



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 Scott Cohen
City Clerk Allison K. Layton

MINUTES

M&CC Regular Public Meeting
57 N. Liberty Street, Cumberland, MD 21502

DATE: May 5, 2026

I. OPEN SESSION – 6:15 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

PRESENT:

Council Member Eugene T. Frazier
Council Member James L. Furstenberg, III
Council Member Brian R. Lepley
President Raymond M. Morriss

ABSENT: Council Member Richard J. "Rock Cioni"

Also Present: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison K. Layton, City Clerk; Chief Pyles and Lee Borrer, Senior Community Development Specialist;

IV. Statement of the Closed Meeting

On April 28, 2026, 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 conduct interviews for the Fire Chief position and to hold a discussion relative to the same. 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.

IV. Presentations

1. Added the recognition of the Bishop Walsh Mock Trial Team for their second consecutive state championship

Coach Orndoff gave recognition to the coach's and the team's success.

2. Recognition of the retirement of Shannon Adams

Mayor Morriss and Mr. Silka honored the retirement of Shannon Adams and reflected on his accomplishments throughout his 31 years of service to the City.

3. A presentation made to the City Clerk for Municipal Clerk's Week

Mayor Morriss read a Proclamation and recognized the dedication and contributions Allison Layton makes as the City Clerk of Cumberland.

V. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Council Member Fraizer, seconded by Council Member Furstenberg, and was passed on a vote of 4-0

1. Approving the Closed Work Session Minutes, Open Work Session Minutes and Regular Session Minutes of April 21, 2026 and the Closed Session Minutes of April 28, 2026.

VI. Public Hearing

1. Public Hearing to receive comments on the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the 2024 fiscal year, presented by Lee Borrer, Senior Community Development Specialist

CONVENED: 6:42 pm

Lee Borrer outlined the 2024 Community Development Block Grant accomplishments for the City of Cumberland, highlighting **\$726,071** in total expenditures supporting infrastructure, public facilities, and community services.

Financial Breakdown

- **Total Expended:** \$726,071, which includes \$643,290 in regular CDBG funds and \$82,781 in CDBG-CV (CARES Act) funds.
- **Public Facilities:** \$448,984 directed toward major renovations and park improvements.
- **Infrastructure:** \$81,673 spent on the Baltimore Street Redesign.
- **Public Services:** \$69,943 used for community-based activities.

Key Project Highlights

- **Recreation & Youth:** Funds supported the design and construction of Constitution Park trails, a new playground, as well as the rehabilitation of the AYEPS.
- **Housing & Shelters:** Improvements to the YMCA Gilchrist Homeless Shelter, and a roof rehabilitation for an assisted living unit.

- **Public Safety:** The Cumberland Police Department conducted 149 total foot and bike patrols, resulting in 502 personal contacts.
- **Fair Housing:** The Human Relations Commission held roundtable discussions on attainable housing.

Community Impact

- **Direct Service:** 1,079 people were served through programs covering health, food, broadband access, and youth services.
- **Specific Outcomes:** 32 individuals graduated from an abuse intervention program, and 79 people received food through the Gilchrist Center.
- **Housing Support:** 124 beneficiaries accessed the transitional housing facility and its security programs.

ADJOURNED: 6:50 pm

VII. Public Comments for Agenda Items Only

No comments were received

VIII. Unfinished Business

(A) Ordinances

1. Ordinance 4049 (*2nd & 3rd readings*) - authorizing the transfer of 414 Grand Avenue to Trustech Pro, Inc. for the purchase price of \$2,000

SECOND READING: Motion to accept the second reading was made by Council Member Frazier, seconded by Council Member Lepley, and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. Being none, the ordinance was moved to its third reading.

THIRD READING: The ordinance was submitted in title only for its third reading and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

2. Ordinance 4050 (*2nd & 3rd readings*) - authorizing the transfer of 319 Columbia Street, 321 Columbia Street, 659 Greene Street, 661 Greene Street, and 317 Cecelia Street to Christiansen Properties, LLC for the purchase price of \$300

SECOND READING: Motion to accept the second reading was made by Council Member Furstenberg, seconded by Council Member Lepley, and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. Being none, the ordinance was moved to its third reading.

