



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 Scott Cohen
City Clerk Allison K. Layton

MINUTES

M&CC Regular Public Meeting
57 N. Liberty Street, Cumberland, MD 21502

DATE: June 17, 2025

I. OPEN SESSION – 6:15 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

PRESENT:

Council Member Richard J. "Rock" Cioni
Council Member Eugene T. Frazier
Council Member James L. Furstenberg, III
Council Member Brian R. Lepley
President Raymond M. Morriss,

Also Present: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison K. Layton, City Clerk; Chief Adams; Acting Police Chief Lieutenant Bonner

IV. Statement of Closed Meeting

The Mayor and City Council of Cumberland met in public session beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of City Hall on Monday, June 16, 2025 for the purpose of immediately closing the meeting to receive an update regarding the Messick Road development site. Authority to close the session is provided by Section 3-305(b)(4) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

The Mayor and City Council of Cumberland met in public session beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of City Hall on Monday, June 16, 2025 for the purpose of immediately closing the meeting to discuss issues pertaining to an employee's work performance and to consult with staff and the City Solicitor regarding a proposal for the settlement of potential litigation. Authority to close the session is provided by Sections 3-305(b)(1)(i) and (b)(8) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

The Mayor and City Council of Cumberland met in public session beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of City Hall on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 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.

V. Presentations

1. A recognition from the Cumberland Fire Department giving recognition to Tyler Hochard for completion of Firefighter Recruit Training

Chief Adams spoke of two new firefighters who recently completed required Firefighter certification training:

- Tyler Hochard, hired November 4, 2025, and Emily Scott issued his badge
- David Rice, hired March 2, 2025, and Savannah Grimm issued his badge.

Photos were taken with the Fire Fighters and the City Council Members.

VI. Directors Reports

Motion to approve the reports was made by Council Member Lepley, seconded by Council Member Furstenberg, and was passed on a vote of 5-0

(A) Administrative Services

1. Administrative Monthly Services Report for May 2025

(B) Public Works

1. Maintenance Division Monthly Report for May 2025

(C) Police

1. Police Department Monthly Report for May 2025

(D) Utilities – Flood, Water, Sewer

1. Utilities Division Water/Sewer Monthly Reports for May 2025

VII. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Council Member Furstenberg, seconded by Council Member Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 5-0

1. Approving the Closed Session Minutes, Open Work Session Minutes, and Regular Session Minutes of June 3, 2025

VIII. Public Comments for Agenda Items Only

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

No one signed up to speak

IX. Unfinished Business

(A) Ordinances

Ordinance 4015 (*2nd and 3rd readings*) - providing for an increase in water rates effective July 1, 2025

1. **SECOND READING:** Motion to accept the second reading was made by Council Member Furstenberg, seconded by Council Member Lepley, and was passed on a vote of 5-0. Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. Being none, the ordinance was moved to its third reading.

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

X. New Business

(A) Ordinances

1. Ordinance 4016 (*1st reading*) - amending Section 7-27(1) of the Code of the City of Cumberland to update the fees the Cumberland Fire Department changes for its services

FIRST READING: The ordinance was submitted in title only for its first reading. Motion to approve the first reading and table until next meeting was made by Council Member Frazier, seconded by Council Member Furstenberg, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

2. Ordinance 4017 (*1st reading*) - authorizing the amendment of Sections 16-1 through 16-6 of the Code of the City of Cumberland for the purpose of updating pay grades

FIRST READING: The ordinance was submitted in title only for its first reading. Motion to approve the first reading and table until next meeting was made by Council Member Furstenberg, seconded by Council Member Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

(B) Orders (Consent Agenda)

Mayor Morriss reviewed a new item to be added to the Consent Agenda. **Motion** to approve the addition of the item to the Consent Agenda was made by Council Member Frazier, seconded by Council Member Furstenberg, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

1. Order 27,753 - authorizing the execution of a Main Street Maryland Program Agreement between the Mayor and City Council of Cumberland and Maryland Department of Community Development (DHCD), outlining terms for the implementation of the Main Street Approach™ in the city of Cumberland, Maryland for the term beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

(C) Orders (Consent Agenda)

Mr. Silka reviewed each item on the Consent Agenda and Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. **Motion** to approve each item was made by Council Member Cioni, seconded by Council Member Lepley, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

