



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 Council Chambers
57 N. Liberty Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

Tuesday, August 20, 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; Chuck Terner, Chief of Police; Shannon Adams, Fire Chief;

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

I. REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA OF AUGUST 20, 2024

Mayor Morriss spoke to the Let's Beautify Cumberland awards and how thankful we are for the residents who take pride in their yards and homes to make Cumberland beautiful and noted that every year the duration of the ceremony increases due to the growing number of residents being involved in the project.

Jeff Silka directed the Mayor and City Council's attention to the Orders and referred to #10 and went on to explain this is for the sole source purchase of software for the Public Works Department and added that Brooke Cassell and Devin Burke have been evaluating public works software for the past seven months and this software tracks fleet, usage and cost of projects and feel that it fits the Department's needs.

Jeff spoke to the acceptance of MERJE for the Wayfinding Plan. Mayor Morriss added that some good proposals have been received and the best approach to Wayfinding is to view it as someone who has never been to Cumberland, starting with I-68 and in to Downtown, and verifying if exits are labeled correctly and is parking able to be located based on directed signs. Jeff added that a part of the presentation included an app for people to use that will sync with ParkMobile which will direct them to parking areas. When people come to Cumberland, they are looking for places to eat, entertainment and places to park.

Mayor Morriss gave praise to the Police Department for all of the work and time spent on applying for grants to improve our community.

Mayor Morriss mentioned Order #5 and informed the Council that he has received inquiries from citizens regarding expanding the open container permit and that addressing it may be something to consider.

II. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Councilman Fraizer updated the council of the Yappy Hour at Azad's from 4:30-6:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening hosted by Ruth Davis-Rogers, with next week being hosted by Courtney McKay.

Councilman Cioni updated that he had spoken with the Parks and Recreation Director and everything is in place for a Halloween celebration in the Park that will also include the "Friends in the Park" group.

Councilwoman Marchini updated on the passing of John Buchanan who served on the Downtown Development Commission board and was a passionate advocate for our community and will be greatly missed. The viewing and funeral will be Friday. Laurie continued with DDC updates and mentioned that the DDC Director has been collaborating with Rocky Gap in regards to promoting events downtown and they have agreed to consider running a shuttle to Baltimore Street along with the current stop at Canal Place and are considering providing this service at the Winter Festival and looking in to future events as well. The DDC is also working to expand signage to promote events to display outside of the City. There will be two Town Hall meetings held on September 26, 2024, one at 10:00 a.m. and at 3:00 p.m. The meeting will cover the Ribbon Cutting ceremony on November 14, 2024 and all events to follow that weekend.

Laurie went on to remind everyone of September 13, 2024, Heritage Days weekend and advised that the DDC will have a booth that will cover downtown, DDC, Historic Preservation and Parks and Recreation. This will also be the conclusion of Friday after 5. Again, reminding everyone of the Ribbon Cutting ceremony on November 14, 2024 as well as the Community Day on November 16, 2024 featuring live music, a scavenger hunt, kid's activities and a small parade

as well as the Winter Festival on December 14, 2024. Also, this weekend Ferleman Gallery will be providing music.

The Project Restore program will be providing \$300,000 to three businesses downtown for restorations to be completed and have a tenant in place within one year. Also, Laurie provided a good explanation of what Wayfinding is, using visual clues to connect to coordinate sites. Laurie also mentioned that she met with Comptroller Lehman's work group and the focus was on building up the website and added that they are welcome to any suggestions or input, as they are working towards creating a dedicated section for local Government, to include tax assistance for seniors and Veterans benefits. Also, Eugene and Laurie attended the Landlord Forum. On a final note, Laurie mentioned the last concert for the Levitt Series featuring the Fantastic Cat and ended by updating all that not only did Michigan have Cumberland featured on their website but also Main Street America is featuring the Downtown project as well.

Mayor Morriss spoke to Heritage Days on September 12, 2024 and updated that the Women's Civic Club will be hosting the kickoff of Heritage Days with a reception and cocktail party. Friday the 13th will be the Whiskey Rebellion and he and Laurie would be working the bar and encouraged all to come early.

Mayor Morriss brought up the Citizens Local Government Academy, Jeff updated that all spots are now filled. Also, while attending MACO in Ocean City he had a good conversation with State Officials and the Minority leader of the Senate and was able to see Governor Moore at the Governor's Reception and reminded him to keep Cumberland on his radar.

Mayor Morriss mentioned the meeting with CSX that he attended with Robert Smith and Michael Cohen regarding the sewage system issues that are taking place under the railroad yards, showing them what the City believes are the issues. The hope is that this will now show CSX that some of the issues are more accessible than what they may have been aware of and to highlight the seriousness of the project.

III. ADJOURNEMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on September 3, 2024