



# Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

*Mayor* Raymond M. Morriss  
*Councilman* Seth D. Bernard  
*Councilman* Richard J. "Rock" Cioni  
*Councilman* Eugene T. Frazier  
*Councilwoman* Laurie P. Marchini

City Administrator Jeffrey D. Rhodes  
City Solicitor Michael S. Cohen  
City Clerk Marjorie A. Woodring

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## MINUTES

M&CC Regular Meeting  
57 North Liberty Street, City Hall, Cumberland, MD

DATE: July 02, 2019

### I. OPEN SESSION - 6:15 P.M.

1. 6:15 p.m. – Convene into Open Session

### II. Pledge of Allegiance

### III. Roll Call

#### PRESENT

Councilman Bernard  
Councilman Cioni  
Councilman Frazier  
Councilwoman Marchini  
President Morriss

#### ALSO PRESENT

Jeffrey D. Rhodes, City Administrator; Sherri Nicol, Assistant to the City Clerk; Police Captain Chuck Ternent; Fire Chief Donald Dunn; Robert Smith, City Engineer

### IV. Presentations

1. Presentation from Burgmeier's Hauling on the FY20 trash and recycling program

Manager Dan Bloskey wanted to formally thank Council for awarding them the City contract once again, and spoke about having great pride in the City. Council replied with their thanks for work well done and for Burgmeier's sponsorship of the McCoury Stage

downtown. Raquel Ketterman, Environmental Specialist, spoke on the changes taking place with the recycling portion of Burgmeier's pick-up schedule, and handed out informational flyers.

**V. Director's Reports**

**(A) Utilities – Treatment Plants**

1. Utilities Division - Treatment Plants & Central Services Monthly Report for May, 2019

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

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

1. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of May 7, 2019, the Work Session Minutes of May 14, 2019, and the Regular Session Minutes of June 4, 2019

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

**VII. New Business**

**(A) Orders (Consent Agenda)**

Mr. Rhodes reviewed each item on the Consent Agenda prior to vote and Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. Item No. 2 was asked to be voted on separately, and Mayor Morriss called for a motion to approve Item Nos. 1, 3 & 4. Motion was made by Councilman Bernard, seconded by Councilman Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Morriss called for a motion to approve Item No. 2 separately. Motion was made by Councilman Cioni, seconded by Councilman Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 4-0, with Councilwoman Marchini abstaining from the vote.

1. **Order 26,471** - authorizing the Chief of Police to accept a GOCCP Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN) grant for FY20 in the amount of \$233,455.00 for personnel, equipment and overtime costs associated with our focus on identifying, disrupting, and dismantling gangs and violent criminal networks involved in the distribution of illegal drugs, the use of firearms in crimes of violence, human trafficking, or other inherently violent criminal enterprises. This amount also includes \$7,000 to support Gun Investigation overtime, submitted under the FY20 Gun Violence Reduction Grant application.
2. **Order 26,472** - accepting the proposal from CBIZ Insurance to provide Public Officials Liability Insurance for the period July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020 in the amount not to exceed \$17,267

3. **Order 26,473** - accepting the proposal from Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) to provide insurance coverages for Police Professional Liability, Property, Auto, General Liability and Excess Liability in the total estimated amount of \$234,666 for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020
4. **Order 26,474** - authorizing execution of a Contract of Sale with Scott R. and Terri M. Dabbs (Sellers) for the purchase of property at 609 Maryland Avenue (Tax Acct No. 04-037065) for the purchase price of \$37,300 and relocation expenses of \$5,000, and authorizing acceptance of the deed of transfer

Mr. Rhodes advised that with the acquisition of this property, the City is one property away from clearing the neighborhood from some problem properties, while allowing more redevelopment and improvements. Councilman Cioni asked where the City was at in terms of funding for demolition. Mr. Rhodes advised that a grant proposal was submitted to Allegany County for the Community Enhancement Program, and there has been favorable feedback. He added that funding will take care of six properties on the left-hand side of the street, with two properties on the right being funded by the City's blight-removal budget.

### **VIII. Public Comments**

Maverick Dixon, 13810 Baltimore Pike, NE, spoke about his past work as a clinical social worker, minister and activist, and wanted to advise Council about his Facebook page, Hippy Christian Fellowship, and his work providing online services to those suffering from heroin addiction. He also advised he was looking for donations and sponsorship for his project called God Seed Housing that will provide support, housing and empowerment services for those who qualify for a Medical Marijuana card, as well as those detoxing from opiates, while focusing on spiritual, educational, and psychotherapy services. He informed Council that on Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup> they would be holding a Mercy Fest in the Rose's parking lot from Noon to Midnight, no-charge, with live music all day, free food and clothing, kid-friendly activities, and will have on-hand treatment providers for opiate addiction. Mayor Morriss stated that the City supports anything that helps get people free of their heroin addiction.

Carey Walker spoke on what he called red-tape and regulations imposed by the City, referenced a neighbor's issues with putting in an above-ground pool, and read from a partial list of what his neighbor had to do prior to putting in the pool. He said the City should streamline the process. Mr. Rhodes advised that what the neighbor was asked to do was not unique to the City of Cumberland, adding that most areas require proper permits, proper grounding and wiring, contacting Miss Utility, etc. He further added that for the City there is a no-charge permit required, and no charge for the electrical inspections.

Nick Gelles, 317 Pearl Street, passed out information to those that didn't receive it at the last meeting regarding the ongoing issue he has with Pine Avenue, spoke of the problems he and residents have seen, and said the mess there has got to be straightened out. Mayor Morriss thanked Mr. Gelles for his comments and said they would take it under advisement with the Traffic Control Group.

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

**IX. Adjournment**

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Minutes approved on September 17, 2019

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk