



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 15, 2024; 4:30 pm

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

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison Layton, City Clerk; Michael Cohen; City Solicitor; Bobby Smith, City Engineer; Shannon Adams, Fire Chief

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

I. BRIEFING ON SPEED CAMERAS

Chief Ternent briefed the Council members regarding the issue of complaints of speeding and provided information found during research of speed cameras in Maryland. There is a county Ordinance that states no police officer may utilize a traffic photo monitoring device on public roadways however, there is a stipulation saying nothing in the section prohibits the use of traffic photo monitoring device on roadways maintained by the state of MD or municipal government so the county law does allow them. There is a state code regarding the use of cameras and they can be used in a school zone area a ½ mile from school property, the schools in the area have been mapped out and do meet the stipulations. Use of the cameras would require an Ordinance being passed by the Mayor and City Council members and a defined outline of what a school zone is would need put in place as well.

Along with installing the camera, placement of signs acknowledging a school zone are required and would come at a cost from the City. Speed camera placement must be indicated with signage that comes at a cost to the vendor. It is recommended that a third party approved contractor by the state of MD is used, they provide their own speed study of the streets meeting the criteria, install and maintain their equipment and liaison with the Police Department for the issuance of citations. Once the vendor fee has been satisfied, the remaining portion would go to the City.

The Citations would not add points the driver's license, would not exceed an amount more than \$40. When speed exceeds 12MPH or more, the citation is issued to the owner of the vehicle, not the driver. Cameras are only active Monday-Friday from 6:00 AM -8:00 PM. A sworn Police officer would need appointed as an administrator to receive the citation information and confirm the details are correct along with attending court if the defendant challenges it. Managing the program could create a burden due to the cost of utilizing officers that may need to be addressed at some point. The vendor would be responsible for issuing refunds in the event of any errors on their end. A discussion took place about areas in the City that would be of benefit to the cameras and all agreed that looking in to the Ordinance was in the best interest of the City. Chief Ternent agreed to set up a presentation with the vendor that would provide the service.

II. DISCUSSION ON CHURCH/BUTLER ALLEY PARKING ISSUE

Robert Smith addressed the Councilmembers in regards to a previous discussion around parking spaces for residents of the adjacent buildings and pointed out that six of the parking spaces on the left-hand side do not meet ADA requirements but if there are converted to permit spaces, meeting ADA requirements is not an issue. Four to six additional spaces can be added along with the six already designated. Determination needs acquired of how many residents want to purchase a permit so those parking spaces can be identified. The right -hand side would identify no parking areas and could be used for encroachment agreements for dumpsters. Other areas that would be identified as no parking include in front of doors and sprinklers and the McMullan Building to George Street. Adding additional parking spaces can be evaluated and discussed if needed.

Loading/unloading areas are identified but the recommendation is to remove the signage due to the areas being in a no parking area and would blocking the road. Robert said that if the City would like more handicapped spaces identified he can look in to configurations and bringing it to the Mayor and City Council for consideration.

III. UPDATE ON THE SKATEPARK

Mr. Silka began the discussion by updating the budget for the project of \$575K and the lowest bid received was for \$787K putting the total budget over \$212K. At this time, reducing the size of the project is in the best interests. The original bid from the skatepark contractor was \$484K and is now at \$601K for concrete which includes the general contractor fee of 5%. The original amount budgeted for the City was \$550-600K and did include a substantial amount that was cut out of the design. A discussion was held with the Finance Department to discuss allocating the \$212K from the unassigned fund balance and they confirmed this was possible.

A question about other funding sources was brought up and it was confirmed that was explored but unfortunately due to the high cost, it was not successful. At this time a decision needs to be made to move forward due to the cost increasing and the ARPA funds only being available until July. The County is committed to \$250K, \$325K of ARPA funds and the remainder from the City. It was suggested and agreed by all that a phone call to the county would be beneficial to see if they would consider splitting the additional costs with the City and if that is not an option moving forward with the Skatepark was unanimous.

IV. CONTINUED DISCUSSION SURROUNDING THE CITY'S MISSION STATEMENT MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Mr. Silka addressed the Mayor and City Council in regards to the Mission statement and mentioned the first sentence should be the Mission of the City and the primary purpose. Council members read their statements and discussed using pieces of each other's and building on the goals and visions so that key points are included and interest is not lost. The context of how the statement explains the mission was discussed and ideas will be put together for a later discussion.

V. REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA OF OCTOBER 15, 2024

Mr. Silka addressed a few Orders on the agenda he wanted to review with the Council members:

Order # 1 the purchase of Turn out gear for Fire Department new hires

Order #3 the proposal for Percy Public Affairs for renewing the contract for Rich Rhinehart

Order #9 regarding the comprehensive plan for the City provided by Woodvalley Strategies and explained the urgency to have this completed by next year and due to the reasonable cost a bidding process is not necessary.

VI. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

- Council members attended Rock the Block this past weekend and mentioned the great turnout for a first -time event and noted the effort Chris Meyers put forth. Also, the grand opening of the Community Café was held and they are currently open only on Sunday's from 12:00-2:00 PM.
- The Halloween event at the Constitution Park is October 27, 2024 from 4:00-7:00 PM and is still in need of some volunteers. There will be a haunted trail and a costume contest as well as the Halloween parade to follow on October 30, 2024 and October 17, 2024 will be the Trunk or Treat at White Oaks shopping plaza.
- Lights still need installed for the Downtown project and bike racks will be installed on Liberty and Centre Streets.
- Transition to a Main Street model with a two-tiered structure is under way with the help of Larry Jackson and Sandi Saville.
- Registration portals are now available for the scavenger hunt and parade for the Community Day event, both activities are advertised on social media platforms.
- Ride in to History will be November 13, 2024 at 9:00 AM and raffle tickets are selling fast with all proceeds going towards restaurants affected by construction.
- Recent visits from Governor Morre, Former Governor Hogan and Congressman Trone have been received and students from Columbia University who visited the area last week are using Cumberland as a role model for a Master's project that six students will be complete on different areas of Cumberland.
- October 23, 2024 Jake Day will be touring Baltimore Street and October 24, 2024 Allegany College of Maryland Students will be touring as well.
- Grant opportunities are still available, 74 Baltimore Street received a grant to repair the wall of the building and is using the leftover funds to offer a new business free rent for the first year. The Arcadian received approval from the Historic Preservation Committee for façade approval with matching funds up to \$10K. Grant opportunities are available on National, State and Local levels.
- Habitat for Humanity in LaVale is now open.
- Leadership Allegany is November 7, 2024, any ideas to ensure it aligns with government priorities are welcome. Dr. Bambara from Allegany College has been honored to receive the Icon award from the Daily Record.
- Councilwoman Marchini participated in the Candidate forum last week
- The service for Paul Green was mentioned and his involvement in the commercial development in the City for 40 years.
- During a recent visit to Kentucky, Mayor Morriss visited with Dr. Gates and he had some positive feedback regarding Cumberland.
- October is Breast Cancer Awareness month.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton

City Clerk

Minutes approved on November 4, 2024