THIRD READING: The ordinance was submitted in title only for its third reading and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

3. Ordinance 4051 (*2nd & 3rd readings*) - providing for the closure of a portion of Strathmore Boulevard, a portion of Longwood Drive and a portion of a 12-foot unnamed alley near Seton Drive, all being located within the City of Cumberland

SECOND READING: Motion to accept the second reading was made by Council Member Furstenberg, seconded by Council Member Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. Being none, the ordinance was moved to its third reading.

THIRD READING: The ordinance was submitted in title only for its third reading and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

IX. New Business

(A)Orders (Consent Agenda)

Mr. Silka reviewed each item on the Consent Agenda and Mayor Morriss called for questions or comments. **Motion** to approve each item was made by Council Member Frazier, seconded by Council Member Furstenberg, and was passed on a vote of 4-0.

1. Order 28,001 - declaring certain equipment to be surplus property and authorizing it for sale, trade in, scrap or disposal
2. Order 28,002 - approving the sole source purchase of a GPS Maintenance System from Samsara for a three year period in an amount not to exceed \$70,069.44
3. Order 28,003 - approving the sole source purchase of new compliant structural PPE turn-out gear from Fire Chasers Fire Equipment in the amount not to exceed \$54,250
4. Order 28,004 - reappointing Michael Scott Cohen to the position of City Solicitor for a four-year term, effective May 16, 2026 through May 16, 2030
5. Order 28,005 - amending Order No. 27,837, originally approved on September 16, 2025 accepting the bid from Ameri-Seal LLC for the milling of City streets in support of the Street Department's Fall Paving Operations in the increased amount of \$23,761.36, bringing the new total project cost not to exceed \$118,761.36 due to an increase in project scope
6. Order 28,006 - authorizing the City Administrator to execute all FY27 Employment Agreements for part-time and seasonal employees of the City of Cumberland
7. Order 28,007 - authorizing the sole source award of the Sedgwick Sewer Line rehabilitation work to First Fruits Excavating, Inc., to replace 180 linear

feet of sewer, three sewer manholes and six service connections with cleanouts in the not to exceed amount of \$53,456

8. Order 28,008 - awarding the 2026 ECWC Watershed Timber Sale to the highest responsive bidder, Loque Bros. Lumber in the lump sum of \$79,000 for the sale of approximately 196,778 board feet of timber at the Evitts Creek Watershed

9. Order 28,009 - authorizing the execution of Change Order No. 1 with Main Line Commercial Pools for flow cover replacements for expired covers relating to the Constitution Park Pool Liner Replacement Project (City Project 2025-24-RECR) in the amount not to exceed \$801.24, bringing the total project cost not to exceed \$329,801.24

10. Order 28,010 - accepting the proposal of low responsive bidder Top Coat Technicians for Epoxy Flooring to repair broken concrete at the Municipal Service Center in an amount not to exceed \$51,165

11. Order 28,011 - approving the purchase of three new Garage Lifts from Matz Equipment for use by the Fleet Maintenance Department in an amount not to exceed \$59,969, with pricing through COSTARS Cooperative in accordance with City Code Section 2-171(c) pertaining to purchasing cooperatives

12. Order 28,012 - accepting the bid of low responsive bidder First Fruits Excavating, Inc., for the Rolling Mill Area Pedestrian Access Improvements Contract (City Project 2026-04-FHLD) for the design and installation of numerous accessible curb ramps and entrances at various locations within the Rolling Mill area in an amount not to exceed \$374,032.25

Public Comments *(Comments are limited to 5 minutes)*

Chris Meyers – advised that individuals have gotten injured as a result of the unsafe work areas downtown and inquired if the City is moving forward implementing an ordinance to enforce safety

Mike McKay – provided a 90-day report from the 449th General Assembly that highlights the accomplishments from the session that includes \$74 million to be allocated over several districts.

William Taccino – raised concerns about traffic and public safety on Pine Avenue, as well as the CSX lawsuit discussed at the last meeting. He also inquired about the legitimacy of an ambulance bill.

Mike Cornelius – inquired how the church feeding homeless people is going to be addressed as well as the trash and pigeon issues in his neighborhood.

Tamara Clarke – presented concerns against fluoridation in our drinking water and cited health risks and lack of informed consent.

David Biser – with prices increasing and an aging population, he encouraged reconsideration for funding the water and sewer departments.

Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Minutes approved on May 19, 2026

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton, City Clerk