



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 S. Cohen
City Clerk Allison K. Layton

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WORK SESSION

City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room
57 N. Liberty Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

Tuesday, October 22, 2024; 4:30 pm

PRESENT: Mayor Raymond M. Morriss; Council Members: Richard Cioni (Absent), Eugene Frazier, James Furstenberg, Laurie Marchini.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison Layton, City Clerk; Michael Cohen; City Solicitor;

I. UPDATE FROM RICH REINHARDT WITH PERCY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mr. Reinhardt presented the Mayor and City Council members with some updates from Annapolis but pointed out that budget is the primary focus right now. A better understanding of what that looks like will be available when the Legislative package from the Governor is available.

The report showed a balance remaining of \$479 Million dollars for FY24. The States funds of \$1.06 Billion as of June 30 and \$580 Million is appropriated to FY25. Total revenues exceeded estimates by \$217 Million.

Estimates from the Board of Revenue show that Maryland will see \$25 Billion in general funds which is a \$88 Million boost since the March estimates and anticipating the same amount for FY26 that begins in July.

He went on to add the possibility that some members of the House or Senate may propose tax increases or fee increases. The Governor has stated a high threshold has to be in place for new taxes to be implemented and he stands firm in not wanting to see tax increases for Maryland residences. Mr. Reinhardt anticipates service tax bills or other fees being introduced. There has been discussions around gaining expansion around gaming and lottery to offset fiscal concerns and evaluating the revenue from them to prevent tax increases.

Mr. Reinhardt explained that some time ago there was a bill increasing taxes on service-related transactions that is no longer in effect and as a result, there were concerns about how the state would make money due to a deadlock on gaming expansion. There was a large number of services that were nonexempt in the state of Maryland so a new Service bill was introduced again that all services would be exempt however, that bill did not pass.

Next, he went on to discuss the Maryland Municipal League (MML) and their session priorities for next year.

The first priority would be for the alignment of the speed camera program with the red-light program which enables municipalities to use trained staff for citation certification. If the bill remains the same it would only apply to a municipality that does not have a maintained police force.

The next bill of consideration would expand revenue through the increase in amusement fees and is strictly a discretionary authorization. MML is advocating the authority to be implemented for the local fee of 2% on local food and beverages. If the bill is similar to last year, it would be authorizing counties and municipalities to impose the local admission and amusement tax up to 2% on gross receipts derived from sales on specific food or beverages at a place where there are facilities for consumption of food or beverages on premises.

It was noted the bill would affect brick and mortar establishments but not food trucks and reevaluating food truck fees is something that would need to be addressed. Support of the bill does not mean enforcement from a municipality, however, if the County Commissioners enforce it, the fees would be in place at establishments in those parameters.

He went on to discuss the FY25 budget allocation for Evitts Creek phase four is coming together. Governor Moore announced a new grant management system to oversee capital grants and allows users to follow the progress and when to expect a status update for the project. An email with a checklist and links was shared with the Mayor and City Administrator.

Next year the goal for \$350K would be a focus for the Mechanic and Harrison Street intersections. A request for the funds was submitted back in June and received and he feels that our requests are modest and the Governor is aware of the needs for Cumberland next year. His presence has been more than anticipated and he sees that Cumberland is on the map.

Mr. Reinhardt ended by thanking Councilwoman Marchini and Melinda Kelleher for the collaboration for the ribbon cutting ceremony coming up and mentioned Coke is sponsoring the event. Some of the State representatives will be at the ceremony and he feels there are opportunities to work with them beyond the event as far as grants and programs available for community development and education.

II. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on November 4, 2024