



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 15, 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; and Acting Police Chief Bonner

IV. Statement of Closed Meeting

The Mayor and City Council of Cumberland met in public session beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the 2nd floor Conference Room of City Hall on Monday, July 15, 2025 for the purpose of immediately closing the meeting to discuss issues pertaining to an employee's work performance, to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition, and to receive the advice of the City Solicitor regarding litigation pertaining to CSX. Authority to close the session is provided by Sections 3-305(b)(1)(i), (b)(3) and (b)(7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

Presentations

1. Recognition of the Allegany High School baseball team for their Class 1A State Championship victory

Mayor Morriss spoke of the team and congratulated them for their representation to the County and the City and read the certificate into record. Coach Jonathan presented players present:

- Justin Watfield; catcher
- Cole Ricker; 2B
- Cohen Madden; SS
- Eli Eins; RF
- Landon Ansell
- Liam Buck; DH
- Max Fradiska; Utility

A photo was taken with the Mayor and City Council Members as well as Coach Shawn Fradiska.

2. Presentation of a Life Saving Award to five Cumberland Fire Department firefighters, Lt. Timothy Malone, EO John Monahan, FF Jeffrey Teter, FF Brayden Pennington and FF Isaiah Carrington in recognition of their training and dedication that saved a man's life

Chief Adams, of the Cumberland Fire Department, spoke of an incident that occurred on June 6, 2024, at the Constitution Park tennis courts when Mr. Hines went into cardiac arrest. CPR was initiated, and first responders arrived within six minutes. Advanced life support skills were initiated, including the use of a cardiac monitor and defibrillator, along with various other medical procedures, and the patient's pulse was quickly restored. From the time of the initial 911 call until the patient arrived at the hospital, only 24 minutes had elapsed.

Chief Adams gave recognition to the first responders on the scene that day: Lieutenant Timothy Malone, Equipment Operator John Monahan, Fire Fighters Jeffrey Teter, Brayden Pennington, and Isaiah Carrington, who was on his first shift as a Paramedic. A photo was taken with the Mayor, City Council Members, and Mr. Hines

V. Directors Reports

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

(A) Administrative Services

1. Administrative Services Monthly Report for June 2025

(B) Public Works

1. Maintenance Division Monthly Report for June 2025

(C) Fire Department

1. Fire Department Monthly Report for June 2025

(D) Police Department

1. Police Department Monthly Report for June 2025

(E) Utilities- Flood, Water, Sewer

1. Utilities Division Water/Sewer Monthly Report for June 2025

VI. Approval of Minutes

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

1. Approving the Closed Session Minutes, Open Work Session Minutes, and Regular Session Minutes of July 1, 2025

VII. Public Comments for Agenda Items Only

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

No one signed up to speak

VIII. Unfinished Business

(A) Ordinances

1. Ordinance 4018 (*2nd and 3rd readings*) - - authorizing the transfer of 212 Baltimore Avenue to Michael Mudge for the purchase price of \$10,000 2nd and 3rd readings passed

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

IX. New Business

(A) Ordinances

1. Ordinance 4019 (*1st reading*) - - to repeal and reenact Article V of Chapter 15 of the City Code (Sections 15-80 to 15-90 inclusive) pertaining to parades and special events – 1st reading passed

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

2. Ordinance 4020 (*1st reading*) - authorizing the transfer of 491-493 Baltimore Avenue to Brendon Orr, an adjacent property owner, in exchange for the demolition cost of \$6,500 to be paid to American Rentals LLC

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 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 27,764 - authorizing the Acting Chief of Police to accept the FY26 Warrant Apprehension & Absconding Grant in the amount of \$21,926 which will be utilized to assist with reducing the number of open warrants, especially warrants for violent crimes

2. Order 27,765 - authorizing the Acting Chief of Police to accept the FY26 Sex Offender Compliance grant in the amount of \$19,856 for Cumberland Police Department and Allegany County Sheriff's Office overtime to perform compliance checks by conducting home visits of registered sex offenders to confirm residency
3. Order 27,766 - accepting the proposal from Diehl's Ford Sales Inc. for the purchase of two new Ford F150's to be used in daily operations by the Street and Sewer departments in the amount not to exceed \$87,857.12
4. Order 27,767 - authorizing the Acting Chief of Police to accept an FY26 MCIN grant entitled "Allegany County MCIN Coalition Program" in the amount of \$334,230 for the period 7/1/25 – 6/30/26 for personnel and overtime costs associated with the Cumberland Police Department's focus on crime reduction patrols, targeted enforcement, intelligence gathering, apprehension of violent criminals, and streamlining information sharing to address gang and drug trafficking
5. Order 27,768 - authorizing the distribution of the MD Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Project Restore 2.0 grant in the amount of \$50,000 each to the sub-grant applicants to revitalize downtown buildings owned by the sub-applicants: Sprinkles Candy Bar, 7 North Liberty Street and Loney's Flower Bar, 11 North Liberty Street
6. Order 27,769 - accepting the proposal from Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) to provide insurance coverages for FY26 for property, general and excess liability, police legal liability, auto comprehensive and liability, and equipment breakdown for the amount not to exceed \$482,208
7. Order 27,770 - awarding increments of the first round of the Choose Cumberland Relocation Package grant to Matthew DiGirolamo, Kendra Cooper, Alec Gibson, Enrique Vigil and Peter Mezensky in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 per individual (City match \$10,000, Grant \$10,000) with the cumulative programmatic City amount not to exceed \$100,000, utilizing grant funds received from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
8. Order 27,771 - declaring real property at 203 Baltimore Street to be surplus property to be offered for sale

