by Council Member Frazier, seconded by Council Member Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

### **(B) Orders (Consent Agenda)**

Mr. Silka reviewed each item on the Consent Agenda. **Motion** to approve all items was made by Council Member Marchini, seconded by Council Member Furstenberg, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

**Order 27,189** - declaring vehicles and equipment to be surplus and authorizing them for sale or trade in

**Order 27,190** - appointing Micheal Harris to the Downtown Development Commission

**Order 27,191** - authorizing the acceptance of a FY23 Strategic Demolition Fund Grant in the amount of \$325,000 to assist with the McMullen Building Upper Story Redevelopment Project

**Order 27,192** - approving the procedure and application form for the Hotel/Motel Tax Grant program

Mr. Silka advised that this will move to May, with a standardized application process, and the money being available in July.

**Order 27,193** - accepting the bid from Belt Paving, Inc. for the milling and paving project on Avondale and Kentucky Avenues (City Project 2023-02-PVG) in the amount not to exceed \$633,029

**Order 27,194** - authorizing the sole source proposal from Freeman Industries, Inc. to upgrade the existing cathodic protection controllers for five water tanks in the City water distribution system in an amount not to exceed \$37,500

Mr. Silka explained that cathodic protection prevents corrosion.

**Order 27,195** - accepting the bid from Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. for the generation of a preliminary engineering report for the River Park and North Branch Potomac Industrial Dam Removal project (City Project 2022-39-FPM) in the amount not to exceed \$87,100

**Order 27,196** - approving the proposal from FESCO Emergency Sales to provide two (2) 2024 International Ambulances for a total delivered price not to exceed \$799,404

**Order 27,197** - authorizing a change in name for the International Association of Firefighters Local #1715, hereinafter known as International Association of Firefighters Local #203; and, executing an Addendum to the collective bargaining agreement as it pertains to Articles 6, 7 and 20

**Order 27,198** - authorizing execution of a Donation Agreement with Kevin Kniseley, Personal Representative of the Estate of Robinhood Constitution, AKA Mark Anthony Shryock, for the donation of three properties on Gephart Drive: Lots 9-11 (Tax ID 06-003443), Lots 21-22 (Tax ID 06-003478) and Lots 22-23 (Tax ID 06-015123) to the City, and authorizing the City's acceptance of the deed and execution of documentation to effect the transfer

**Order 27,199** - adopting the Code of Conduct for Working with Children

Mr. Silka advised that this code came about from the training that staff took part in at Jane's Place, and said it basically sets guidelines for individuals who work closely with children.

## **IX. Public Comments**

**Chris Myers, 15 S. Liberty Street**, discussed financial relief for those businesses affected by the upcoming Baltimore Street redesign project. He suggested putting a hold on the Special Taxing District tax to provide relief during the construction phase.

Mayor Morriss stated that they will take it into consideration.

**Ed Taylor, 400 S. Allegany Street**, discussed owners and residents not maintaining their homes to standard codes. He stated that groups like LBC have worked hard to make the City beautiful, and said declining homeowners are making property values drop. He said a lot are rentals that have become junked up. He wants Code Enforcement pushed to do their job and start fining offenders.

Mayor Morriss stated that he will have a conversation with Code Enforcement.

**Tamar Clarke, 811 Memorial Avenue**, gave her opinion on fluoride in the water and discussed health issues. She stated Cumberland should stop adding fluoride to the water system.

**Allysan McDaniel, 50 Wempe Drive**, also spoke about fluoride. She wants consideration in removing fluoride from water.

**Carla Rigger, 112 N. Walnut Place**, also discussed fluoride, and said she agrees with the other speakers. She also discussed chickens in the City, and a neighbor that raises rabbits in cages. She said the smell is horrible, and chickens would be worse. She suggested denying chickens in the City.

Mayor Morriss advised that the City is not moving forward with the chickens, saying they had decided this evening.

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

**X. Adjournment**

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Minutes approved on April 4, 2023

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison Layton, City Clerk