1. Order 27,735 - authorizing the Chief of Police to accept a FY25 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant award in the amount of \$30,000 to be used to purchase AXON FUSUS platform software for the CPD RTIC Concept Project
2. Order 27,736 - declaring real property at 421 Central Ave. (Tax ID 22-014293), 439 Andrews Ave. (Tax ID 22-003917), 413 Central Ave. (Tax ID 22-015427) and 310 N. Waverly Terr. (Tax ID 22-015409) to be surplus property to be offered for sale
3. Order 27,737 - authorizing the abatement of City Real Property taxes and interest for the properties at 6 Oldtown Road and 414 Grand Avenue

4. Order 27,738 - accepting certain bids received for the "2025 GovDeals Sale of Surplus Vehicles and Equipment" and rejecting all other bids
5. Order 27,739 - accepting the proposal from CBIZ Insurance Services for risk management services for FY26 in the amount not to exceed \$27,979
6. Order 27,740 - approving a Cybersecurity Policy, effective this date
7. Order 27,741 - authorizing the purchase of road salt from the Maryland Department of Transportation for the amount of \$39,723.15
8. Order 27,742 - declaring computer equipment as surplus property and authorizing it to be scrapped or e-cycled
9. Order 27,743 - approving the contract with Link Computer Corporation for the renewal of the MuniLink Utility Billing System for a one year term beginning July 1, 2025 in the amount not to exceed \$48,523.56
10. Order 27,744 - authorizing the sole source purchase from Excavating Associates, Inc. for the remaining materials for the South End Water project at a discounted rate in the not to exceed amount of \$28,376.07
11. Order 27,745 -accepting the proposal with Citco Water, for the George Street water main replacement project, for the upgrade of the 6' water main to 8' water main, in the amount not to exceed \$34,017; to be completed in partnership with Breezeline's fiber optics replacement project
12. Order 27,746 - approving the sole source purchase from Amazon Web Services, Inc. to provide server hosting and support services for FY26 in the not to exceed amount of \$43,300
13. Order 27,747 - approving the submission of the 2025 Consolidated Five Year Plan / 2025 Annual Action Plan for the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program to HUD for program funding recommendations for the 2025 program year in the total amount of \$786,221
14. Order 27,748 - authorizing the execution of a Cost-Share Agreement with the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration (MDOT-SHA) relative to City Project 9-18-BR, Replacement of Bridge A-C-06 Baltimore Street Over Wills Creek, with the

City's cost share portion estimated at \$20,270.91, which is 20% of the total estimated cost of \$101,354.57

15. Order 27,749 - approving the proposal from BlueConduit for the purchase of a tool to assist in determining the material type for service lines throughout the City. In the amount not to exceed \$62,500 and pursuant to Section 2- 171(c) of the City Code, is awarded in accordance with the terms of the Sourcewell Contract 012524-ABN
16. Order 27,750 - approving the proposal from Belt Paving, Inc. provide mill, patch and paving work on George Street and Dexter Place in the amount not to exceed \$150,676.30 and pursuant to Section 2- 171(c) of the City Code, is awarded in accordance with the terms of the Maryland State Highway Administration's (SHA) existing contract with Belt Paving
17. Order 27,751 - authorizing the execution of Change Order No. 2 with Excavating Associates due to additional scope of work items required to complete the paving required by the project for the South End Water Main Replacement Project (City Project No. 2-22-W) for an additional \$148,120.16; and a reduction in contract price due to line items not being fully expended in the amount of \$246,523.65 resulting in an overall reduction of \$98,403.50, bringing the total contract price not to exceed \$4,854,950.50
18. Order 27,752 - awarding the Downtown ADA Improvements Project (City Project No. 16-21-M) to Carl Belt, Inc., the low responsive bidder, in the amount not to exceed \$154,210, contingent upon Community Development Block Grant funding; and rejecting all other bids
19. Order 27,753 - authorizing the execution of a Main Street Maryland Program Agreement between the Mayor and City Council of Cumberland and Maryland Department of Community Development (DHCD), outlining terms for the implementation of the Main Street Approach™ in the city of Cumberland, Maryland for the term beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

XIII. Public Comments

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person.

Stacy Rank a resident on High Lane, spoke of her concerns for neighborhood safety and believed there is illegal activity that is not getting addressed. She mentioned activity in a particular apartment building with frequent questionable activity and her lawn care worker informed her he witnessed illegal activity. A neighbor's camera shows footage of a man walking around suspiciously and then entering a house across the street. The police were contacted and responded, reviewed camera footage and checked in to the house and discovered the screen was removed from the window and a mallet and crowbar was discovered inside the residence. She and another resident do not feel safe and are very concerned that nothing is being done about the situation.

Mayor Morriss thanked Stacy and assured her that the City will follow up with the police department.

Jo Ryan – signed up to speak but left.

XI. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Minutes approved on July 1, 2025

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton, City Clerk