



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 S. Cohen
City Clerk Allison K. Layton

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

WORK SESSION

City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room
57 N. Liberty Street
Cumberland, MD 21502
Tuesday, September 2, 2025; 5:00 pm

PRESENT: Mayor Raymond M. Morriss; Council Members: Richard J. “Rock” Cioni, Eugene Frazier, James Furstenberg, Brian Lepley.

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

Media: Hannah Fout, WCBC and Teresa McMinn, Cumberland Times News

I. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Mr. Silka updated on the following matters:

- The kickoff for the Local Government Academy will begin September 11, 2025, and will consist of 8 sessions.
- The second goal-setting session for the Mayor and City Council is scheduled for September 24, 2025, at Rocky Gap from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
- The final listening session for the Comprehensive Plan took place last week, with positive feedback and suggestions from those in attendance. The consultant will draft a plan for review, hopefully by the end of the year.

II. REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

Mr. Silka noted some orders on the agenda to review:

1. #8 pertains to encouraging salaried employees to volunteer up to 16 hours per year on city time, except for the Day of Caring and Sharing, as we have a long-standing commitment to the event every year.
2. #9 pertains to approving the planning and zoning commission's recommendation for the site plan of the old Allegany High School site to accommodate 65 homes.
3. #10 pertains to granting the Heritage Days committee permission to hang a banner on the George Street and Frederick Street parking garages for no more than 30 days.

Interest in a digital sign was discussed, with a plan to put it in next year's budget, and a meeting with Chris Sloan was scheduled to follow up on the design ideas for the parking garage. A discussion ensued about seeking interest in more placement of murals throughout the city.

4. #11 refers to the Opioid litigation lawsuit

III. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

- The Amish Outlaws concert was well attended.
- Jane Gates' house was a great event, and an interest in a placard for the house was mentioned.
- The Police Department's backpack giveaway event was well attended.
- The last concert for the Levitt Amp Series was in Frostburg and was well attended. A matching grant has been received for the next three years to be shared between the County and Frostburg State University.
- Friday After 5 had a great turnout with Queen City Funk and Soul performing.
- Heritage Days begins next Thursday with the opening ceremony at the Women's Civic Club on Washington Street, Friday night, the Whiskey Rebellion will take place, Heritage Days on Saturday and Sunday, and Railfest will also take place at the Canal Place.
- LaVale Lions Club chicken event also takes place next weekend.

- The City will be sponsoring a team at the Dragon Boat race for the YMCA on September 20, 2025.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton

City Clerk

Minutes approved on September 16, 2025

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

Closed Session Minutes

City Hall, 57 N. Liberty Street, Cumberland, MD 21502

2nd Floor Conference Room

Tuesday, September 2, 2025; 5:00 p.m.

On September 2, 2025, the Mayor and City Council met in public session beginning at 5:00 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 as well as personnel matters in regard to the recruitment of a Chief of Police. 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.

MOTION: Motion to enter into Closed Session was made by Council Member Frazier seconded by Council Member Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

PRESENT: Raymond M. Morriss, President; Council Members Richard Cioni, Jimmy Furstenberg, Eugene Frazier and Brian Lepley

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