



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

Interim City Administrator Kenneth Tressler
City Solicitor Michael S. Cohen
City Clerk Marjorie A. Woodring

MINUTES

M&CC Regular Public Meeting
City Hall Council Chambers, 57 N. Liberty Street, Cumberland

DATE: August 17, 2021

I. OPEN SESSION

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

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

IV. Statement of Closed Meeting

1. Summary Statement of closed meeting held August 10, 2021 and August 17, 2021

Mayor Morriss announced that Closed Meetings had been held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. and Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., and read into the record summaries 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. Presentations

1. City Star Awards presented to Lisa Wolford, Ed Mullaney, Becky McClarran, Freida Spriggs, and KTK Services

Mayor Morriss advised that City Star Awards are done by the City to acknowledge the good work being done by its citizens, and noted there were some excellent people nominated:

Lisa Wolford was nominated by Amanda Lipold. The Mayor advised that Ms. Wolford single-handedly put together the Feed Western Maryland organization,

which came about due to Covid in an effort to feed families in the Western Maryland region. He added that the organization ran strictly on monetary and product donations, with Ms. Wolford being the go-to person as well as running the operation, assisted by many volunteers.

Ed Mullaney was nominated by Erin Nicole. Mayor Morriss advised that Mr. Mullaney has done so much for the community for such a long period of time. As Executive Director of the DDC, now as one of the key members of Let's Beautify Cumberland - with all the hard work he has done, the Mayor said it's time he got some appreciation for everything he's done over countless years.

Council also thanked Ed Mullaney, saying he was an example for everyone, showing that one person can really make a difference.

Becky McClarran was nominated by Terri McCagh. Mayor Morriss advised that she has run McClarran and Williams for a long time, and said that especially during Covid, she had kept things organized on Baltimore Street and with the downtown businesses, as well as notifying the public about what was going on. The Mayor stated that Ms. McClarran is also involved with the Allegany County Animal Shelter, which is the first municipal no-kill shelter in the state, and is also involved with the Barkin' Basement which raises money for the shelter. Councilman Cioni added that Ms. McClarran also has been instrumental in getting flags downtown honoring veterans.

KTK Services was nominated by Tyua Rice. Mayor Morriss advised that this business runs auctions and donates so much to members of the community in need, and also sponsors events to benefit the community, such as Rock the Mountain. He added that they also ran Haircuts for Veterans in the past.

Freida Spriggs was nominated by Jeff Hedrick. Mayor Morriss advised that Ms. Spriggs takes care of all her neighbors plants, making sure that the area looks good, and said her dedication makes her a true community treasure.

VI. Proclamations

1. Proclaiming August 31, 2021 to be Jane Gates Day in the City of Cumberland

Mayor Morriss read the proclamation and presented it to John, Sukh, and Julian Gates. John Gates thanked M&CC and recognized his family in attendance: son Julian and wife Casey, grandchildren Jordan, Adrian, and Lakely. He added that his grandson Jordon is a junior member of the Jane Gates Board of Directors, to keep it going for future generations. Mr. Gates also thanked Kathy McKenney, saying she was extremely proficient in her duties and knowledge in her assistance of this project. Mr. Gates advised that the Gates house has been standing for 150 years, and was bought in 1871 for \$1,400, which today would be \$29K. He also mentioned that an historical series would be filmed here locally regarding the mystery of where the \$1,400 came from, as 5 years prior to the purchase she was property, and 5 years later she purchased property. Mr. Gates wanted to also publicly thank Sukh Gates, the president of the association, saying she was the heart and soul that drives them, and said if not for her there probably

wouldn't be a 501-3c in place now. He added that the State of MD has issued them 2 grants for revitalization of the property.

VII. Director's Reports

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

(A) Administrative Services

1. Administrative Services monthly report for June, 2021

(B) Engineering

1. Engineering Division monthly report for July, 2021

(C) Fire

1. Fire Department monthly report for July 2021

(D) Police

1. Police Department monthly report for July, 2021

VIII. Unfinished Business

(A) Ordinances

1. **Ordinance 3894** (*2nd & 3rd Readings*) - to repeal and reenact with amendments Section 10-30 of the City Code pertaining to tax credits provided for improvements to properties located in the Canal Place Preservation District, National Register sites or districts, and Maryland-designated Certified Heritage Zoning Districts, and clarifying which properties are eligible for the tax credits

Ms. McKenney advised that both ordinances 3894 and 3895 are being updated as a refresher and said these ordinances help to provided the historic incentive program, with one providing for a property tax assessment freeze, and one providing for a 10% property tax credit.

