



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: February 4, 2025

I. OPEN SESSION – 6:15 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

PRESENT:

Council Member Richard J. "Rock" Cioni (by telephone)
Council Member Eugene T. Frazier
Council Member James L. Furstenberg, III
Council Member Brian R. Lepley
President Raymond M. Morriss,

Also Present: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison K. Layton, City Clerk;
Shannon Adams, Fire Chief; Chuck Ternent, Police Chief

IV. Presentation

1. Larry Jackson briefed the Mayor and City Council regarding the Business Improvement District (BID) project. When the committee was discussing restructuring taxing it was mentioned having a value in and value out model. There are services provided by the City that are not required elsewhere such as shoveling, maintaining of planters, grass mowing and trash pick-up. The idea of a BID which are very common across the US, would replace the Downtown Development Commission (DDC) with the same geographic coverage.

The BID would provide the service that has been provided by the City, assess the fee based on property value, collect through the City and turn over to a non-profit corporation. This provides a 40% special tax decrease and hopefully reduces disincentive. Letters are being drafted to be sent to property owners, 80% of people are needed to create the BID to form the corporation with a board and meetings. February 27, 2025 is an informational meeting for property owners.

Mr. Silka added that a Public Hearing and an Ordinance would need passed to authorize the BID and just like the DDC the fee would be collected and turned over to the BID, which is a separate 501C3.

V. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Council Member Frazier, seconded by Council Member Furstenberg, and was passed on a vote of 5-0

1. Approving the Closed Work Session Minutes, Open Work Session Minutes and Regular Session Minutes for January 21, 2025

VI. Public Comments- – FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY. All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person, no comments were made.

VII. New Business

(A) Resolution

1. Resolution R2025-02 (*1 reading only*) - Declaring the intent to reimburse expenditures paid with respect to projects generally identified as cross

connections, hydrants and valves, SCADA upgrades, roofing, garage list, garage door replacements, Valley Street bridge design and street improvements from proceeds of "Reimbursement Bonds" in accordance with U.S. Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2

READING: The resolution was submitted in title only for its reading. **Motion** to approve the resolution was made by Council Member Lepley, seconded by Council Member Furstenberg, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

(B) 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 5-0.

1. Order 27,642 - authorizing the abatement of taxes and interest for City-owned properties
2. Order 27,643 - lifting the provisions of Section 11-113 of the City Code to allow open containers of alcohol within a defined area of the downtown mall for the Hooley Pub Crawl from Noon on March 15, 2025 through 2 AM on March 16, 2025 from; notwithstanding, that open glass containers shall not be permitted
3. Order 27,644 - authorizing the acceptance of a grant from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in the amount of \$25,000 to support Cumberland's Main Street Program (the Downtown Development Commission)
4. Order 27,645 - declaring vehicles and equipment to be surplus for sale, trade-in or scrap
5. Order 27,646 - authorizing the indefinite closure of the Queen City Underpass for cleaning, disinfection and maintenance, effective as of the date of this Order, during which a final determination will be made regarding the future of the Underpass with input from City Staff and CSX
6. Order 27,647 - accepting the bid from Harbel, Inc., for the repairs to Bridge A-C-10 Marion Street Bridge (City Project 2023-12-BRDG) in the not to exceed amount of \$253,220 and rejecting all other bids

7. Order 27,648 - authorizing the renewal of the contract with Farrell Forestry, LLC to provide professional consulting forestry services to prepare for the FY25 timber sale for the Evitts Creek Watershed (City Project 2022-41-SRVC) for a one year term beginning February 2, 2025 in the amount not to exceed \$30,000
8. Order 27,649 - authorizing the execution of Change Order No. 6 with Triton Construction, for additional work not specified in the original contract consisting of different cast-in-place inlet structures due to utility conflicts with the originally proposed cast-in-place inlets, thin sidewalk pavers due to the grade and concrete border replacement, for the Baltimore Street Access Project (City Project 12-16-M) in the amount of \$327,763.08, bringing the new contract value to \$15,515,879.60
9. Order 27,650 - authorizing the execution of Change Order No. 1 with Gwin, Dobson & Foreman for the final design of the Evitts Creek Phase IV - Interceptor Sewer to Pump Station Contract (City Project 06-08-S), for the review of the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, in the not to exceed amount of \$1,700
10. Order 27,651 - authorizing the execution of an Interlocal Participation Agreement with the National Purchasing Cooperative, enabling the City of Cumberland to utilize the BuyBoard pricing agreement to obtain competitively bid contracts provided by BuyBoard, with a term beginning on the date of execution and automatically renewing for successive one-year terms unless sooner terminated in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement
11. Order 27,652 - authorizing the execution of Change Order No. 1 with Excavating Associates due to additional quantities to perform the scope of work related to the paving required by the project for the South End Water Main Replacement Project (City Project No. 2-22-W) for an additional \$556,473.99 bringing the total contact price not to exceed \$4,953,353.99
12. Order 27,653 - authorizing appointments to the Human Relations Commission

Public Comments

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person.

Maryann Coyle – President of the Johnson Heights neighborhood association spoke to the Council members in regards to the Memorial Hospital site and to think about long term management. If pets will be permitted in the facilities she would like to see a dog park.

Mayor Morriss thanked Maryann and informed her that the RFP is being handled by the CEDC.

Jo Ryan – technically difficulties with radio and was unable to present what she wanted to share

XI. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Minutes approved on February 18, 2025

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton, City Clerk