



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
Wednesday, August 6, 2025; 5:00 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; Shannon Berry; Assistant to the City Clerk, Acting Chief Lieutenant Bonner; and Devin Burke; Street Superintendent

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

I. DISCUSSION ABOUT NAMING OPPORTUNITIES ON BALTIMORE STREET

Mr. Silka presented some naming opportunities for amenities on Baltimore Street on behalf of Melinda Kelleher to the Council Members.

The first area of interest pertains to the naming rights of benches, with a proposed cost of \$1K per bench. This amount includes a commemorative plaque and the opportunity to dedicate the bench to a benefactor. Currently, there are a total of 17 benches in place.

A second proposal involves the naming rights for the waterfall for a five- or ten-year option. The cost for a five-year option is \$5K, while the ten-year option is priced at \$10K. If these opportunities are of interest, an order can be prepared for approval. The funds raised will be allocated towards downtown maintenance costs.

II. DISCUSSION ON SPECIAL ZONE PARKING FINES

Mr. Silka brought up requests to examine special parking fines, specifically for handicap spaces and fire zones. He proposed increasing the maximum fine from the current rate of \$25 to \$500, as the existing amount does not seem to deter those who violate these regulations. All agreed to the increased fine.

III. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Mr. Silka presented updates to the Council Members:

Two Comprehensive Planning meetings: one on August 21, 2025, at 6:00 PM at City Hall, centering on Neighborhood Focus, and the second on August 28, 2025, addressing Key Issues.

Applications for the Citizens Local Government Academy are live until August 25, 2025. The academy begins September 11, 2025, and ends on October 30, 2025.

A date should be set next week to begin meeting with business owners to solicit their feedback for the Virginia Avenue revitalization, which is our next area of focus.

IV. REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA OF AUGUST 6, 2025

- Ordinance 4019 is being tabled.
- Ordinances 4021-26 are regarding surplus properties purchased through bids.
- Ordinance 4027 outlines the updated timelines for the completion of several projects: Arch Street is scheduled for completion on August 15, 2025; Pennsylvania Avenue is set for August 20, 2026; and 252 E. Elder Street is expected to be finished by November 2026.
- Order 27,813 authorizes anyone entering a City-owned building to wear shirt, shoes, and pants.

V. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

National Night Out was a fantastic event, bringing together over 650 attendees and featuring great participation from many local vendors.

Let's Beautify Cumberland is scheduled to meet on August 11 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Parks and Recreation will meet on September 5 at the Craft House in Constitution Park.

Queen City Funk and Soul will perform at Friday After Five on August 22.

The Police Department is organizing a back-to-school event on August 23 in the public safety building parking lot.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on August 19, 2025

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

Closed Session Minutes

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

2nd Floor Conference Room

Wednesday, August 6, 2025; 4:30 p.m.

On August 6, 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 receive an update pertaining to employee issues. 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 Frazier 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; and Assistant to the City Clerk, Shannon Berry