SECOND READING: The ordinance was presented in title only for its 2nd reading. On a **motion** made by Councilman Frazier, seconded by Councilwoman Marchini, the second reading was passed on a vote of 5-0.

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

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

2. **Ordinance 3895** (*2nd & 3rd Readings*) - to repeal and reenact with amendments Section 10-29 of the City Code pertaining to the provision of tax credits for the restoration and preservation of structures having historic or architectural value within the Historic District areas of the city.

SECOND READING: The ordinance was presented in title only for its 2nd reading.

On a **motion** made by Councilman Bernard, seconded by Councilwoman Marchini, the second reading was passed on a vote of 5-0.

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

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

IX. New Business

(A) Orders (Consent Agenda)

Mr. Tressler reviewed each item on the Consent Agenda, and Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. **Motion** to approve all items was made by Councilwoman Marchini, seconded by Councilman Frazier, and was approved on a vote of 5-0.

Order 26,855 authorizing the Chief of Police to accept an FY22 Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN) Grant through the Governor's Coordinating Offices in the amount of \$280,223 to be used for contractual salaries, personnel service, and overtime support for increased manpower within allied agencies, the Allegany County Combined Narcotics Unit (C3I/N), and a Peer Recovery Specialist, and to also support crime reduction patrols, targeted enforcement, apprehension, and intelligence gathering.

Chief Ternent advised that the MCIN used to be the old "Safe Streets" program grants the CPD received for several years. He added that this funding covers salaries of a coordinator and analyst, with some overtime funding for law enforcement activities around town.

Order 26,856 accepting the proposal of Gwin, Dobson & Foreman, Inc. for engineering services for City Project "Evitts Creek Phase IV - Interceptor Sewer to Pump Station" (06-08-S) in the lump sum cost of \$32,600.00.

Mr. Smith advised that this sewer line is actually outside the City limits which takes all the flow from Bedford Road to Shades Lane to the outfall, and stated that this is an important line which is nearing the end of its useful life. He said this is the first step in restoring it, and added a study was done to be able to access the Bay Restoration Fund.

Order 26,857 accepting the bid of Long Fence Company, Inc. for the Municipal Service Center Security Fence Contract (09-21-M) in the lump sum cost of \$50,260.00.

Mr. Tressler advised that this project was originally budgeted for FY21 but funds weren't secured until April 2021.

Order 26,858 authorizing the utilization of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in FY22 to provide premium pay upon hours physically worked at a City facility during the period 7/6/20 through 5/15/21 for current employees and former employees who performed services during that time period.

Mr. Gandolfi advised that this authorization will utilize \$620K of new costs associated with premium pay for hours physically worked

Order 26,859 rescinding Order No. 26460, and adopting a revised Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Policy effective this date.

Mr. Tressler advised that the current policy was adopted June 2019, and stated that this order will authorize very minor revisions; basically, redefining the 12-month measuring period from resetting every fiscal year to a rolling 12-month period. He added that Federal guidelines also stipulate that the FMLA period begins even if the employee doesn't submit the request.

Order 26,860 authorizing the Chief of Police to accept a GOCCP FY22 Police Recruitment & Retention Grant in the amount of \$19,500.00 for financial assistance in recruiting and retaining police officers.

Chief Ternent advised that this grant allows for police recruitment and retention and incentives to attract new-hires. Mr. Tressler added that Chief Ternent, during his career at the Police Department, does a great job of obtaining grants to help the City's police force.

Order 26,861- rescinding Order No. 24,443 and adopting a revised Workers' Compensation Policy effective August 17, 2021.

Mr. Tressler advised that the previous policy was adopted in January 1998. He provided background on the City being self-insured, and stated that its annual contribution is over a million dollars with almost \$4M in balance and pre-paid funds to cover future claims. He said that basically this is streamlining the City's process with the creation of "Accident Leave", and explained how it will work.

Order 26,862 adopting a Social Media Policy.

Mr. Cohen advised that this policy will dictate how Council, elected officials, employees, and boards and commission use social media, and said basically the policy contains a list of dos and don'ts to make sure that those who use the City's social media use it in a compliant manner.

Mayor Morriss commented that Order No. 26,858 which authorizes using ARPA funds for premium pay, is money very well spent on the City's part to give employees premium pay for working through Covid and said he believes it's something they have earned, and is glad the City is doing it.

Councilman Bernard announced his resignation effective September 8, 2021, and read a statement. Mayor Morriss discussed the process to fill his seat on the Council, and advised that letters of interest will be accepted.

The Council Members thanked Councilman Bernard for his service to the community, saying it has been an honor to serve with him.

X. Public Comments

No public comments

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

XI. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Minutes approved on November 16, 2021

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Marjorie A. Woodring, City Clerk