



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, July 15, 2025; 5:15 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; Michael Cohen, City Solicitor; Chief Adams; Acting Chief Lieutenant Bonner; Ryan Mackey, Director of Parks and Recreation

Media: Hannah Fout, WCBC and Katelynn Winebrenner, Cumberland Times News

I. DISCUSSION ON THE HOTEL/MOTEL GRANT

Mr. Silka opened the discussion and directed the Mayor and City Councilmembers to provide their allocations for FY26 funding. Councilman Cioni advised that he would like to see funding provided for the Cumberland Theatre for \$ 3,500, even though they did not submit all of the required documents, based on the long-standing relationship the City has with the organization. Mr. Silka updated on a new electronic application format for next

year's applicants that does not allow the recipient to advance through the application process without completing the requirements.

II. DISCUSSION ON A FIELD HOUSE

Mr. Silka updated that the CEDC is guiding the process, and the first step is to complete a feasibility study. They have applied for 75% of the grant funding to cover the cost, and then an RFP would be available for consultants. The study would be comprehensive, taking into consideration demographics, economic impact, community assets, and an independent assessment of what is needed for an athletic facility, as well as the marketability of the location to attract events. The study will be conducted within the next six months.

III. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Mr. Silka presented updates to the Council Members:

- As we approach the 250th anniversary of our country in 2026, there is a limited amount of grant funding available for this occasion. He has suggested forming a small committee to coordinate city activities and utilize the funds to hire interns who will assist in planning the celebration events.
- A site visit to Mason's Sports Complex revealed that the fields could not open due to floodwaters damaging the soil beneath. Contractors will be hired to level the ground and lay new sod in the area.
- July 28, 2025, at 6:00-7:30 PM, a Public Session will be held for the Comprehensive Plan Study.
- Applications for the Citizens Local Government Academy will be available at the end of the month for the second session starting on September 11, 2025.
- Jason Bennett is still awaiting feedback from the judges about the parking situation.
- The August meeting will be rescheduled to August 6, 2025.
- Dates for scheduling a Goal Setting session will be sent out, and Mr. Silka will be on vacation the following week.

IV. REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA OF JULY 15, 2025

- Mr. Silka updated the agenda items of specific interest:
- Ordinance 4019 refers to the DDC permit and appeals process for the events application.
- Order #6 renewal of the LGIT Municipal Insurance coverages.
- Order #7 is for the Choose Cumberland relocation package, and one person has backed out of the process.
- Order #11 is for Thermoplastic markings for downtown.
- Order #12 refers to the three-year collective bargaining agreement with AFSCME.
- Order #15 refers to adopting the new City Seal.
- Order #20 refers to the Carolina Tower Christmas Tree that will be purchased by a private benefactor who will be presented at the 2nd Mayor and City Council meeting in August.
- Order #21 refers to the updated Sexual Harassment Policy.

V. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

- Concrete footers have been laid for the construction of Chipotle.
- The Canal Place drew a large turnout for both the Fireworks and Friday After 5 events, and Queen City Funk and Soul will perform at the next event on August 22nd.
- Levitt AMP is every Thursday at 6:45 PM

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on August 6, 2025

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

Closed Session Minutes

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

2nd Floor Conference Room

Tuesday, July 15, 2025; 4:30 p.m.

On July 15, 2025, the Mayor and City Council met in public session beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of City Hall for the purpose of immediately closing the meeting to discuss issues pertaining to an employee's work performance, to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition, and to receive the advice of the City Solicitor regarding litigation pertaining to CSX. Authority to close the session is provided by Sections 3-305(b)(1)(i), (b)(3) 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 Furstenberg seconded by Council Member Frazier, 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; Robert Smith; City Engineer, and Erik Pilk; representation for CSX