



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: May 19, 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; and Lieutenant Menges

IV. 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 Services Monthly Report for April 2026

(B) Public Works

1. Maintenance Division Monthly Report for April 2026

(C) Fire

1. Fire Department Monthly Report for April 2026

(D) Police

1. Police Department Monthly Report for April 2026

(E) Utilities – Flood, Water, Sewer

1. Utilities Division Monthly Report for April 2026

V. Approval of Minutes

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

1. Approving the Open Work Session Minutes and Regular Session Minutes of May 5, 2026.

VI. Public Comments for agenda items only

William Taccino objected to the sewer rate increases outlined in Ordinance 4058. He claims the sewer system is illegal and not in compliance with state and federal regulations.

David Biser spoke again regarding the rise in the sewer rates from the last meeting. The Councilmembers acknowledged the burden this is for everyone affected by it and explained the reason behind the need for the increase.

VII. New Business

(A) Resolutions

1. R2026-05 (*1 reading only*) - a resolution authorizing and empowering the Mayor and City Council of Cumberland to issue and sell two separate series of general obligation single installment bonds, one in the form of a single installment bond in original principal amounts not to exceed \$1,223,676, designated "Mayor and City Council of Cumberland Water Quality Bond, Series 2026A", and the other in the form of a single bond in original principal amount not to exceed \$1,223,676, designated "Mayor and City Council of Cumberland Water Quality Bond, Series 2026B" the proceeds of the sale to be used and applied for the public purpose of financing or reimbursing costs of a wastewater system project generally referred to as "Evitts Creek CSO P-4" and related costs

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

2. R2026-06 (*1 reading only*) - granting the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad Corporation, Inc. a property tax credit for the 2026-2027 tax year, as provided for by Section 9-302(b)(4) of the Tax Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

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

(B) Ordinances

1. Ordinance 4052 (*1st reading*) - providing for the City Tax Levy for FY27

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

2. Ordinance 4053 (*1st reading*) - providing for the annual expenditure appropriation for the FY27 General Fund

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

3. Ordinance 4054 (*1st reading*)- providing for the annual expenditure appropriation for the FY27 Sewer Fund

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

4. Ordinance 4055 (*1st reading*) - providing for the annual expenditure appropriation for the FY27 Special Purpose Funds

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

5. Ordinance 4056 (*1st reading*) - providing for the annual expenditure appropriation for the FY27 Water Fund

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

6. Ordinance 4057 (*1st reading*) - providing for an increase in water rates effective July 1, 2026

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.

7. Ordinance 4058 (*1st reading*) - providing for an increase in sewer rates effective July 1, 2026

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.

(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 Furstenberg, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

1. Order 28,013 - approving a contract extension with Farrell Forestry LLC to complete the final timber sale of the existing five year plan for the Evitts Creek Watershed (City Project 2022-41-SRVC) for a one year term beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the amount not to exceed \$33,000
2. Order 28,014 - rescinding Order No. 28,010, originally approved on May 5, 2026 due to a misstated purchase price, and accepting the bid from low responsive bidder Top Coat Technicians for Epoxy Flooring to repair broken concrete at the Municipal Service Center in a total project cost not to exceed \$58,509 and rejected all other bids
3. Order 28,015 - declaring real property known as 938 Gay Street as surplus property to be offered for sale
4. Order 28,016 - approving the sole source repair by Carl Belt for emergency repair work on the Market Street waterline in the amount not to exceed \$121,489.70, in accordance with City Code Section 2-171(d) (iii), pertaining to purchases for emergency use
5. Order 28,017 - accepting the sole source proposal from Alfa Laval, Inc. for the rebuild of the centrifuge for the Heat Drying Facility at the Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) in the amount not to exceed \$75,975.81, in accordance with City Code Section 2-171(d) (i), pertaining to the need for standardization or interchangeability of parts for the City's machinery or equipment
6. Order 28,018 - accepting the proposal from Perfect Reflections for the cleaning and maintenance of the Downtown Development Commission footprint to include sidewalk cleaning, trash removal, weed control and snow/ice removal in the not to exceed amount of \$41,184

7. Order 28,019 - approving Outdoor Dining Leases with Will's Hotel and Lilly's Books and Cafe for the use of the public right of way immediately in front of and adjacent to each property for outside case dining for the term May 15, 2026 through October 31, 2026
8. Order 28,020 - rescinding Order No. 27,994, originally approved on April 21, 2026 due to a repealed bid amount by one of the bidders, and accepting the bids from Phoenix Solutions, LLC, Shannon Chemical Corporation, Brenntag Northeast LLC, USALCO, LLC, Chemstream, LLC and Univar Solutions USA LLC for the purchase of all advertised chemicals for the Combined Chemical Bid FY27 (2025-22-UTIL) for use at the Water Reclamation Facility, Water Filtration Plant and Constitution Park Pool
9. Order 27,021 - approving the 2026 Annual Action Plan Projects for the Community Development Block Grant Program
10. Order 28,022 - declaring computer equipment as surplus property and authorizing it to be scrapped or e-cycled
11. Order 28,023 - authorizing the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority to memorialize each party's respective obligations with respect to the ownership of, maintenance of, and access to certain facilities associated with the River Park Project, effective when executed and remains in effect unless and until terminated with 60 days written notice by either party to the other
12. Order 28,024 - authorizing the execution of a master service agreement between the City of Cumberland and GBS Benefits Inc. to provide the City of Cumberland with insurance consulting services concerning cost, benefits provided, maintenance, analysis, administrative support, software and contracts with insurance carriers in connection with the health, dental, life, employee assistance, wellness, vision, and section 125 plans or programs for the 12 month period of April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027 at a cost not to exceed \$7,000 per month

Public Comments *(Comments are limited to 5 minutes)*

Christina Hall expressed frustration with the app's parking payment feature because it is difficult for seniors to use. She suggested placing a sticker on your car to indicate that parking has been paid in advance.

William Taccino addressed comments alleging that the Mayor had a conflict of interest at the beginning of his term because of his ownership of CSX stock. He questioned the \$4.8 million bridge replacement project, criticized the Cumberland Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), and alleged inconsistent code enforcement by the City.

Jim Taccino expressed frustration about obtaining the list of surplus properties, noting that he could not find it online. He also questioned the City's payment of \$7K per month to an outside brokerage to review an employee insurance plan.

Mayor Morriss and Mr. Silka addressed Mr. Taccino's concerns.

VIII. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Minutes approved on June 2, 2026

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton, City Clerk