



# 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

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## MINUTES

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

DATE: March 3, 2026

**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 Pyles and Chief Adams;

#### **IV. Statement of the Closed Meeting**

On March 3, 2026, the Mayor and City Council met in public session beginning at 4:45 p.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room of City Hall for the purpose of immediately closing the meeting to discuss Board and Commission appointments. 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.

#### **IV. Presentations**

1. Recognizing Patrolman First Class Michael Bise as the 2025 Cumberland Police Department Officer of the Year, recognizing Lt. Barry Fickes as the 2025 Top Gun winner, and recognizing PFC Jacob Garrison and PFC Johnathon Skelley as the 2025 DUI Award Recipients

Chief Pyles highlighted the achievements of Michael Bise, Barry Fickes, Jacob Garrison, and Jonathan Skelley.

#### **V. Approval of Minutes**

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

1. Approving the Closed Work Session Minutes, Open Work Session Minutes and Regular Session Minutes of February 17, 2026.

#### **VI. Public Comments for Agenda Items Only**

*All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person.*

Frank Clark inquired whether 419 Central Avenue was being declared surplus for sale. Mayor Morriss explained that declaring a property surplus does not necessarily mean it is available for sale.

## VII. New Business

### (A) Resolutions

1. R2026-02 - (*1 reading only*) - A Resolution to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation and adopt the 2026 Comprehensive Plan for the City of Cumberland

Mr. Silka provided background on the Comprehensive Plan and the public engagement that contributed to its development.

**READING:** The resolution was submitted in title only for its reading. **Motion** to approve the resolution was made by Council Member Frazier, seconded by Council Member Furstenberg, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

### (B) Ordinances

1. Ordinance 4040 (*1st reading*) - authorizing the transfer of 229 Columbia Street to Mark Thrasher for the purchase price of \$16,500

**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 Cioni, seconded by Council Member Furstenberg, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

2. Ordinance 4041 (*1st reading*) - authorizing the transfer of 404 Furnace Street to Walcott Investments LLC for the purchase price of \$300

**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 Lepley, seconded by Council Member Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

3. Ordinance 4042 (*1st reading*) - authorizing the transfer of 413 Broadway and 417 Broadway Street to Tamara Siebert for the purchase price of \$300

**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 Cioni, seconded by Council Member Furstenberg, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

4. Ordinance 4043 (*1st reading*) - authorizing the transfer of 445 Waverly Terrace to Leo Rhodes III and Felicia Rhodes for the purchase price of \$500

**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 Lepley, seconded by Council Member Fraizer, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

5. Ordinance 4044 (*1st reading*) - authorizing the transfer of 414 Goethe Street to Rolando Alas for the purchase price of \$400

**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 Cioni, seconded by Council Member Furstenberg, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

6. Ordinance 4045 (*1st reading*) - authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Cumberland to issue and sell one or more series of general obligation bonds and general obligation bond anticipation notes, each in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$2,447,352 for the public purpose of financing, reimbursing or refinancing costs of a project generally referred to as Evitts Creek CO P-4

**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 Lepley, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

#### **(B) 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 Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

1. Order 27,961 - declaring real property known as 419 Central Avenue, 842 Gephart Drive, 846 Gephart Drive, 800 Maryland Avenue, 802 Maryland Avenue and 804 Maryland Avenue as surplus property to be offered for sale
2. Order 27,962 - authorizing the execution of an FY26 Community Legacy Program Grant Agreement with the Department of Housing and Community Development regarding the disbursement and use of \$50,000 in funding for the "Age in Place Home Modification Program for Seniors", authorizing the City Comptroller to accept said grant funds, and authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to execute all paperwork necessary for the disbursement, receipt, and use of funds

3. Order 27,963 - authorizing the Comptroller to issue a one time payment to PPG Industries, Inc. of \$236,000 to settle a billing dispute associated with the treatment of contaminated groundwater between April 2019 and September 2023 at the former PPG site
4. Order 27,964 - authorizing the abatement of City Real Property taxes and interest for the properties at 102 Altamont Terrace, 960 Glenwood Drive, 842 Gephart Drive, 846 Gephart Drive, 0 Louisiana Avenue, 800 Maryland Avenue, 802 Maryland Avenue, 804 Maryland Avenue and 419 Central Avenue
5. Order 27,965 - accepting the bid from KM Printing, LLC, for the design, provision and installation of wayfinding signage for the Constitution Park Trail System in the amount not to exceed \$39,920.03, contingent upon Community Development Block Grant funding approval
6. Order 27,966 - accepting the renewal proposal from Online Solutions LLC (dba Citizenserve) to provide Citizenserve, a Community Development Software System for permitting, code enforcement, planning and zoning and request tracking, in a cost not to exceed \$25,200

### **Public Comments**

William Taccino discussed a sewer flood he believes led to the condemnation of his home. He argues that the City should not be charging for sewer service and should take steps to abate the property. Due to this problem, he cannot sell his home because of the hazardous condition.

### **VIII. Adjournment**

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

Minutes approved on April 7, 2026

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton, City Clerk