



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

Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

WORK SESSION

City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room
57 N. Liberty Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

Monday, November 4, 2024; 5:15 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; Michael Cohen; City Solicitor;

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

I. CONTINUED DISCUSSION SURROUNDING THE CITY’S MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. Silka began by passing around a statement that City Clerk Allison Layton drafted, which combined all Council Members ideas. Councilwoman Marchini pointed out something she would like to modify and a discussion ensued around the subject. A unanimous agreement was reached and the Mayor made the final edits.

II. REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA OF NOVEMBER 4, 2024

- Councilwoman Marchini inquired about Order 1 – Mr. Silka explained the order is for redistributing the ARPA interest to the Public Safety building for a project that came in over budget.
- Mr. Silka updated that Order 2 is a pass through of a grant in which the City had to act as the entity to apply for the funds.

- Order 4 is for the Skatepark allocation which explains that the County ARPA funds are depleted and they would not be able to provide any assistance for this project
- Order 6 is for a grant that Talkie Communications Inc, received for broadband in the County and in order to get their backbone for service, the City needs to approve the use of public rights-of-way for broadband installation and once completed, expansion in the City is the next intention. At which time a franchise agreement would be negotiated as an alternative to broadband.

III. MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL UPDATES

- Councilman Furstenburg raised funds during the Allegany/Fort Hill Homecoming weekend and \$200 was donated to Let's Beautify Cumberland and over \$450 was raised for the Allegany Youth Enrichment Program Services.
- Halloween in the Park was very successful with the largest crowd since 2011. Hay rides were available as well as a costume contest and Ryan Mackey, Director of Parks and Recreation, unofficially had the best costume for dressing up as Mayor Morris.
- Positive feedback has been received about the trail in the park and is being well received from mountain bikers.
- Discussions were mentioned of a new location for the dog park.
- November 13, 2024 at 9:00 AM will be the official day the first 10 legal drivers will be able to drive down Baltimore Street. A token of appreciation needs to be extended to CBIZ for helping coordinate the event and for allowing the use of their conference room and parking lot.
- November 14, 2024 is the ribbon cutting ceremony and the community day follows on November 16, 2024. Thanks goes to Matt Miller and Julie Westendorff for all of their work leading up to these dates.
- A lot of work has been going on in the Wills Hotel and seven more ribbon cutting ceremonies will take place in the next two months with approximately 135 new employees working downtown.
- A meeting with the Comptrollers Advisory Council was held and a focus on attainable housing and upper story redevelopment was mentioned. They are also working on direct filing and outreach to constituents regarding the latest tax and financial information needed to file.
- Meetings have taken place with some of the Choose Cumberland Relocation Program applicants but no decisions have been made at this time.
- Much appreciation goes to the South Cumberland Business Association, Sean and Christy Thomas and all of the sponsors for the Halloween Parade, which was well attended.

- A visit from Secretary Day of the Department of Community Housing Development to Baltimore Street was well received and he mentioned how beautiful it looked. He also discussed housing being a main topic at PACE this year and the possibility of speaking to address those issues.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison K. Layton
City Clerk

Minutes approved on November 19, 2024