



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, March 3, 2026; 5:00 pm

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

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison Layton, City Clerk; Deputy Chief Pearce; Chief Adams.

Media: Hannah Fout from WCBC, Theresa McMinn from Cumberland Times News.

PUBLIC: Frank Clark.

I. PRESENTATION FROM RICH REINHARDT WITH PERCY PUBLIC AFFAIRS (VIA ZOOM AT 5:00)

Rich advised there are 43 days remaining in the session and that a total of 3,366 bills have been introduced by the General Assembly.

He reviewed some of those new bills:

- HB204 concerns drinking water control and regulations, originally developed by a national organization called the Maryland Legionnaire Alliance. The bill would require water suppliers to follow rules regarding disinfectant residual levels in public water systems.
- HB925 Sewage Sludge Applications Legislation establishes restrictions on land application of sewage sludge.
- SB300 Rural Readiness Program and Rural Maryland Capacity Building Fund represent a bipartisan effort to find ways to support and promote economic development in rural communities. It will establish grant opportunities for rural areas and local governments.
- HB239 Starter and Silver Homes Act aims to create affordable housing in MD. The bill would establish some limitations, such as minimum square footage for single-family homes, setback restrictions, and design requirements.

Capital and operating budgets must be approved by April 6, 2026. There is \$350K allocated for the Cumberland Strategic Demolition fund, \$50K in the Community Legacy Program, and \$12 million for infrastructure repairs related to flooding.

II. DISCUSSION ON FIRE CHIEF RECRUITMENT

Mr. Silka shared the recruitment brochure that will be made public this week. Applications will be accepted until April 3, 2026.

III. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

- A second round of recruitment advertisements for the Historic Preservation Planner position is in place.
- Next Tuesday will be the Community Development Work Session Meeting at 4:30 pm, and the March 17 Mayor and City Council Meeting will be cancelled.
- Mr. Silka will be in Williamsburg for the ICMA Leadership Institute.

REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA OF MARCH 3, 2026

Mr. Silka advised that after the reading of the Resolution, he will include all the steps for engagement that took place.

IV. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

- The Easter Egg hunt will be on April 3rd at Gene Mason Sports Complex. Entertainment is being sought after for the summer concerts in the park.
- Councilman Frazier asked for a consensus to contribute to a monument being erected at St. Peter and Paul Cemetery.
- Preparation for the 250th parade is underway with a lot of activities to continue throughout the day.
- Mayor Morriss will be attending the Mayor's Association, and the Hooley Plunge will take place this weekend at Rocky Gap

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on April 7, 2026



Closed Session Minutes

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

2nd Floor Conference Room

Tuesday, March 3, 2026; 4:45 p.m.

On March 3, 2026, the Mayor and City Council met in public session beginning at 4:45 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. 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 Lepley, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

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

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