



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: July 1, 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; Chief Adams; Acting Police Chief Bonner and Robert Smith; Director of Engineering

IV. Statement of Closed Meeting

The Mayor and City Council of Cumberland met in public session beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of City Hall on Monday, July 1, 2025 for the purpose of immediately closing the meeting to discuss issues pertaining to an employee's work performance. 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.

V. Presentations

1. Recognition of Allegany students Avery Miller and Ryan Wu and Fort Hill students Maeleigh Plummer and Landen Sweitzer for their State Championships in Track and Field

Mayor Morriss read the Certificates of Recognition for each student. Photos were taken with the Students and the City Council Members.

2. Presentation of awards given in recognition of employee career milestone anniversaries

Mark Gandolfi, Comptroller, 5 years of employment- *Mark was unable to attend.*

Derrick Grimm, Contracts Administration Officer, 5 years of employment – Robert Smith spoke of Derrick's employment that started in the middle of COVID and with very little training due to staffing issues. Derrick is a great asset and does not hesitate to address and fix issues. He is responsible for coordinating resources and we are happy to have him on our staff.

Acting Chief Bonner spoke to three officers who have reached Five year milestones in their careers with the Police Department:

Jeremy Robison – a graduate from Beall High School and Allegany College of Maryland with a Criminal Justice Degree, joined the

Department in June of 2000. His employment includes the Narcotic Task Force, and he currently serves in the patrol division. *Jeremy was unable to attend.*

PFC Caleb Broadwater – a graduate of Northern High School and Allegany College of Maryland with a degree in Criminal Justice - began his employment with the Department in April 2020. He currently serves as an emergency responder on the CERT team and is a firearms and defensive tactics instructor.

Corporal Duncan Cramer – a graduate of Fort Hill, Allegany College of Maryland, and Frostburg State University. His employment with the Department began in April 2020, and he graduated from the Police Academy in the same year. He has served on the Honor Guard, motorcycle unit, and as a field training officer and was promoted to Corporal in 2024.

Zach Sloane began his career with the City as a wastewater operator. After obtaining a sewage and filtration license, he advanced to Superintendent and is currently the Deputy Director of the Utilities Plant.

Melissa Penrod – 20 Years- *was not able to attend*

Paul Borrer – 30 Years of employment and manages inventory and a valuable employee to the City.

VI. Directors Reports

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

(A) Fire Department

1. Fire Department Monthly Services Report for May 2025

VII. Approval of Minutes

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

1. Approving the Closed Session Minutes of June 16, 2025, Closed Session Minutes, Open Work Session Minutes, and Regular Session Minutes of June 17, 2025

VIII. Public Comments for Agenda Items Only

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

No one signed up to speak

IX. Unfinished Business

(A) Ordinances

1. Ordinance 4016 (*2nd and 3rd readings*) - amending Section 7-27(1) of the Code of the City of Cumberland to update the fees the Cumberland Fire Department charges for its services

SECOND READING: Motion to accept the second reading was made by Council Member Furstenberg, seconded by Council Member Cioni, 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 4017 (*2nd and 3rd readings*) - authorizing the amendment of Sections 16-1 through 16-6 of the Code of the City of Cumberland for the purpose of updating pay grades

SECOND READING: Motion to accept the second reading was made by Council Member Lepley, 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.

X. New Business

(A) Ordinances

1. Ordinance 4018 (*1st reading*) - authorizing the transfer of 212 Baltimore Avenue to Michael Mudge for the purchase price of \$10,000

FIRST READING: The ordinance was submitted in title only for its first reading. Motion to approve the first reading and table until next meeting was made by Council Member Frazier, seconded by Council Member Lepley, 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 Cioni, seconded by Council Member Furstenberg, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

1. Order 27,754 - authorizing the City Administrator to execute all FY25 Employment Agreements for part-time and seasonal employees of the City of Cumberland
2. Order 27,755 - authorizing the execution of Change Order No. 1 with First Fruits Excavating for the installation of an underdrain at the Cumberland Skate Park in the amount not to exceed \$12,126.80, bringing the total project cost not to exceed \$799,136.80
3. Order 27,756 - accepting the proposal from Micro-Tech Designs for the WRF & WFP Integration Services Project (2025-11-WRF) to enter into a three year agreement to perform SCADA Improvement as needed for emergencies for maintenance in the cost not to exceed \$360,000, with the cost being broken down over the course of three years
4. Order 27,757 - accepting the proposal from Belt Paving, Inc. to provide pavement repairs to a portion of Naves Crossroads due to water line repair work in the amount not to exceed \$105,220
5. Order 27,758 - declaring real property at 10 E. Fourth Street and 491-493 Baltimore Avenue to be surplus property to be offered for sale
6. Order 27,759 - lifting the provisions of Section 11-113 of the City Code to allow open containers of alcohol within a defined area of the downtown for the "Friday After Five" Event on August 22, 2025 from 5:00 PM to 12:00 AM on August 23; notwithstanding, that open glass containers shall not be permitted
7. Order 27,760 - rescinding Order 27,629 dated July 5, 2023 and adopting a revised Handbook for Full-Time Non-Union Employees to replace the previous handbook adopted on July 5, 2023
8. Order 27,761 - authorizing a change to the sole source proposal from Amazon Web Services to provide server hosting and support services for FY25 with an increase of \$7,000 bringing the new not to exceed amount to \$44,000
9. Order 27,762 - approving the sole source purchase and installation of a lighting control panel for the Gene Mason Sports Complex from Musco Lighting in the amount not to exceed \$26,785 and increasing the FY26

general fund Parks and Recreation equipment budget line in the same amount for this unanticipated expenditure

10. Order 27,763 - approving the purchase and installation of 900 linear feet of fencing at Gene Mason Sports Complex from Upright Fencing in the not to exceed amount of \$31,331

XIII. Public Comments

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person.

Ed Taylor, President of the Cumberland Historic Cemetery Organization, extended an invitation to the City of Cumberland and its residents to join us for a ceremony on July 4, 2025, at 10:00 AM. The event will take place at 400 S. Allegany Street and will honor the American Revolutionary War Patriots who are buried in our cemeteries and commemorated by monuments established by our organization over the years.

The front of the headquarters features the 1801 columns, which are the oldest standing structures in Cumberland. These columns served as the entrance to Captain David Lin's estate, who was also the owner of the entire West Side. Many Patriots were awarded tracts of land as a reward for their service, as land was more abundant than cash at that time. As a final note, he requested that the Mayor and City Council consider allowing a clergyman to provide an invocation before the Pledge of Allegiance at future Mayor and City Council meetings.

Mike Cornelius greeted the Mayor and City Council Members and informed them of the pictures he had taken with his camera of people sleeping on Baltimore Street. He resides above Parkview Liquors on Greene Street and is requesting action to be taken regarding the neighbors who play loud music late at night and the trash that is often left behind Parkview Liquors. EMS has been called several times for assaults and ODs

Mayor Morriss provided an update on a potential field house and advised that the City is seeking partners to explore the potential benefits this could bring to the community.

XI. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Minutes approved on July 15, 2025

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton, City Clerk