



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, August 19, 2025; 5:30 pm

PRESENT: Mayor Raymond M. Morriss; Council Members: Eugene Frazier, James Furstenberg, Brian Lepley.

ABSENT: Council Member Richard Cioni

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison Layton, City Clerk; Michael Cohen, City Solicitor; Acting Chief Lieutenant Bonner;

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

Alan Septoff, Other members of the public

I. PHILANTHROPIC TIME EMPLOYEE INCENTIVE

Mr. Silka proposed a philanthropic time-off policy that would provide paid time off for employees to engage in volunteer activities within the community. Under this policy, exempt employees would receive 16 hours of paid time off per calendar year, which would not accrue. However, the Day of Sharing and Caring would be excluded from this policy since the City already participates in that event.

Council agreed to take it into consideration and review a drafted policy.

II. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Mr. Silka provided the following updates on City projects:

- CLGA applications will close on August 25, 2025, with openings still available. The City is very proud of the program and encourages anyone interested to apply
- Unlike social media posts claiming contamination, Mason Park is closed due to soil and surface reclamation. The fields are washed out and unstable. Sometime this week or next, sanding the fields will begin. The skatepark is taking shape.

Councilman Lepley and Furstenberg have been actively looking for fields for the kids to play.

III. REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA OF AUGUST 19, 2025

Michael Cohen explained that Ordinance 4019 Section 1588 needs to be amended to read the Downtown Development Commission instead of the Committee.

Mr. Silka reviewed items on the agenda with the Councilmembers:

- Order 27,815 refers to the Choose Cumberland recipient.
- Order 27,818 refers to the increase in the handicap parking violation to \$500
- Order 27,821 refers to executed documents for the Choose Cumberland Relocation Program and allows the Solicitor and City Administrator permission to sign in the event the Mayor is not available.

Councilman Frazier questioned Ordinance 4019 being put back on the table and stated that he thought more time was being provided for public feedback. Michael Cohen advised that a vote would be required to put the Ordinance back on the table.

IV. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

Councilman Frazier and Lepley attended the MML Chapter Dinner last week in Friendsville, where they spoke about the mural painted at the park entrance, highlighting its beauty and affordability. They took

pictures and advised that they would forward the artist's information for consideration.

This coming Thursday, the Levitt AMP series will perform its final concert at Canal Place, followed by a performance at FSU next week. August 22, 2025, Queen City Funk and Soul will be performing at Friday after Five

There will be two additional meetings for the Comprehensive Plan: one on August 21, 2025, focusing on neighborhood focus, and another on August 28, 2025, focusing on key issues. Both meetings are at City Hall at 6:00 PM. There will also be a survey on the website for citizen participation.

The AME Church on the corner of Frederick and Decatur Streets will be celebrating its 188th anniversary this weekend, kicking off with a fish fry on Friday.

The Jane Gates House program will be held on August 31, 2025

Whiskey Rebellion will be held September 12, 2025, Heritage Days and Railfest both September 13 & 14, 2025

V. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on September 2, 2025

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

Closed Session Minutes

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

2nd Floor Conference Room

Tuesday, August 19, 2025; 5:00 p.m.

On August 19, 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 personnel matters in regard to the recruitment of a Chief of Police and to receive advice from the City Solicitor regarding whether the entrance road to Woodlawn Cemetery is a public right of way. Authority to close the session is provided by Sections 3-305(b)(1)(i), (b)(3) and (b)(7) 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 Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

PRESENT: Raymond M. Morriss, President; Council Members Richard Cioni (Absent), Jimmy Furstenberg, Eugene Frazier and Brian Lepley

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison K. Layton; City Clerk; City Solicitor, Michael Cohen;