



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: January 21, 2025

I. OPEN SESSION – 6:15 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

PRESENT:

Council Member Richard J. "Rock" Cioni
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; Chief Ternent;

IV. Statement of Closed Meeting

The Mayor and City Council of Cumberland will meet in public session beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of City Hall on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, for the purpose of immediately closing the meeting to receive legal advice regarding pending legislation and to receive legal advice relative to the proposal for the settlement of Juan A. Arrisueno, et al. v. Frederic L.J. Baker, et al., Circuit Court for Allegany County, Maryland, Case No. C-01-CV-23-000057 and to discuss the settlement with City staff. The authority for the closure of the meeting is set forth in Section 3-305(b)(7) and (8) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

IV. Director's Reports

Motion to accept the reports was made by Council Member Frazier, seconded by Council Member Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

(A) Administrative Services

1. Administrative Services Monthly Reports for December 2024

(B) Public Works

1. Maintenance Division Monthly Report for December 2024

(C) Fire

1. Fire Department Monthly Report for December 2024

(D) Police

1. Police Department Monthly Report for December 2024

V. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Council Member Lepley, 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 7, 2025

VI. Public Comments- – FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY. All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person.

Dana Tinnen signed up but opted not to speak

VII. Unfinished Business

(A) Ordinances

1. Ordinance 4003 (*2nd and 3rd readings*) - authorizing the transfer of 424 Cumberland Street to Sandra Marin for the purchase price of \$29,000
SECOND READING: The ordinance was submitted in title only for its second reading. Motion to approve the reading was made by Council Member Cioni, seconded by Council Member Frazier, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

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 5-0.

2. Ordinance 4004 (*2nd and 3rd readings*) - authorizing the transfer of 921 Lexington Avenue to Jesse Martin for the purchase price of \$19,200

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

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 5-0.

Motion to amend Exhibit A of Ordinance 4005 was made by Council Member Lepley, seconded by Council Member Furstenberg and was passed on a vote of 5-0

3. Ordinance 4005 (*2nd and 3rd readings*) - providing for the closure of (1) a portion of an unnamed alley between Cecelia Street and Williams Street, running from the property line of a parcel owned by Emily White and Diane White, intersecting with the unnamed alley to the Eastern boundary line of land owned by Cumberland Gateway Real

Estate LLC and (2) a portion of another unnamed alley running from the Southern right of way line of Cecelia Street, South 81.01 feet on its East side and 72.9 feet on its West side, the portions of said alleys being located in the City of Cumberland, Allegany County, Maryland

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

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 5-0.

(A) Orders (Consent Agenda)

Motion to take Order No. 27,616 off the table was made by Council Member Lepley, seconded by Council Member Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 5-0

Motion to accept Order No. 27,616 was made, motion did not pass

VIII. New Business

(A) Resolutions

1. Resolution R2025-01 (*1 reading only*) - A resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Cumberland supporting the passage and enrollment of the Maryland Railway Safety Act

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

(B) Orders (Consent Agenda)

Motion to remove Order No's. 27,639 and 27,640 from the Agenda was made by Council Member Lepley, seconded by Council Member Fraizer and was passed on a vote of 5-0

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 Furstenberg, seconded by Council Member Fraizer, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

Order 27,633 - authorizing the Chief of Police to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the District Court of Maryland continuing the Department's ability to access the Court's online On-View Arrest forms for a term from April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2028, with up to three extension options of one year each at the sole discretion of the AOC

2. Order 27,634 - authorizing the Chief of Police to donate on behalf of the City of Cumberland, \$1,000 per recruit, for a total of \$2,000, to the Antietam Volunteer Fire Department, which generously allowed our recruits to be housed at their facility while attending the police academy, with this donation reflecting our appreciation for their generosity and our commitment to maintaining a strong and positive relationship with their organization
3. Order 27,635 - declaring vehicles and equipment to be surplus for sale, trade-in or scrap
4. Order 27,636 - authorizing the execution of an "Intent to Participate in Cooperative Procurement of Maryland DGS Contract Number DGS-22-300-JOC" Agreement between The Gordian Group and the Mayor and City Council of Cumberland, allowing the City of Cumberland to obtain competitively bid contracts by utilizing the services provided by Gordian, with a term beginning on the date of execution and expiring on October 26, 2027
5. Order 27,637 - authorizing the Chief of Police to accept a FY24 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant award in the amount of \$11,442 to be used to purchase Active Assailant Response Equipment for patrol officers
6. Order 27,638 - authorizing the Chief of Police to accept the FY25 Entertainment Security Grant in the amount of \$25,875, which will be utilized to provide funding for officers to attend community events and conduct foot and bike patrols

7. Order 27, 641 - authorizing appointments to the Downtown Development Commission

Public Comments

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person, no comments were made.

Frank Clark distributed a handout to the Mayor and City Council members and went on to discuss the abandoned project at the former Memorial Hospital site and made the suggestion of converting the land in to building lots. He feels due to the high demand for housing in the area a house would sell quickly. He suggested feedback from Realtors and Builders on the kind of housing ideas.

Mayor Morriss thanked Frank for sharing his thoughts and updated that the current RFP in place is to receive feedback from builders.

Larry Jackson *signed up but left the meeting*

Max Green thanked the Mayor and City Council for their support on the West Side to expand green space. The garden spots are ready and should be assigned by March. He also inquired about the availability of a grant for \$93K for lighting on Washington Street. And lastly, he acknowledged the parking issues that are faced downtown but believes that it is too early to implement enforcement at this time.

Dana Tinnen greeted all in attendance and spoke of the proposal for a position for a youth program and events coordinator. The position will strengthen community relations, build city resources and partnerships locally and nationally, assist youth programs and boost the City's GDP. The position will support faith youth programs such as Souls Won Outreach, Allegany NAACP, City Reach and programs for the Hunters, Warriors and Renegades. All of these programs attract new tax payers. The position is connected to local events that can attract 10,000 people and revenue \$5 Million per weekend. He states that \$25,000 from the City would allow organizers to promote and book talent to boost the economy.

Lynette Akinson – *signed up but passed on speaking*

XI. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Minutes approved on February 4, 2025

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton, City Clerk