



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 17, 2024; 4:00 pm

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

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison Layton, City Clerk; Michael Cohen; City Solicitor; Matt Miller; Executive Director of the CEDC, Stu Czapski; Economic Development Specialist with the CEDC

Media: Teresa McMinn, Cumberland Times-News and Chris Meyers, WCBC

I. UPDATE ON THE DOWNTOWN COMPREHENSIVE INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Stu Czapski provided an update on the Façade program that is nearing completion. He mentioned there are 24 properties involved in the program, 12 are completed, four have received first draw and work has started on eight properties. Over \$223K have been disbursed of the \$400K funds.

Residential properties are slower in progress due to them being larger projects, there are six total properties involved, one is completed and two have received first draw leaving a balance of \$155K remaining.

The Business attraction grant funds have been dispersed. Some of the businesses rental agreements have taken the road closure into consideration and reduced the monthly rent that will end in November. Queen City Creamery has received all of their funding and more disbursements are expected in November and December. Funds were disbursed to all who

applied and qualified under the guidelines and there is a waiting list should any remaining funds come available, details on how the process would be opened up again would not be known for several month.

Should the funding become available the CEDC would discuss with the Mayor and City Council members on preference of disbursing the funds. There may be needs for funding since the downtown project began 18 months ago so the CEDC will continue to accept Façade projects.

II. UPDATE ON THE DOWNTOWN SURVEILLANCE PROJECT

Matt Miller updated the Mayor and City Council of the CEDC receiving funding towards their efforts of enhancing public safety and used the \$90K to purchase a mobile surveillance camera, enhancement of the Police command center and camera installation at the Queen City Drive underpass. Matt disbursed a hand out to explain how the funds are being used.

A plan was discussed between the CEDC and the PD regarding options for mobile surveillance and the decision was made to move forward with Sentry Pro. The device is equipped with two PTZ (Pan tilt zoom) cameras along with two mid-range PTZ cameras, two 180 -degree bandwidth detection devices, one two-way speaker, one MVR and a 10 – day backup battery. The Police department can activate the system in less than 10 minutes from any location with cell reception and live feed can be accessed remotely 24 – hours a day.

The Motion detection feature will sound an alarm and signal the monitoring officer when motion is detected within 5 feet of the unit and will provide a pre-recorded alert or give the Officer the ability to communicate.

A video was provided of an overview of the equipment.

Matt explained that the only recurring cost would be the data plan that the Police Department would absorb, the turn around would be two weeks with the hopes of receiving it before the Ghouley Crawl. Research has shown that the presence of the device prevents activity. The next phase would include updating the monitoring system for the Police Department at a cost of \$235,700 and is 100% grant funded.

III. GENERAL CEDC BUSINESS UPDATE

1. Ride into the Future Raffle – The CEDC is sponsoring a raffle to support the Downtown restaurants. The raffle consists of 10 chances to be the 1st to legally drive down Baltimore Street. Proceeds could be used to purchase outdoor furnishings for the restaurants and tickets can be purchased for one chance for \$10 or five chances for \$45, so far sales are at \$675.

2. Marketing Initiative - The CEDC received a \$50K grant to implement a marketing plan for project promotion which will allow the success story of the City of Cumberland to be shared while collaborating with other entities to generate revenue. A portion of the funding will be used to hire a professional marketing consultant to oversee the plan. An RFQ was issued to solicit qualified applicants to provide a proposal and interviews are currently being conducted, announcement of the award finalist should be available within the next week.
3. Messick Road Site – Western MD Lumber has cleared timber from the property along the road and created an access site. Funding is needed and being actively pursued to execute a grading plan and should yield 13-14 acres. Engagement has taken place with businesses interested in relocating to the site as well as an engineer to put together a plan. Due to the high cost of excavation, this plan is net neutral because all of the dirt removed will stay on site. ARC could possibly fund 70% of the \$1.5M total.
4. Grand Reopening – The CEDC has partnered with Julie Westendorff to celebrate the conclusion of the Baltimore Street project on November 16, 2024 that begins at Noon with a parade and followed by a scavenger hunt to engage interaction with new features. There will also be six bands playing throughout the day, logistics for street closures are still being worked through.

Matt ended by updating the Baltimore Street project was submitted to the Maryland Economic Development Association (MEDA) for project of the year award and are will not be awarded until Spring of 2025.

When asked to provide the different phases of the Surveillance Project, Matt provided the following details:

- Phase 1 – installation of 11 cameras with supporting equipment along with the main server that is located in the Lila building.
- Phase - 2 is a continuation with the addition of three more cameras for a total of 14 camera pods that each house three cameras to provide 42 camera views throughout downtown. The Police Department provided data showing a decrease in crime since camera installation.
- Phase 3 – Installation of Camera Trailer

IV. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on November 4, 2024