



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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WORK SESSION

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

Tuesday, August 15, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison Layton, City Clerk; Michael Cohen, City Solicitor, Chuck Ternent, Chief of Police; Shannon Adams, Fire Chief

Media: Teresa McMinn, Cumberland Times-News
Kathy Cornwell, WCBC Radio

I. SWOT ANALYSIS DISCUSSION

Mr. Silka advised on a previous discussion about doing a strategical retreat with M&CC, and said the first step was to do a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis. He advised that an email had been sent around with no responses yet, so he wants to re-introduce this to Council. Mr. Silka discussed the analysis levels involved, and then goal accomplishments.

He stated that paralleling that, they are doing departmental SWOTs, and said he will recirculate the paper to get Council members working on it. He added that the departmental SWOTs are going well and has had some feedback. He advised that the mission statement will be done at the retreat.

II. AGENDA REVIEW AUGUST 15, 2023

Mr. Silka reviewed the public meeting agenda. He mentioned the Change Orders on the Consent Agenda, which are due to added costs, and the three parking-related Orders. There was discussion about pulling out the parking cost increase order and voting on it separately, with Council Member Cioni saying he would prefer to delay the increase until after the Christmas.

Mayor Morriss stated that he looks at the increase as encouraging folks to take advantage of the Center City garage, which is currently offering the first two hours of parking free. The Mayor also mentioned that there is no lost parking during the construction, unless a road is closed, and admitted that the construction is a bit inconvenient. Council Member Marchini stated that she has been receiving emails about the increase, asking why it's being done while it is so inconvenient to come downtown at this time. The Mayor advised to let him know in the meeting if they want to separate out that order for voting.

III. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Mayor Morriss stated that National Night Out went very, very well, and said in his opinion it was worth missing the first public meeting of the month. He said it was a great community event, and stated that community policing and community involvement with M&CC is more fruitful than being in a Council meeting. He offered kudos to all involved. Chief Ternent thanked M&CC on behalf of the CPD, saying the Facebook page really took off, showing some of the most positive feedback ever received – was a great success.

The Mayor discussed Governor Moore's recent visit to Rocky Gap, saying Mr. Moore is a very welcoming gentleman, and said they had a nice conversation about the City going forward. He mentioned the Governor also attending The Chamber of Commerce Crab Feast, and said he was able to spend some time with him there as well, discussing Heritage Days, the Fall Fest, and the Polar Express

Council Member Cioni advised that Friends of the Park are sponsoring their first event this coming Sunday – free swim, popcorn, and a Sunday in the Park concert.

Council Member Marchini advised that the Historic Preservation plan is at 90%, and said the Lakota Group will return on September 11th and 12th. She stated that Friday After Five was very successful, and said currently there is work going on with pulling fiber and water lines to buildings on Baltimore Street. She also mentioned a slate repair workshop, and added that the Main Street Committee has been busy. She advised that they have a tenant for the old Terry's Jewelry store and the Lew-Lew Belle shop, saying also that Mixx will be moving to N. Centre Street. She noted that Ruth Davis-Rogers has been working on another approval for the Cumberland Street Bridge, and did some research about a house by the bridge, finding out that 18 families have lived in that house since a Mr. John Howard owned it in 1902. Council Member Marchini reviewed all the upcoming events happening downtown:

DDC and HP booths at Heritage Days, with Cumberland Jeopardy on stage

Bar-a-thon

Elijah Thane opened his studio

Winter Festival at Canal Place – over three Saturdays, November into December

The Cumberland Christmas Tree will be at Canal Place this year

Bicycle Decorating Contest this year in place of the window decorating contest from last year

Michael Harriss received the go-ahead for his taco business

Four concerts coming to Loft 129

IV. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on: September 5, 2023