



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 Scott Cohen
City Clerk Allison K. Layton

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

WORK SESSION

2nd Floor Conference Room
Allegany Museum
3 Pershing Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Raymond M. Morriss; Council Members Rock Cioni, Jimmy Furstenberg, and Laurie Marchini. Councilman Eugene Frazier was absent.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison Layton, City Clerk; Matt Miller, Executive Director, CEDC, Stu Czapski, Economic Development Specialist, CEDC

Media: Greg Larry, Cumberland Times-News
Kathy Cornwell, WCBC Radio
Hannah Fout, WCBC Radio

I. UPDATE ON PHASE 2 OF THE DOWNTOWN SURVEILLANCE PROJECT

Matt Miller began the meeting by updating the council members of the downtown surveillance project and that the work for phase 2 has begun and is nearing completion. The phase consisted of the addition of 3 additional camera pods at 60 Pershing Street as well as the front and back of 49 N. Centre Street. Each pod contains 3 cameras offering a 270-degree viewing angle of its location. Phase 2 is looking to be completed and live by next week. The camera at 49 N. Centre Street will cover the end of that block as well as Frederick Street and the back of Rose's plaza. The camera on the backside will get Butler Alley and the other half of Rose's plaza. The camera at 60 Pershing Street will provide coverage of the parking lot and will provide both points of ingress and egress of the area. Bringing the total to 42 cameras and 14 pods.

II. Update on the Downtown Comprehensive Investment Program

Stu updated that Phase 1 which is the façade, now has 13 projects complete. Of \$400K we have dispersed just under \$215K and the rest are progressing nicely. Several are waiting for

the construction project to be a little further along. We are giving them until the end of this calendar year, if not we will work with them. A lot of the big projects have been done. Councilmen Cioni asked for a list of the projects and Stu advised that they would send out a press release with the information.

Phase 2 is the residential grant, no changes since the last meeting. There are 7 total properties, 1 is complete and another in progress. A few more coming along but have not gotten to 50% yet for reimbursement.

Phase 3, the business attraction grant is moving along with 11 business in progress. 1 has met the criteria completely and has received 2 of their 5 disbursements. We have disbursed \$1K out of the \$30K. Council woman Marchini asked how many they are anticipating for the attraction. Stu explained that we are doing \$500/ month for 6 months, for a total of \$3K per business and their rent must be at least \$800/ month. There are 10 spots that can be filled pending qualifications are met and the business is in the primary district.

Matt added that an important component is the job creation stipulation, requiring the recipient to provide us the payroll so they cannot collect on a employee who is no longer working for them. The CEDC is working on a monthly basis with the recipient providing the required information for the reimbursement. Stu added that they have a copy of their leases, payroll reports and a copy of their reimbursements. Marchini asking how many hours the business is required to be open, Stu advised 40 hours per week, which has been a challenge with the construction. Marchini asked how many employees they are required, Matt advised 3 full time or 6 part time or any combination therein, we will get M&CC a list with this information.

General CEDC Business Update:

Matt updated the council that the CEDC has recently applied for 3 grant opportunities – Project Restore 2.0 – Neighborhood Safety – Rocky Gap VLT Program. Stu applied for the Project Restore 2.0 so I will let him give an overview of what our application looks like. Stu updating that we had to identify sites within the zone targeted for development. Working closely with Melinda Kelleher, Downtown Development Commission, we identified 5-6 properties that were ready for development in the primary business district and she applied for some as well so we could get the most properties with the money, we applied for the max which was \$300K. The DDC applied on behalf of the M&CC for \$300K. We will not hear the amount awarded if anything until the end of June. We targeted that we could come up with the plan to develop those empty sites with focus on expenses such as buildout, equipment and fixtures, in which the reimbursement would help with that.

Neighborhood Safety Grant:

Matt updated that this would be phase 3 of the ongoing efforts to increase public safety throughout the city by including camera coverage of the Queen City Blvd underpass, new equipment for the Command center and the purchase of a mobile surveillance trailer that can be quickly dispatched anywhere in the city while be remotely monitored. The trailer can be used at special events that do not have camera networks, parking areas with problematic concerns as well as construction sites and is operated off of cellular data, comes with a telescopic pole that reaches 20-30 feet with 2-3 cameras on top of it to cast a large area of coverage. The trailers are equipped with loud speakers and lights and have the capability to issue an alert that they are being watched as well as a Motion Detection to alert people that

the camera has detected them. The last area of interest that we would like to provide coverage is the Queen City underpass if we are able to obtain funding.

Another area would be to update their internal command center. The monitors they are currently using are not ideal. They have received a quote for a mounting bracket that would suspend from the ceiling and display 6, 42' monitors, which would give them the ability to watch every camera in real time throughout the city. Instead of currently having to flip from one monitor to another. Councilman Cioni raised the concern that with all the money involved that it may be obsolete by the time is installed. Matt responded that the cameras do not change it would just be the software that would need updated which requires is a subscription. We were able to dodge a lot of that cost by building that in to the grant and we did our best to integrate that in to the city's current system Keystone. Total for the entire project \$240K.

Matt concluded that they applied for the Rocky Gap VLT fund and explained that a percentage of revenue that is generated through the slot machines is put in a pot for funding used for grants. If awarded, this would fund a comprehensive marketing effort of all current and future CEDC projects and successes, in addition it would highlight the revision of Baltimore Street while raising awareness and providing marketing resources to businesses. The funds would enable the CEDC to tell the success story of the city of Cumberland, collaborate with tourism, continue to generate positive outlook for the city and lastly attract new business. It is an area of interest that we have always fallen short of with marketing and PR, we have never had adequate funding in my opinion to allocate towards this effort, so this would provide an opportunity through the program to fund the effort. We have really fallen short of selling our successes to the public as well as outside of the city. Baltimore Street is right on the cusp of completion and we want to showcase that to the community as well as the region throughout the state, it is going to be a crown jewel and something to be proud of. So that is why it is really important to have the funds to put behind the project. Cioni asked if the money was coming through the county, Matt confirmed this is true and stating that there is a board comprised of county and delegation and Rocky Gap representation that allocates the funds.

Greg Larry asked about the Memorial Hospital project. Matt responded that from the CEDC standpoint we are still under contract, working with RAZ to formulate some answers. Larry clarified no decision to re-bid? Matt responded not at this point.

III. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on: July 16, 2024