



Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

Mayor Raymond M. Morriss
Councilman Richard J. "Rock" Cioni
Councilman Eugene T. Frazier
Councilman James L. Furstenberg
Councilwoman Laurie P. Marchini

City Administrator Jeffrey F. Silka
City Solicitor Michael Scott Cohen
City Clerk Allison K. Layton

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

WORK SESSION

2nd Floor Conference Room
Allegany Museum
3 Pershing Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

Tuesday, July 2, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Raymond M. Morriss; Council Members Eugene Frazier, Jimmy Furstenberg, Rock Cioni and Laurie Marchini.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison Layton, City Clerk; Chuck Ternent, Chief of Police; Shannon Adams, Fire Chief

Media: Teresa McMinn, Cumberland Times-News
Kathy Cornwell, WCBC Radio

I. Review of the public meeting agenda of July 2 ,2024

Mayor Morriss reviewed the agenda.

Councilwoman Marchini addressed two Orders on the Agenda that look the same. Mr. Silka explained that was due to an abstention with the Hotel/Motel Orders. Mayor Morriss stated that due to the position he holds on the Board of Directors for two of the recipients, he would be abstaining from voting on one of the orders, therefore a separate Order was added to the agenda so that he was able to vote on the remaining recipients.

Mr. Silka updated the intent of Ordinance 3985, explaining that the City is acquiring a property on 415 Central Avenue. The owner of 415 Central Avenue wanted to flip one of the City's properties, so an exchange would be made transferring 454 Goethe Street to them and then transferring 415 Central Avenue to the City.

Jeff went on to explain that some residents are donating properties to the City and that depending on the condition they will be demolished or listed on the surplus sale. Councilman Fraizer asking if there is a timeframe the buyer has once, they have purchased the property to do improvements?

Jeff answered that the buyer has to submit a plan for approval. City Clerk Allison Layton clarified that the improvements have to be completed within two years.

Jeff also updating that Order # 3 on the agenda, a \$1400 change order is in reference to the project "Constitution Park Trails Project, and went on to explain that the contractor had to be certified by the state to complete the trail, so that added cost to the project. Councilman Cioni asking about Order #6, Jeff replied that the property is being donated to the City. Mayor Morriss added in reference to the building a couple of options such as rehab or something being done with the street.

Councilman Furstenberg asked when the Constitution Park Trail Project will begin, Jeff responded that due to the certification delay it should be started within 60 days. Mayor Morriss added that he understood it to be spring or early summer.

II. Mayor and City Council Updates

Councilman Frazier mentioned that he attended the concert in the park and the nice crowd that attended. It was a free day at the pool from the Sheriff's Office and it was packed with almost 900 people. Eugene also reminding everyone that the Levitt AMP concert series would be tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. at Hoffman Park in Frostburg with gates opening at 6:30 p.m. and the show beginning at 7:00 p.m. The band playing is Airshow, next week they will return to Cumberland.

Jimmy added that he enjoyed the MML Conference and it was good to see other cities having the same issues as well. Rock asked if everything has been sorted out on Washington Street for the 4th of July, Jeff answered that M&CC was aware of it and received the application but forgot to inform the City. The City ordinance calls for 30 days prior to an activity to plan for staffing especially during a holiday weekend. Mayor Morriss added that just because an event always takes place, that does not take away from the need of a permit. Rock added that donations will be accepted at the Washington Street event for the town clock. Eugene mentioned the Kidney Transplant Walk at Allegany College and that a good bit of money was raised and that all of the money that is raised would stay in Cumberland for patients in need of a transplant.

Rock mentioned that he was happy the park handled intros nicely in an effort to solicit more members. Moving forward hoping that more can be done for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Councilwoman Marchini added that she enjoyed MML and how helpful it was and also that the meeting with the construction company for the updates on Baltimore Street went well and the committee planning the opening has been meeting. Laurie also added that she had spent most of the day on Baltimore Street on Friday and was able to take a tour of Meg Romero studios and see what the facade grant has done for them as well as the other buildings that have benefited from the facade grant. Mayor Morriss mentioned that before and after pictures of the projects should be taken so people can see what all was done. Laurie responded that due to it being in a Historic district, Ruth Davis-Rogers would have taken pictures.

Mayor Morriss wrapped up by highlighting the MML conference and how informative the classes were and how beneficial it was to be able to network with other municipality leaders in the state and compare knowledge on how they resolve issues. The secretary roundtables were excellent as well. Governor Moore made a great opening speech and it was great to hear from him.

Mayor Morriss mentioned the Pride festival downtown that he and Eugene attended on Sunday, mentioning the amount of people in attendance. Adding that this is the 7th year and that the turnout has increased every year. Heidi Gardner and Jackie McKenzie have done a great job with planning the festival.

Mayor Morriss reminded everyone that the Levitt AMP series would be in Frostburg tomorrow night at Hoffman Park and that the City's fireworks display would be on Thursday night. Farmer's Market will continue on Thursdays.

Jeff reminded everyone of the delayed opening of City Hall to July 15, 2024 due to the ongoing construction in the building for upgraded HVAC.

Jimmy updated on the event center opening on Virginia Avenue on July 17 or 18, 2024.

Mayor Morriss adding that looking in to Virginia Avenue as a second business district with the facade money that was applied for, would help revitalize the South side of the City.

III. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on: July 16, 2024