

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

WORK SESSION

City Hall Council Chambers
57 N. Liberty Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

Tuesday, June 15, 2021
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Raymond M. Morriss, President; Council Members: Richard Cioni, Eugene Frazier and Laurie Marchini. Seth Bernard was absent.

ALSO PRESENT: Ken Tressler, Director of Administrative Services/Interim City Administrator; Marjorie Woodring, City Clerk; Robert Smith, City Engineer/Interim Utilities Manager; Morgan Alban, Engineering Consultant

I. AGENDA REVIEW – JUNE 15 2021

Mayor Morriss reviewed the Agenda, and went over the Director’s Reports and Minutes up for approval. Mr. Tressler reviewed the New Business ordinance:

Ordinance 3892 (*1st Reading*) – accepting bids for the purchase of eight (8) parcels of real property solicited through the 2021 Surplus Properties Round II Request for Bids and authorizing transfer of those properties to the successful bidders.

Mr. Tressler read the ordinance, and advised that 2 of the 10 original properties won’t be bid out because they are rehabs, and will have reverter clauses.

Mr. Tressler reviewed only the new items on the Consent Agenda, and asked if there were any questions on any of the ones that had been previously reviewed at the last work session:

Order 26,812 – approving the Sole Source purchase of a new Ford F-250 Regular Cab Pickup Truck with plow from Keystone Ford (truck) and Stephenson Equipment (up-fit of plow) in an amount not-to-exceed \$40,470.00, as obtained through Co-Star pricing.

Order 26,813 – approving the Sole Source purchase of a new Ford F-350 Super Cab Service Body Truck with lift-gate from Keystone Ford (truck chassis) and Stephenson Equipment (up-fit of service body and lift-gate) in an amount not-to-exceed \$54,271.00 as obtained through CoStar pricing.

Order 26,814 – approving the Sole Source contract with AquaLaw in the estimated cost of \$47,500.00 to provide consultation to determine what steps are needed to extend the 1998 Consent Order issued by MDE to address Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) by October, 2023.

Order 26,815 – approving the price modification to the current contract with Burgmeier’s Hauling for “Municipal Solid Waste Hauling Services for Curbside Garbage and Recycling Collection” (22-18-M) to a reduced annual cost of \$1,227,800.64 effective

July 1, 2021, due to the recent commercial revenue reduction as a result of 155 units switching to private dumpster service.

Order 26,816 –appointing Mason R. Reed as the Student Representative to the Parks and Recreation Board.

Order 26,817 – accepting the Sole Source proposal from Wycliffe Technologies to provide additional Milestone XProtect Camera System licenses, network video recorder, cameras, and related equipment and software to add to the City’s existing Milestone cameral systems located at City Hall, the Public Safety Building, and the Municipal Services Center for the amount not-to-exceed \$74,461.00.

Mr. Tressler advised that the Municipal Service Center was recently added to this order, and that total was approximately \$44K. He stated that the cost was higher than City Hall and the Public Safety Building due to the fact that they had to start from scratch at the Service Center – there was no equipment there to build on. He also stated that even though this says sole source, it was a competitive bid originally, and said when they bid out the Center City Parking garage system, it was done with the intention to roll this out later.

Order 26,818 – authorizing the assignment of the tax sale certificate for 501 Regina Avenue to the City for the amount of \$7,165.00; authorizing the City Solicitor to complete the tax sale foreclosure so the City can take title and record the deed; and authorizing the abatement of City real estate taxes, contingent upon recordation of the deed.

Order 26,819 – accepting the report from the City Administrator pertaining to the closure of a portion of a street known as Riverside Avenue, advising that there is no basis for assessing damages and awarding benefits to abutting property owners resulting from the aforesaid closing.

Mr. Tressler advised that Mr. Cohen reviewed the situation and said there was no basis for having to do the report, but they went out and looked at it anyway and prepared the report.

Order 26,820 - *approving the award of \$4,023.85 from the Central Business District Façade Improvement Program to the Allegany Youth Enrichment Program Services (AYEPS) for their project at 119 N. Centre Street, which serves as a City match of 25%.*

Mr. Tressler advised that Ms. McKenney had worked out some questions that were on their applications, and said that this is the remaining balance left in the Façade Improvement Program.

Order 26,821 – *approving the abatement of the 2019-2020 real estate taxes for 119 N. Centre Street (Tax ID 14-005129) owned by the non-profit group Allegany Youth Enrichment Program Services (AYEPS).*

Mr. Tressler advised that AYEPS received their non-profit status in May, which was too late for the state to adjust, and they didn’t realize they had to request the abatement. He added that they won’t get a bill this year because they are now an approved non-profit.

II. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

There was discussion about the River Park project, with Mayor Morriss advising that during a call today they began working out the details of a contract with Bill Atkinson to be the consultant for the project. He advised that the City, County, and Canal Place will share the cost, with it being administered by the County. The Mayor stated that the company proposed to do the work, Water & Land Solutions, is working out an M.O.U. between the City, County, and Canal Place, and will send Council a copy after the details are worked out.

There was discussion about the WMSR, with the Mayor advising that they have a new interim executive director, who he said seems very capable and knowledgeable, and has been hired on a 60-day basis with the intention to keep him after the 60 days. He also mentioned that former Executive Director John Garner will probably still be with the WMSR, just in a slightly different role going forward, and advised that work continues on the 1309 steam engine with a fall roll-out in the works. The Mayor added that diesel trains began running on Memorial Day, with their full schedule to begin shortly after July 1.

Councilman Cioni advised that he and Mr. Tressler took a trip to Hagerstown to look at their splash pad, and said along with putting one at Constitution Park, Dee-Dee Ritchie is interested in having one at Canal Place as well. Mayor Morriss mentioned the skate park project, and the revitalization of Constitution Park, to make it a showpiece for the community. Robert Smith mentioned the ALTA Plan for the park, and Mayor Morriss said they will be taking a look at that to see how it can fit in to make the park a true, inviting community center. There was also discussion about the work that has gone into the pool itself, and about submitting an application for a grant to refurbish some of the pavilions and restrooms at Constitution Park as well. Morgan Alban advised that she and the Engineering Intern have done inventory on every piece of equipment in the park with photos, to help to prioritize what needs attention first. The Mayor stated that the plan for the next 2-3 years is to improve Constitution Park and the City's playgrounds.

There was discussion about utilizing Canal Place festival grounds more next year when Baltimore Street is under construction to give people some place to go for concerts and such. Councilman Frazier discussed maybe getting a committee together, with the Mayor stating that he thought there was a group within the DDC that will be working to have events down at the festival grounds. He added that this may be a stepping stone to let people see how the festival grounds can fit into the City's arts and entertainment district. There was also discussion on utilizing the grounds for concerts a couple times a month, even after the Baltimore Street construction is completed, in addition to having entertainment downtown as well.

Mr. Tressler advised that the Police and Fire union negotiations are going really well, stating that he thinks they have an agreement with the Police Department, and said they are really close in having one with the Fire Department. He said the problem is that the Fire Department is going to extend past June 30th when their contract ends, so there will have to be an order to extend the contract one (1) month.

III. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie A. Woodring
City Clerk

Minutes approved August 4, 2021