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, October 21, 2025; 5:15 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, Chief Pyles.

Media: Hannah Fout, WCBC

I. GOAL SETTING SESSION REVIEW

Mr. Silka referred to the Goal Setting Review on September 24, 2025 and presented the SWOT analysis based on the feedback from the Mayor and City Council. He reviewed updated key points from each category from the session as well as the Mission Statement. All of Council agreed to the updates and Mr. Silka advised it will be ready to put on the agenda for the next meeting for approval.

II. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Mr. Silka advised of a tentative grand opening for the Skatepark for November 8, 2025, a time is still being determined.

Of the 17 benches available for naming opportunities, eight have been sold and some interest in the waterfall.

III. REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA OF OCTOBER 21, 2025

Mr. Silka reviewed the agenda and provided insight on the following items:

- Order No. 3 refers to our salt appropriation with Cargill, Inc. at $143 a ton.
- Order No. 8 refers to the top dressing and seeding from First Fruits Excavating.
- Order No. 9 refers to the increased costs for the River Park project that the Canal Place will cover.
- Order No. 12 refers to the easement for 231 Cumberland Street for the Cumberland Street bridge repair.

Mayor Morriss referenced Order No. 7 to purchase a Fairbanks Nijhuis pump for $168,800. He was informed by Bobby Smith that four pumps are needed. Last year, $300K was allocated for three pumps. Rising costs are challenging us, as inflation pushes prices higher. Specialty parts are bid on with a 24-month lead time, during which their prices increase.

IV. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Roger Collins, a former city employee, will be hosting a chili cook-off this coming weekend from 2:00-5:00 at 221 Mary Street. Proceeds are given toa cancer patient or the cancer center.

Allegany Leadership Rising and the Chamber of Commerce events drew An excellent turnout.

Councilman Furstenberg reminded us of Homecoming and the event held at his residence, with proceeds given to Let's Beautify Cumberland. A second charity is under consideration.

Last Friday, the Mayor and City Council and the City staff hosted the City of Brunswick, MD, for a tour of downtown and a discussion on the revitalization of Baltimore Street. Groups were taken to various departments to observe operations, and the tour ended with lunch at Lefty's. The town of Poolesville has also expressed interest in visiting.

Ribbon Cutting for Red Hen's liquidations this Thursday at 11:00 AM at 631 Mechanic Street. Also, the 25th Anniversary for the Kensington will be held this Thursday at 2:00 PM

The Appropriations Committee will be hosted by the City this Friday from 10:30-1:30 at the Rosenbaum building.

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on November 4, 2025

Closed Session Minutes

City Hall, 57 N. Liberty Street, Cumberland, MD 21502
2nd Floor Conference Room
Tuesday, October 21, 2025; 4:00 p.m.

On October 21, 2025, the Mayor and City Council met in public session beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of City Hall for the purpose of immediately closing the meeting to (A) discuss pending litigation with CSX and potential litigation pertaining to a dispute over the amounts owed for utilities from a particular customer as permitted by Section 3-305(b)(8) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland; (B) receive legal advice from the City Solicitor relative to the availability of a particular tax credit and potential revisions to code enforcement provisions in the City Code, as permitted by Section 3-305 (b)(7); and (C) to receive legal advice from the City Solicitor with regard to the West side bridges also as permitted by Section 3-305(b)(7) of the said General Provisions Article.

MOTION: Motion to enter into Closed Session was made by Council Member Frazier seconded by Council Member Furstenberg, 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; Ken Tressler, Director of Administrative Services; Robert Smith, City Engineer; and Ruth Davis-Rogers, Historic Preservation Coordinator.