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, July 16, 2024; 5:30 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; Bobby Smith, Director of Engineering and Utilities; Chuck Ternent, Chief of Police; Shannon Adams, Fire Chief;

Media: Teresa McMinn, Kathy Cornwell, Cumberland Times-News

Sandra Roeder, Citizen

I. DISCUSSION ON THE CHURCH/BUTLER ALLEY PARKING ISSUE

Bobby Smith began the discussion by addressing the Church Alley Parking issue that is owned by the City and is a public right of way. He presented the M&CC a map that outlines the area of coverage which goes from building to building with the exception of the parking spaces behind the Book Center. The parking area behind the parklet that is leased to Ottaviani's, is City property and is part of the right of way. The issue that has occurred over the past few months is parking in a manner that EMS are not able to pass through. In the evenings parking is sometimes 2-3 cars deep and parking on Rose's property. The owner has been advised that it is his responsibility to put signage up and tow if he feels the need.

Other issues are also with contractors not contracted with the City, parking in the area as well, and near the transformer. The City is trying to enforce the existing land rights, by restricting parking on the right -hand side of the road by putting new signage up. Parking on the left -hand side would be available with Parkmobile. Extending out of the area towards George Street, there are some handicapped parking spaces and two of them do not meet accessibility guidelines so they would be designated as Parkmobile spaces.

Another issue with the property being a public right of way is with individuals storing dumpsters without encroachment agreements. The suggestion was made to M&CC to consult with Mike Cohen on this issue on how to address it.
Bobby stated that there could be backlash from building owners and tenants, he advised to use the parking garage or find additional parking in designated areas to allow EMS vehicles to properly pass through.

Councilwoman Marchini asked if the owners of the building have agreements to park in those areas, Bobby responded that there are no private parking permits, the only permits are for handicap parking and those permits are issued by the MVA which allows the City to put a sign in front of the business owners building. There are no spots designated for a specific individual. Bobby goes on to explain that the six parking spaces behind the Book Center are leased to the owner of the store, therefore he can work out any kind of an arrangement that he chooses to allow parking. Loading/unloading zones cannot be allowed in the alley due to the issue that it creates for EMS passage. Signage would be removed and the usage of the parking garage, meters and Parkmobile would need to be utilized.

Councilman Cioni asked how many parking spaces are of concern and if it is due to the opening of new businesses. Bobby responded that it is his understanding that the issue is a result of patrons utilizing the businesses and that after 5:00 P.M. Thursday-Saturday there are issues getting through. Councilman Frazier raised the concern of the business owners complaining that there will not be an area for loading and unloading for business deliveries. Bobby advised that they could use North Centre Street, but there will not be any loading or unloading signs. Loading and unloading signs allows the enforcement of something, the difference is you cannot get a vehicle around a delivery truck so therefore, there will not be loading/unloading signs on the mall after the project because that takes away parking spots. That is the recommendation as of right now, we can pivot if we find that it is not working or if we receive new information.

Mayor Morriss added that right now we have a safety issue with emergency vehicles being able to pass through. Bobby added that this issue is not only in the evening but has also been witnessed throughout the day as well. Councilman Furstenberg asked how a tractor trailer can get through being as it is only one way and how you would get to the dock at Rose's. Bobby replied that they would have to go through the side of McDonald's. Laurie asked if tractor trailers would be permitted on Baltimore Street, Bobby advised that the road has been designed to accommodate the turning radius.

II. UPDATE ON THE CITIZENS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACADEMY

Mr. Silka updated M&CC on the social media event the City is launching called Behind the Curtain, which is a look at the operation of the local government. Next week there will be a more comprehensive post on what it is and at the end of the month, applications will be out and made live. The academy will have 20 slots available and will begin on September 19, 2024 and will continue the next six Thursdays preceding. Outlines of the sessions will be available by Friday with all of the details, the City hoping to get 20 people interested in learning more about how the City of Cumberland operates. Applications will be available on the website.

III. REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA OF JULY 16, 2024

Recognition of Mr. Harriss. Laurie asked if recognition could be given for Lucile Roeder as the first city councilwoman in the state of MD, all council members agreed.

Mayor Morriss asked for questions concerning anything on agenda.

Mr. Silka updated that the Hazard Mitigation plan is a FEMA plan that the City prepares to show areas prone to flooding, which will then allow the County and City to be eligible for funding through the FEMA Mitigation plan. Jeff went on to explain that everything on the orders is self- explanatory, and that he has provided the IAFF contracts with markups, no changes from what was discussed in closed session at the last meeting, mentioning buying meter boxes for the year. Councilman Cioni asked how much of Greene Street was able to be done this time, Bobby responded from Smallwood Street up to the Baltimore Street bridge and then to the Mechanic Street intersection, so basically blending two grant funded projects with a city funded project. The schedule is tentative at the moment due to a water line that is in need of repair before the paving can be completed. Anticipated timeframe would be October.

Concerning the meter vendors, Laurie asked why there are three if they are a sole source, Jeff answered that due to the meters not all being the same there are different manufacturers specific to each meter.

IV. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Councilman Furstenberg reminded the council of Rock the Mountains the coming weekend, Friday through Sunday, with Sunday being all Country. Mayor Morriss added that Sunday is the new day they are adding this year. Friday and Saturday would be all heavy metal & rock. Vendors set up as well. Councilman Cioni added that the Salvation Army would benefit from the event as well and that LBC would be at the Fair this week taking donations for the clock.

Councilman Frazier updated that he was at the Fair to participate in the judging for the Robotics and mentioned the different presentations they did with different schools and how amazed he was with the kids and their knowledge of the information being discussed and the skills they have with robotics.

Laurie updated the status of the waterfall as of Thursday, stating that the plumbing was completed and the next steps would be moving to the mechanical components. Work continues for 5G fiber optic cables as well as the pavers and advised that Liberty Street and Centre Street will remain closed until the final inspection is completed. Once the driving starts the warranty begins and reminds all that it is still an active construction zone. Meetings are still being held every other week for the Baltimore Street ribbon cutting on November 14, 2024 and a dedicated page is being created to provide all information in one place. Save the date invitations will go out electronically. Ribbon cutting will be on Thursday November 14, 2024, Friday night there will be music and a festival with live music on Saturday night. This is a community event so the City will be

connecting with businesses to make sure they are open and participating, more details as they are provided.

Laurie continued that the City has received a grant for $300K for 74 Baltimore Street at the waterfall where the plan is to have a mural. Also, a grant was received to renovate the downstairs portion of 7911 Liberty Street in an effort to open a business. A grant has also been received for $25K for a part time marketing position and costs. Two more town hall meetings in September and October. Cumberland received certification from the Main Street and Jake Day spoke at length saying that Cumberland should be a model for the rest of the state. Friday after Five was successful, music at the Farmers Market every other week is going well. Some council members will be participating in the Main Street training on August 8, 2024. Mayor Morriss and Laurie attended a meeting with April Delany to share our concerns and plans for funding from her office, should she be elected.

Mayor Morriss reminded everyone of the ribbon cutting for the Constitution Park Trail on Thursday, which includes five miles of multi-use trails and one mile being handicap accessible. M&CC has expressed concerns in the revitalization of the Constitution Park so this project provides an outlet for outdoor recreation for city residents. The Ceremony is at 5:00 P.M.
There is a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Diamondz Event Center on Wednesday at 11:00 A.M. at 305 Virginia Avenue. Virginia Avenue is a focus area for the City in hopes to make it a vibrant business area. Thursday is the attainable housing meeting at HRDC. Reminded that Farmers Market every Thursday, this week if the John Jorgenson bluegrass band, also Rock the Mountains Friday-Sunday. And last there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at Cat's Cradle Vintage Shop on Centre Street.

V. ADJOURNEMNT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on: August 20, 2024