



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: April 15, 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; Chief Ternent

IV. Statement of Closed Meeting

The Mayor and City Council of Cumberland will meet in public session beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of City Hall on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, for the purpose of immediately closing the meeting to discuss matters relating to departmental reorganization and employee compensation. 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. Administering the Oath of Office to Patrol Officer Isaac Delaney and Patrol Officer Colby Fleming

Chief Ternent spoke of the Officers accomplishments;

Isaac Delaney graduated from the Police Academy, completed the required field training, and joined the Cumberland Police Department in January 2025. He is currently assigned to the patrol division and is present tonight with his wife and children.

Colby Fleming holds a Bachelor Degree from Frostburg State University, graduated from the Police Academy, completed required field training and is assigned to the patrol division.

Mayor Morriss administered the Oath to both officers. A photo was taken with the Mayor and City Councilmembers and their families.

2. Recognizing Patrolman First Class Austin H. Groves as the 2024 Cumberland Police Department Officer of the Year, Cpl. Ashley Davis as the 2024 Top Gun winner and PFC Jacob Garrison as the 2024 DUI Award Recipient

Chief Ternent spoke of the Officers accomplishments;

Corporal Ashley Davis received a perfect score at the Top Gun Academy

Patrolman First Class Austin Groves has been selected as the 2024 Officer of the Year for the Cumberland Police Department. He began his employment with the Department in August 2022 and graduated from the Police Academy with honors in September 2022. In the past year, he has responded to over 1,800 calls and made 146 arrests. His dedication to the community and strong work ethic have made a significant impact, and we are proud to have him as part of our team.

Officer Garrison was unable to attend and is the recipient of the DUI award from the Maryland Highway Safety Office. He performed 136 traffic stops and 24 DUI arrests.

VI. Directors Reports

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

(A) Administrative Services

1. Administrative Services Monthly Report for March 2025

(B) Public Works

1. Maintenance Division Monthly Report for March 2025

(C) Fire

1. Fire Department Monthly Report for March 2025

(D) Utilities – Flood, Water, Sewer

1. Utilities Division Water and Sewer Department Monthly Reports for March 2025

VII. 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 5-0

1. Approving the Regular Session Minutes of March 4, 2025, the Closed Session Minutes, Open Work Session Minutes, and Regular Session Minutes of April 1, 2025

VIII. Public Comments for Agenda Items Only

No one signed up

IX. New Business

(A) Ordinances

1. Ordinance 4008 (*1st reading*) - authorizing the execution of a first amendment to the Infill Development Agreement with Teabow Residential LLC for the purpose of amending the agreement dated April 2, 2024 for the purpose of extending certain deadlines, changing the permitted use of 252 E. Elder St, altering the remedies available in the event of a default, increasing the number of dwelling units and other incidental matters

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

(B) Orders (Consent Agenda)

Mr. Silka reviewed each item on the Consent Agenda, with the exception of 27,703 and Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. **Motion** to approve each item was made by Council Member Furstenberg, seconded by Council Member Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

1. Order 27,693 - waiving the permitting and tap fees for building, water and sewer for the Allegany County Habitat for Humanity's building project at 12 Maple Street
2. Order 27,694 - authorizing appointments to the Human Relations Commission and the Downtown Development Commission
3. Order 27,695 - lifting the provisions of Section 11-113 of the City Code to allow open containers of alcohol within a defined area of the downtown area for the Friday After Five events on June 13 and July 11 from 5 PM to 12 AM, the Winter Festival on December 13 from 5 PM to 10 PM and the New Year's Eve Celebration from 9 PM on December 31, 2025 through 1 AM on January 1, 2026; notwithstanding, that open glass containers shall not be permitted
4. Order 27,696 - authorizing the Mayor to execute all documents necessary for the Dumbhundred District, also known as Stony Battery, to apply for nomination to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places
5. Order 27,697- declaring certain City-owned property at 8 Marion St., 112 Springdale St. and 443 SE Central Ave. to be surplus and authorizing them for sale
6. Order 27,698 - accepting the report of the City Administrator advising that, with regard to the proposed public right of way closure for a portion of Alley 144, he observed no damages caused to the adjacent property owners as a result of the closure, and any added value would be formally determined by the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
7. Order 27,699 - authorizing the bids from Belt Paving, Inc. and/or IA Construction Corporation for the purchase of Black Top Materials for Spring Street Paving Projects in the not to exceed amount of \$150,000, based on product availability when needed
8. Order 27,700 - waiving permit fees associated with the cost of the building project, with the exception of any and all utility tap fees associated with the Allegany County Public Schools project at Washington Middle School
9. Order 27,701 - accepting the bid from Carl Belt, Inc. to provide Design-Build services for Odor Covers at the Water Reclamation Facility for the

sludge holding tank (City Project 2025-02-WRF) in the amount not to exceed amount of \$376,090

10. Order 27,702 - revising and restating Order No. 27,214, passed on April 4, 2023 to add that the City Administrator is authorized to offer a "Bulk" Discounted lease rate of \$25.00 per month for up to thirty-six months for an individual or entity that enters into a new 12 month contract for a minimum of 15 spaces, with the other items in the original Order remaining in place

X. Public Comments

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

Jo Ryan – played a song for the Mayor and City Council and ended by noting that until people get on board fires and floods are going to continue.

Michael Mudge informed the Mayor and City Council Members of his frequent use of the Queen City Underpass and acknowledged the reasons for the closure. He is asking for the consideration of refurbishing the underpass to reopen with restricted times and closed off with an iron gate.

Paris Ashley is a local muralist who painted the mural displayed at the Canal Place as well as the Frostburg Public pool, Queen City Creamery, JZ's Pub and Downtown D'atri's. He began by apologizing for beginning to paint the plywood covering the underpass entrance. His intention was to perform a needed public service. He distributed a rendering of what the finished mural would look like and is asking the City to allow him to finish the painting.

Mayor Morriss thanked Paris and advised to present the rendering to the Arts Commission. In regards to other buildings in the City it would depend on the ownership.

Mr. Silka advised that the mural for the underpass is in the Historic District so it would have to get a Certificate of Convenience from the HPC.

Chris Meyers thanked the Mayor and City Council members for their support in bringing the Memorial Day parade to downtown. He he has

spoken with local businesses about the parade, and two businesses that are typically closed on Mondays have decided to open for the event. A final report will be available in the next two weeks. The Dapper Dan has confirmed its participation.

XI. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Minutes approved on May 6, 2025

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton, City Clerk