



Mayor and City Council of Cumberland

Mayor Raymond M. Morriss
Councilman Richard J. "Rock" Cioni
Councilman Eugene T. Frazier
Councilman James L. Furstenberg
Councilwoman Laurie P. Marchini

City Administrator Jeffrey F. Silka
City Solicitor Michael Scott Cohen
City Clerk Allison K. Layton

MINUTES

M&CC Regular Public Meeting
57 N. Liberty St.

DATE: January 16, 2024

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 Laurie P. Marchini
President Raymond M. Morriss

Also Present: Jeffrey F. Silka, City Administrator; Allison K. Layton, City Clerk; Media Representatives

IV. Statement of Closed Meeting

Mayor Morriss announced that a closed session had been held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. and read into the record a summary of that session which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes as required by Section 3-306 (c)(2) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

V. Presentations

1. Mayor Raymond Morriss to administer the Oath of Office to Patrol Officers Zachery Dicken, Richard Jenkins, Matthew Arnone, Levi Roberts and Brycen Rounds

Chief Ternent expressed how proud the CPD is of their new officers, spoke to the field training and Police Academy training that they have gone through, and said they are all on the job now, protecting the citizens of Cumberland. He introduced each officer, provided some personal background on each, and turned the floor over to Mayor Morriss, who read the Oath

of Office, with the officers repeating the oath. Congratulations were made all around, and photos were taken.

VI. Director's Reports

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

(A) Administrative Services

1. Administrative Services Monthly Report for December 2023

(B) Fire

1. Fire Department Monthly Report for December 2023

(C) Police

1. Police Department Monthly Report for December 2023

(D) Utilities - Flood, Water, Sewer

1. Utilities Division Flood/Water/Sewer Monthly Report for December 2023

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. Approval of the Work Session and Regular Session minutes of January 2, 2024

VIII. Public Comments – Agenda Items Only

No Comments

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

IX. New Business

(A) Ordinances

1. **Ordinance 3970** (*1st reading*) - authorizing the transfer of 301 Columbia Street and 303 Columbia Street to Theresa E.S. Wyatt for the purchase price of \$100.

FIRST READING: Motion to approve the first reading and table until next meeting was made by Council Member Furstenberg, seconded by Council Member Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

1. **Ordinance 3971** (*1st reading*) - authorizing the transfer of 606 Hill Street to Eliana Bennett for the purchase price of \$150.

FIRST READING: Motion to approve the first reading and table until next meeting was made by Council Member Marchini, seconded by Council Member Frazier, 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 accept each item was made by Council Member Furstenberg, seconded by Council Member Cioni, and was passed on a vote of 5-0.

Order 27,388 - accepting the equipment and installation estimates from G-Technologies, Inc. to upfit three (3) 2023 Ford Police Interceptor Vehicles at a total cost not to exceed \$41,107.47

Order 27,389 - authorizing the execution of a reimbursement and release agreement with Columbia Gas for the restoration work on portions of Baltimore Street and Altamont Terrace for a lump sum payment to the City of \$37,389.20

Order 27,390 - accepting the bid from Walter N. Yoder & Sons for the City Hall HVAC Improvements project (City Project 2022-11-PBLD) for the replacement of the HVAC system in the City Hall Building in the amount not to exceed \$2,189,500

X. Public Comments

Max Greene, 505 Patterson Avenue, President of West Side Neighborhood Association, asked for support from M&CC for restoration of an abandoned playground on the corner of Ritchie Street and Fairmont Avenue, to give the children a space to gather and play. He provided a little background on the City-owned park, saying the grass is being mowed by the City, but fences and courts are in poor condition, as the park has not been actively used in the last five years. He stated that he has verified with the City that there are no current plans to restore the park, said West Side wants to convert it to a more usable space, and provided details on their proposed use of the park's space. He advised that it will cost between \$12K and \$37K to restore the basketball courts, and went through their lists of wants for the park. He stated that tomorrow they will be meeting with Mr. Silka and Parks & Rec to go over this a bit more, and said they will submit an application for CDBG funding. He said he would like to present a better and more comprehensive plan at some time in the future after their meeting with Mr. Silka and Parks & Rec.

Mayor Morriss stated that M&CC had been made aware of this project in the last month, which was appreciated. He said this is a park that has not been utilized in a while, and they look forward to working on a plan over the next few years to restore the park. He said Mr. Greene has taken a very important step in taking the community's input for what they want/need at the park. He added that he hopes the West Side Neighborhood Association can be used as a template for other programs. M&CC thanked Mr. Greene and said it's a great idea.

All public comments are limited to 5 minutes per person

XI. Adjournment

With no further business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Minutes approved on February 6, 2024

Raymond M. Morriss, Mayor

ATTEST: Allison K. Layton, City Clerk