



# 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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## Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

### WORK SESSION

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

Tuesday, October 10, 2023; 4:57 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Raymond M. Morriss; Council Members: Richard Cioni, Eugene Frazier, James Furstenberg, Laurie Marchini.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison Layton, City Clerk; Michael Cohen, City Solicitor; Ken Tressler, Director of Administrative Services; Matt Miller, Executive Director – CEDC; Stu Czapski, Economic Development Specialist

Media: Teresa McMinn, Cumberland Times-News

Kathy Cornwell, WCBC Radio

#### I. DOWNTOWN SURVEILLANCE PROJECT

Mr. Miller advised on the downtown surveillance project, saying Phase 1 is near completion with 9 cameras completed and the other 2 being installed this week. He said activation will be available by December.

Mr. Miller explained that Phase II will continue at the completion of Phase I, and said they have accumulated a list of 6 additional cameras. He provided specs and a map of the downtown, saying that those in red are already installed, those in blue are yet to be installed. He added that he believes he has enough funds to purchase all 6, but said they need to further vet for line of sight, electricity availability, and whether the building owner is willing. He said for all proposed sites, he has verbal agreements.

Mayor Morriss was pleased with the site locations, coverage in alleys, and on Mechanic Street – good locations. Mr. Miller stated that they worked directly with the Police Department to determine the most appropriate sites regarding effectiveness, and said it worked out perfectly.

Mr. Miller explained the technology and cost behind the surveillance system, and said if M&CC wants one on City Hall next year, the system is easy to expand.

## **II. DOWNTOWN COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM**

Mr. Czapski advised on the Comprehensive Downtown Program updates, explaining that Phase I is facades, with 8 out of 25 completed and 2 having received the first draw. He said Phase II is residential, with 1 being complete and 1 having received the first draw. He added that they have given over \$174K of the \$350K allocated.

Mr. Czapski stated that for the Phase III Attraction Grant, 9 are working through the process, but said if all are in the primary district, there's only room for 10, so he can't say all 9 will qualify. He said the "new-hire" piece of the puzzle is the hardest to fulfill, and said at full completion it will still yield 30 new downtown jobs.

Mr. Miller stated that hours of operation was a point of contention. He said the CEDC wants businesses open 40 hours per week, and open when guests want to visit. He said he thinks the minimal investment is creating a significant yield.

Council discussed the grant program. Mr. Miller stated that this was the pilot program, the CEDC didn't have any mandates, and said they had to create their own, and figure out things for themselves. He added that some projects are easy to do, and said that the Baltimore Street construction crew has been working very well with them.

## **III. GENERAL CEDC UPDATES**

Mr. Miller advised that October 18<sup>th</sup> is Tech at the Gap, and said he is hosting a train ride on the WMSR. He said he will be riding back on the train and hosting a walking tour on the current state of the downtown to generate interest in the area.

Mr. Miller advised that Downtown Business Cards have been created, featuring discounts from 39 businesses. He stated that the CEDC is co-sponsoring the cards, and 100% of proceeds goes back into promotion of businesses in some way, shape, or form.

Mr. Miller mentioned that the CEDC has been working with Johnstown to share information, as Johnstown has a major street project coming up.

Mr. Miller advised that recently the CEDC co-hosted an I-68 regional economic development partnership luncheon meeting at City Lights with representatives from surrounding counties, toured the downtown construction site, and buildings currently under renovation. He added that they discussed finding grants and bringing the project to fruition.

## **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton

City Clerk

Minutes approved on: October 17, 2023