



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: January 20, 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 Brian R. Lepley
President Raymond M. Morriss

ABSENT: Council Member James L. Furstenberg, III

Also Present: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison K. Layton, City Clerk; Chief Pyles and Chief Adams;

IV. Statement of the Closed Meeting

On January 20, 2026, the Mayor and City Council met in public session beginning at 4:15 p.m. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of City Hall for the purpose of immediately closing the meeting to discuss Board and Commission appointments and an employment issue update; and to receive legal advice from the City Solicitor relative to potential litigation regarding a contract with Teabow Residential LLC. Authority to close the session is provided by Sections 3-305(b)(1)(i) and (ii) and (b)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

V. Presentations

1. Recognition of the retirements of Sam Wilson, Steve Hout and Cecil Kenner

Chief Adams spoke of Sam Wilson, Cecil “Ed” Kenner, and Steve Hout employed with the Cumberland Fire Department for the last 25 years. A photo was taken with the retirees, their family members and the Mayor and City Council Members.

IV. Directors Reports

Motion to approve the reports was made by Council Member Cioni, seconded by Council Member Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 4-0

(A) Administrative Services

1. Administrative Services Monthly Report for December 2025

(B) Public Works

1. Maintenance Division Monthly Report for December 2025

(C) Fire Department

1. Fire Department Monthly Report for December 2025

(D) Police Department

1. Police Department Monthly Report for December 2025

(E) Utilities- Flood, Water, Sewer

V. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Council Member Lepley, seconded by Council Member Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 4-0

1. Approving the Open Work Session Minutes and Regular Session Minutes of January 6, 2026

VI. Public Comments for Agenda Items Only

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person.

No comments were received

VII. Unfinished Business

(A) Ordinances

1. Ordinance 4039 (2nd & 3rd readings) - repealing Article I of Chapter 14 of the City Code pertaining to Health and Sanitation Nuisances and to reenact it with amendments

SECOND READING: Motion to accept the second reading was made by Council Member Frazier, seconded by Council Member Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

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 4-0.

VIII. New Business

(A) 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 Lepley, seconded by Council Member Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

1. Order 27,940 - extending the current contract with Farrell Forestry, LLC through June 30, 2026, to tally and identify the trees to be harvested on 40 acres for FY26 timber sale for the Evitts Creek Watershed project (City Project 2022-41-SRVC), for a total cost not to exceed \$18,000
2. Order 27,941 - declaring real property known as 229 Columbia Street, 413 Broadway Street, 404 Chestnut Street and a Mechanic St. lot as surplus property to be offered for sale
3. Order 27,942 - rescinding Order 27,921, originally approved on December 16, 2025 and authorizing a Special Taxing District residential exemption for 55 Baltimore Street in the amount of \$1,059.44
4. Order 27,943 - rescinding the bid from Barbara Shaffer for a 2010 GMC Sierra 1500 from the "2025 Sale of Surplus Equipment on GovDeals", originally authorized by Order No. 27,914, due to non-compliance with bid procedures; and accepting the bid of Maduka Muhanderamalage for said vehicle
5. Order 27,944 - lifting the provisions of Section 11-113 of the City Code to allow open containers of alcohol within a defined area of the downtown for the "Hooley Pub Crawl" Event on March 14, 2026 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 AM on March 15, 2026; notwithstanding, that open glass containers shall not be permitted
6. Order 27,945 - accepting the bid from Denali Water Solutions for the "WFP Residuals Management Transportation, Storage, Beneficial Use and/or

Disposal" Project (2025-21-WFP) in variable amounts based on material generated for a term of February 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029

7. Order 27,946 - authorizing an update to the Schedule of Fees for the Constitution Park Day Camp, effective on the date of passage

IX. Public Comments

Ed Taylor, President of the Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization, announced that a monument commemorating the 250th anniversary will be placed in St. Peter and Paul Cemetery on November 1, 2026. The organization seeks a \$2,000 contribution from the City of Cumberland for monument recognition.

Frank Asher, referenced state law that protects the LGBTQ+ community and the exclusion of that in Cumberland. He reminded Council that a request was made in October to add Sexual Identity to the City Code and asked how long that would take.

Alan Septoff is present to discuss the economic benefits Safe Haven would provide to the City. He referenced a town in Indiana that saw 83% new investment and a 58% increase in jobs. With millennials making up 75% of the workforce by 2030, they want to see these protections enforced.

Ashley Emerick is present to discuss the ICE raids in MN and the need to prepare in the event they occur in Cumberland. She expressed the need for the City not to assist the agents and discussed ideas for a plan of action.

Nancy Gunta, a Cumberland resident, is asking the Council to revise the anti-discrimination code to include sexual identity. As a social worker, she has seen students and the elderly endure hardships for their safety, and quoted statistics related to issues affecting transgender individuals.

Caroline Hahn, a Cumberland resident, was present in support of the fact sheet from Dr. Gunta and encouraged the Council to read it. As a social worker, she confirmed the events described and asked that gender identity be included in the anti-discrimination policy.

Frank Clark, is present to discuss surplus properties and their condition. He noted that 25% of homes are vacant and the need to be more generous with allocations for the Choose Cumberland Relocation Program. He feels the current leadership fails to recognize the City's flaws for improvement.

Ed Taylor advised the Mayor and City Council of a vacant three-story garage on Walnut Street that is in danger of falling into the Hughes Cemetery.

X. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes approved on February 3, 2026

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton, City Clerk