



Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

Mayor Raymond M. Morriss
Councilman Richard J. "Rock" Cioni
Councilman Eugene T. Frazier
Councilman James L. Furstenberg
Councilman Brian R. Lepley

City Administrator Jeffrey F. Silka
City Solicitor Michael S. Cohen
City Clerk Allison K. Layton

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

WORK SESSION

City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room
57 N. Liberty Street
Cumberland, MD 21502
Tuesday, July 1, 2025; 5:30 pm

PRESENT: Mayor Raymond M. Morriss; Council Members: Richard Cioni, Eugene Frazier, James Furstenberg, Brian Lepley.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison Layton, City Clerk; Michael Cohen, City Solicitor; Chief Adams; Acting Chief Lieutenant Bonner; Ryan Mackey, Director of Parks and Recreation

Media: Hannah Fout, WCBC

I. DISCUSSION ON THE HOTEL/MOTEL GRANT

Mr. Silka began the discussion and advised that 16 applications were received, totaling \$93,600 in requested funds. A budget of \$ 45K is allocated, and the applications are available for review in the City Clerk's office.

A spreadsheet will be created for the next meeting with the applicants, detailing their requested amounts and the recommendations for the Council Members to consider. This is the third year we have utilized the enhanced application, which

requires detailed information, such as how the funds were previously used. Some applicants did not provide all of the requested information.

II. DISCUSSION ABOUT THE NONNENMAN FIELD

Mr. Silka updated on a request from Ryan Mackey, Parks and Recreation Manager, to convert a baseball field at the Mason Sports Complex into a soccer field. The request arises from the growing popularity of field sports, and Parks and Recreation Board members have expressed their approval.

Ryan Mackey explained that Nonnenman Field has three baseball fields, and due to the sporadic use of the field in question, it would be better served as a soccer field. The field has the potential to be converted into a full-sized soccer field, making it beneficial to varsity teams.

III. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Mr. Silka began the discussion and provided some updates that need consideration:

- The Mayor and City Council meeting, scheduled for August 5, coincides with National Night Out. His suggestions are to either move the meeting to the following day or, depending on the business that needs to be discussed, to hold only one meeting for August. All agreed to review what business would look like the week before and decide how to move forward.
- Allison Layton completed the Certified Public Manager course through the University of Baltimore. Allison completed the course, which was just under a year in duration and equivalent to a Master's degree, while maintaining her position as City Clerk.
- The goal-setting date needs to be determined so a venue can be reserved.
- Rampage Designs, the concrete contractors for the Skateboard Park, are looking to come no later than July 21.

- Mr. Silka was voted President of the Maryland City/County Administrators Association.

IV. REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA OF JULY 1, 2025

- ❖ #2 is a change order for the Skatepark for the installation of drainage for \$12,126.80
- ❖ # 4 is for paving at Naves Crossroad from Belt Paving for \$105,220
- ❖ # 7 is for changes being adopted to the employee handbook; *Mr. Silka updated notable changes*
- ❖ #9 and #10 are for purchases at the Gene Mason Sports Complex for the lighting control panel and fencing that suffered damage during the May flooding. Claims have been filed, and the City is on the FEMA list.

V. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

- Upcoming events include Friday After Five on July 11, the Car Show, the Great Allegany Run, and the Savage Mountain Arts Festival. The Levitt AMP series will take place on Thursday, beginning at 6:45 PM, featuring Elora Dash.
- Councilman Furstenberg and Mayor Morriss participated in judging sauces at the Wing Off, where Unbottled was the overall winner. They spoke of the many great music performances at the event.
- Several Council Members attended the MML Conference last week, where Councilman Furstenberg completed the Academy of Excellence classes and Mayor Morriss was elected an MML Board member.
- A Memorial Day Parade Committee has been formed, and Councilman Cioni has been invited as a member.
- Fourth of July events include a collaboration with Let's Beautify Cumberland and the Canal Place, where the Potomac Stage Band will be performing, as well as a DJ at the Canal Place. Fireworks at the Constitution Park will begin around 9:30 PM

The Motorcycle ride last week resulted in about 500 cyclists through the City, and they look forward to coming back.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on July 15, 2025

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

Closed Session Minutes

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

2nd Floor Conference Room

Tuesday, July 1, 2025; 5:00 p.m.

On July 1, 2025, the Mayor and City Council met in public session beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of City Hall for the purpose of immediately closing the meeting to discuss issues pertaining to an employee's work performance. Authority to close the session is provided by Section 3-305(b)(1)(i) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

MOTION: Motion to enter into Closed Session was made by Council Member Furstenberg seconded by Council Member Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

PRESENT: Raymond M. Morriss, President; Council Members Richard Cioni, Jimmy Furstenberg, Eugene Frazier and Brian Lepley

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison K. Layton; City Clerk; and City Solicitor, Michael Cohen;