



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 1, 2024; 5:15 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; Robert Smith, City Engineer; Shannon Adams, Fire Chief; Chief Ternent

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

I. DISCUSSION ABOUT THE EVALUATION PROCESS FOR THE CHOOSE CUMBERLAND RELOCATION PROGRAM

Mr. Silka addressed the Mayor and City Council in regards to forming a committee and would like two members of the Council to participant. The candidates for evaluation would be narrowed down to the top 20, reviewed and then the top 10 chosen. The preferred goal for this to be completed would be before the holidays. Councilpersons Cioni and Marchini indicated they would like to represent Council on the committee.

II. CONTINUED DISCUSSION ABOUT THE CITY'S MISSION STATEMENT

Due to time this was tabled for the next meeting.

III. REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA OF OCTOBER 1, 2024

The Councilmembers discussed the Ordinance banning food at the Riverside Parklet and Mayor Morriss mentioned receiving several emails from concerned residents as well as those opposed. The Ordinance would be enforced by issuing a citation of \$25 to the person or Organization that is handing out food or beverages as well as those consuming. In the event the defendant is not able to pay the fine, they would have to pursue the fine in court and a judge would determine the consequence. The issue surrounding the Ordinance is not directed to homelessness but instead maintaining the area and preserving the history of the George Washington headquarters to continue attracting tourism and revenue for the City. The issue of homelessness was acknowledged and it is not the intention of the City for anyone to go hungry, but instead prefer the groups feeding people would do it in an area that is not a historic landmark for our City.

- IV. Mr. Silka updated the Mayor and City Council that Ordinance #3993 would need a motion to amend for the 2nd & 3rd readings due to verbiage and also clarified Order #8 explaining that is a special taxing district exemption.

V. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

- Councilman Fraizer spoke of the Community Café ribbon cutting ceremony on Sunday October 6, 2024 at 1:30 P.M.
- Will Ferrell traveled through Cumberland while filming a Netflix movie and local Ty Johnson, running back for the Buffalo Bills gave some recognition recently to Cumberland.
- Work still continues on Baltimore Street and the Streetscape, a great deal of appreciation belongs to Triton for their efforts, Carl Belt for their work on the Baltimore Street Bridge, Bobby Smith and Matt Miller for assisting with all of the details and of course all of the businesses who stayed open during this project.
- Saturday November 16, 2024 will be the community event and is coming together with music to help showcase the new Downtown project, volunteers are still needed if anyone is able to offer a few hours of their time. Also, a raffle will be available for the first people to drive on the street.
- We had the honor of receiving a visit from Governor Wes Moore and Congressman David Trone. The Governor provided positive feedback on the Baltimore Street project and how much he enjoyed Western Maryland. Melinda Kelleher provided great review of all of the businesses that have opened during the project. During his visit he also attended a meeting with the Canal Place board for an update on the Riverpark. It was

mentioned that David Trone has done a lot for the City during his three terms in office including the \$4.8 million dollars for the Fayette Street Bridge. We sincerely appreciate their service to our community.

- The City participated in a successful Dragonboat race hosted by the YMCA.
- Quarterly townhall meeting for the Baltimore Street project was held last Thursday (September 26, 2024)
- Habitat for Humanity community store, 28 Lane Avenue in LaVale will be opening on October 3, 2024. The public Arts Presentation at the Masonic Arts Temple is October 3, 2024 6:00-8:30 P.M. Verizon will have a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 4, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.
- Candidate Hogan and Parrott will also be in Allegany County on October 11, 2024
- October 12, 2024 will be Rock the Block

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on October 15, 2024