9. Order 27,772 - awarding a one year extension of the Grass Mowing Non-Residential Contract (City Project 2022-15-M) to Service Pro, LLC in the not to exceed amount of \$65,757 for the term of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026
10. Order 27,773 - awarding a one year extension of the Grass Mowing Residential Contract (City Project 2022-14-M) to Service Pro, LLC in the not to exceed amount of \$47,181.75 for the term of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026
11. Order 27,774 - accepting the proposal from Roadsafe Traffic Systems, Inc. to provide and install Preformed Thermoplastic pavement markings in the amount not to exceed \$13,967, and rejecting all other bids
12. Order 27,775 - authorizing the Mayor to execute a three year collective bargaining agreement with the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 3, Local 553 from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028
13. Order 27,776 - authorizing the Mayor to sign the necessary documents to opt in to the Direct Settlement with Purdue Pharma regarding the City's opioid-related claims against it
14. Order 27,777 - authorizing the execution of an agreement with the Potomac Edison Company for the installation of an All-Dielectric Self-Supporting fiber cable crossing the North Branch Potomac River from Cumberland, MD to Ridgeley, WV
15. Order 27,778 - adopting the new City Seal, effective this date
16. Order 27,779 - authorizing the execution of a retirement agreement with John Charles Ternent
17. Order 27,780 - authorizing the execution of a contract of sale by and between the Mayor and City Council of Cumberland and William A. Lynch and Barbara R. Lynch authorizing the purchase of the property at 429 Central Avenue in Cumberland, MD (Tax ID 22-009516) as part of the Central Avenue Initiative for the price of \$31,000
18. Order 27,781 - authorizing the execution of a Second Amendment to a Lease Agreement with New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC, for space on the City-owned water tower on Haystack Mountain located at 600 Bishop

Walsh Road, extending the expiration date to August 31, 2033 at an increased monthly rate of \$3,656.24, effective September 1, 2025, with a 4% escalation beginning on September 1 each year thereafter

19. Order 27,782 - accepting the proposal from Long View Systems Corporation USA for software and services to enhance the cybersecurity monitoring and system patching of our existing OT Tenable systems, in the amount not to exceed \$51,766.20
20. Order 27,783 - accepting the proposal from Mosca Design, for a 20 foot Carolina Tower Artificial Christmas Tree, and a 3 foot tree topper, in the amount not to exceed \$20,295.70, with said purchase price being covered by a private benefactor to be released at a later date
21. Order 27,784 - adopting the "Sexual Harassment Policy" effective this date
22. Order 27,785 - approving a change to the proposal from Upright Fence for the purchase and installation of additional chain link fencing at Gene Mason Sports Complex in an increased amount not to exceed \$10,304, bringing the new not to exceed to \$41,635
23. Order 27,786 - authorizing the Acting Chief of Police to accept the sole source proposal from East Coast Emergency Lighting LLC for the purchase of a K9 Demo Vehicle and upfit to include a K9 transport system at a total cost not to exceed \$56,923.65

Mayor Morriss spoke of the 32 year career of Chief Ternent and how appreciative the City is to have had his leadership

XIII. Public Comments

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person.

Jo Ryan has read information about Christianity and its relation to government. She believes that our country will improve when more people follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.

Brandon Fisher, a resident of 215 Pennsylvania Avenue for the past 12 years, joins other residents in sharing concerns regarding 211-213 Pennsylvania Avenue, which has been in violation of the city code for the past two years. Numerous documented violations have been submitted for the following issues: overgrown grass, trash, and rotten food throughout the yard, over 10 dogs

housed inside 213, and large amounts of animal feces outside. Additionally, there are two 55-gallon drums of used motor oil sitting in the back alley, which are infested with cockroaches. He has been in contact with Doug Warren, who has addressed the issue.

Brandon has purchased products and paid for professional pest control to address the issue. However, he still finds infestations inside his home, and his surrounding neighbors are experiencing the same problem. In 2024-25, he has reported the property over 10 times to code enforcement. He believes that after two years, the City should have resolved this issue. As a resident who has followed all the necessary steps to address the problem, he feels the system is not providing adequate support. Contact has been made with Doug Warren, who has addressed the issue, but he is requesting that the City prioritize the property and inquiring about the escalation process, as well as the reasons behind the two-year delay in taking any action.

Mayor Morriss thanked Brandon and advised that a discussion with Code Enforcement would take place, as well as a review of the steps that have been taken to resolve the issue.

Mary Eckles was present to discuss laws that are antithetical to the historic integrity of Cumberland. She referenced a building on Centre Street with residents residing on the 3rd floor. To provide off-street parking for the tenants, the owner would need to demolish the building next to it, which would compromise the ability to generate income. She stated that due to a fire that destroyed real estate documentation, there is no record of buildings before 1900, and this is the reason building owners are allowed to tear down buildings.

She went on to mention that she had expressed her idea for an ice-skating rink and had received positive feedback about it. She spent time at the location (the old Memorial Hospital site) on the Fourth of July and noted how beautiful the area is. She believes that it will generate income for the City and would be a better alternative than the proposed apartments.

Mike Cornelius – advised the Mayor and City Council that he removed 10 bags of trash from the area on Greene Street behind Parkview Liquors and

it is again full of trash and people sleeping. He and the neighbors are requesting help from the City.

X. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Minutes approved on August 6, 2025

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton, City Clerk