



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, May 20, 2025; 5:30 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; Shannon Berry, Assistant to City Clerk; Chief Ternent; Chief Adams,

Media: Hannah Fout, WCBC and Theresa McMinn, Cumberland Times News

I. SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION POLICY FOR BALTIMORE STREET

Mr. Silka began by discussing the Memorial Day Parade and a policy he was drafting. He proposed amending Article Five of the City Code to include Parades and Special Events in the Special Taxing District. He then reviewed the proposed draft with the Council members.

Since the DDC approves the event application, we cannot set stipulations. The DDC can advocate for the business owners and determine if the event is beneficial for everyone involved. Once they have approved an application and informed the City, a plan to reroute traffic can be created if necessary. All Councilmembers agreed to the addition,

and Mr. Silka indicated that an Ordinance would be drafted for approval at the next Mayor and City Council Meeting.

II. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

- ❖ Mr. Silka updated on the pool and advised that after the pool was filled and chlorinated for the final inspection, it was discovered a section of the liner had ripped. Unfortunately, as planned, the pool will not be open for Memorial Day weekend. A temporary solution involves using additional liner material to patch the area through the end of the season, with hopes of opening on May 31, 2025. The cost of replacing the liner is \$200K, and it is uncertain if one can be obtained in June.
- ❖ Flooding occurred last week in the Tri-State area and while Cumberland was fortunate, Mason Park Complex suffered damage. 900 feet of fencing, new garbage cans, goals, and bases were washed away, all of which are covered under insurance. The two infields completed last year are lost and not covered under insurance; both infields total \$70 K. The current insurance policy only covers what is sitting above ground.

At this time, it is anticipated to be closed until July 4th due to the wet ground and the inability to mow the grass.

Mr. Silka recognized and showed his appreciation to the Public Works department for their proactive response and preparation for the worst, including working through the night.

- ❖ Another update is for Hotel/Motel applications. Seventeen have been received this year, and after review, recommendations will be presented to the Mayor and City Council.
- ❖ On a final note, the City has been accepted into the International City Management Association (ICMA) cohort training for economic mobility, which provides ways to help citizens climb the economic scale. A \$20K grant is provided, as well as travel accommodations for two people to attend events. Ruth Davis-Rogers will join Mr. Silka in Baltimore this week to attend the first conference. Cumberland is one of 15 Cities in the nation that was selected for this opportunity.

III. REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA OF MAY 20, 2025

Mr. Silka mentioned Chris Sloan's presentation and advised that it is just for consideration; no final decisions are being made.

Order # 1 is from WPS Parking Systems to upgrade Frederick and George Street parking garages with user-friendly pay stations, QR codes, and license plate readers.

Order # 3 is about this year's timber sale.

Order # 10 refers to a temporary right-of-way with CSX for City engineers to enter the property and continue investigating the sewer line.

IV. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Ty Johnson's football camp had 300 attendees, and it was nice to see Ty giving back to the community.

Sharing and Caring took place on Saturday, which resulted in many volunteers. Ed Mullaney commented on the great staff participation.

Canal Place will host the Western MD Kidney Walk on May 24, 2025, starting at 3:00 PM. Pine Avenue Day will be held on Memorial Day at 9:00 AM.

Spring Clean-up Day was a success, with several dumpsters emptied and brought back onsite. Depending on the overall cost, this is something to consider every spring.

DelFest will be held this weekend, starting Thursday and continuing through Sunday evening at the Fairgrounds.

The Veterans Memorial celebration will be held at Rocky Gap on Saturday at 2:00 PM.

V. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on June 3, 2025

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

Closed Session Minutes

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

2nd Floor Conference Room

Tuesday, May 20, 2025; 5:00 p.m.

On May 20, 2025, the Mayor and City Council met in public session beginning at 5:00 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. Authority to close the session is provided by Section 3-305(b)(1)(i) 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 Cioni, 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;