



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, February 18, 2025; 4:45 pm

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

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

Media: Hannah Fout, WCBC

I. PROPERTY TAX CREDITS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS

Mr. Silka opened the discussion and advised of an update to the State Code which allows for property tax abatement for any Public Safety Officer residing in the City for Council to take in to consideration.

The concern was raised regarding Police Officers who leave to go work for the County. Since it is an incentive for recruitment, not providing it would diminish that ability. The key point is that the City currently provides a tax abatement for City Police Officers living within the City limits. If this policy were to be implemented, it would also extend tax abatements to Public Safety Officers who reside in the City but are not employed by the City.

It was agreed unanimously that the policy change should not be moved forward.

II. DISCUSSION ON A COMMUNITY WIDE CLEAN-UP DAY

Mr. Silka opened the discussion and informed the Council members that he had been approached about organizing a city cleanup day, suggesting that it be scheduled around Earth Day. A discussion ensued among the Council Members and all were in agreeance to move forward with organizing the event.

III. REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 18, 2025

Mr. Silka informed the Council Members of the consultant attending the Public Hearing for the CDBG 2025 Annual Action Plan.

IV. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

- The DDC is looking for sponsors for Farmers Market and Friday After 5. BID letters went out to the property owners and a meeting is set for February 26, 2025 at 6:00 PM at City Hall to discuss survey results.
- The Allegany Museum is partnering with the Embassy Theatre for fundraising, to perform a murder mystery April 3-5. The Allegany Museum is working towards partnering with the Historical Society.
- Continuous monitoring of the events in Annapolis is ongoing, and if necessary, Mayor Morriss and Mayor Logsdon from Frostburg can testify before the House and Senate.

V. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on March 4, 2025

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

Closed Session Minutes

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

2nd Floor Conference Room

Tuesday, February 18, 2025; 4:00 p.m.

On February 18, 2025, the Mayor and City Council met in closed session at 4:00 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room in City Hall for the purpose of immediately closing the meeting to discuss Board and Commission appointments, to receive legal advice regarding a potential new Ordinance and to receive legal advice and input from staff regarding the waiver of a conflict of interest and to receive legal advice regarding matters pertaining to a sewer line relining project. Authority to close the session is provided by Sections 3-305(b)(1)(i) and (b)(7) 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, and Brian Lepley

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