

The City Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 14, 2022. The meeting was scheduled for its regular time of 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at 305 Gay Street in Cambridge. The Commission President Lajan Cephas opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Those present in person or virtually were Commissioner Brian Roche, Commissioner Jameson Harrington, Commissioner Sputty Cephas, Commissioner Chad Malkus, City Assistant Attorney Patrick Thomas, City Police Chief Mark Lewis, and Acting City Manager David Deutsch. Citizens were able to observe the meeting by going on-line to TownHallStreams.com. Citizens were invited to call in their public comments by calling into the meeting at 410-228-5808. Citizens were also able to participate in the meeting by logging into the meeting by calling 408-418-9388 and entering the meeting number and password: Meeting Number 2555 161 9336; Password 5808.

Commission President Lajan Cephas asked for a moment of silence for our youth and police department. Commissioner Sputty Cephas led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda

1. Commission to approve or amend agenda as presented.

On a motion by Commissioner Sputty Cephas and a seconded by Commissioner Malkus the Agenda was approved after the removal of item #6.

Presentations from the Public

Angie Hengst – Ironman

Ms. Hengst gave an overview of Ironman and Eagleman. Ms. Hengst also thanked the City of Cambridge, local agencies on behalf of the participants in the races. Ms. Hengst stated that Eagleman was number one in North America.

Consent Calendar

3. March 14, 2022, Meeting Minutes
4. Award of Contract for Engineering Services- West End Area Sewer Improvements
5. Sheila Jones is requesting to have the 4th Annual Groove City Culture Fest, on Pine Street – between Douglas and Cedar Streets, August 20, 2022, from 3pm-9pm.
6. Richard Colburn is requesting to have the Memorial Day Service on Monday, May 30, 2022, from 10am to 1pm at the Long Wharf Fountain Circle.

Ordinances for First Reading

None

Ordinances for Second Reading

None

Old Business**8. Election Vendor**

The Acting City Manager asked Council for permission to issue an RFP for an election vendor. On a motion by Commissioner Harrington and a second by Commissioner Sputty Cephas, this request was approved on a 5-0 vote.

New Business**9. Committee Appointments for Review of Non-Profit Organizations' Request for ARPA Funds.**

Council established a committee to assist in allocating monies for non-profits. The committee is listed below.

Ward 1 – Jason Howard

Ward 2 - Robin Sample

Ward 3 – Lynn Widli

Ward 4 - Zhaden Myster

Ward 5 – Robbie Hanson

10. Refuse Collection RFP

A request to issue an RFP since the current contract expires in June 2022. The 2017 RFP will be updated and submitted to establish a new vendor. The new RFP will be sent out to prospective firms to possibly change the refuse service vendor in June. Commissioner Roche mentioned having recycling added to the RFP. Commissioner Harrington spoke regarding bringing the service back to the city. A motion to move forward on the RFP was made by Commissioner Sputty Cephas and a second by Commissioner Harrington.

11. Beasley Market Funding Request

Mr. Beasley has asked the city for \$50,000 to complete the Market Place project on Pine Street and Wells Street. Commissioners Harrington and Roche spoke in support of the Pine Revitalization project. Pat Escher also spoke on behalf of the project. On a motion by Commissioner Spuddy Cephas and a second by Commissioner Harrington, this request was approved on 5-0 vote.

Meetings

Historic Preservation Commission will meet at 6:00pm, March 16, 2022, at Council Chambers, 305 Gay Street, Cambridge, MD.

The City of Cambridge Board of Appeals public meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 6:00 pm at Council Chambers 305 Gay Street Cambridge, Maryland.

Public Comment

Lashon Foster – thanks the Commissioners on their request for refuse change. She also commented on conditions on the Bradford House.

Robert Aaron – spoke of his dislike for Chesapeake Waste

Chad Mowbray – a resident of Bradford House, stated that the elevators are not working, that the card reader on the door does not work, and that there is not security on the premises.

David Deutsch – stated that staff was involved in checking out the issues at Bradford House

Ms. Saralia – spoke regarding Bradford House issues

Otis Cornish – asked when will the grants become available for homeownership.

Joyce Diaz – said that she has no coverings on her windows at the Bradford House, and that her some of her apartment appliances are not working.

Lynette Wongus – spoke regarding citizens being harassed by the Police Department.

Charlene Jones – spoke regarding her son being pulled over by an officer as well.

Department/Division Head Reports

Pat Escher spoke about the work being done at Maces Lane, a project that she and George Hyde are working on. Ms. Escher said that she is working on funding from the National Park Services. Ms. Escher also commented on the work being done at Cannery Park.

Chief Lewis – told Council that he has spoke to Ms. Lynette Wongus the issue with the Police Department. Chief Lewis said that he would investigate the situation.

Acting City Manager Comments

The Acting City Manager introduced the City’s new Code Enforcement Officer – Tyler Bennett

Commissioners’ Comments

Commission President Lajan Cephas spoke the Harriet Tubman celebration over the weekend. Commission President also stated that the Beacon of Hope statue will be placed on the courthouse lawn on September 10, 2022, the weekend of the Day of Resilience. Commission President stated that she would be contacting Sheree Sample-Hughes, and HUD regarding the situation at the Bradford House.

On a motion by Commissioner Malkus and a seconded by Commissioner Spuddy Cephas to go into closed session.

Closed Session pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Provisions 3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of certain real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was given by Commissioner Harrington and a second by Commissioner Roche.

With no further business, Commissioner Chad Malkus adjourned the meeting at 8:26p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of the Council meeting Monday, March 14, 2022, insofar as I personally am aware.


Lajan Cephas
Commission President

City Commission meetings are conducted in open session unless otherwise indicated. Pursuant to the Maryland Open Meetings Act, all or a portion of the Commission meeting may be held in closed session by vote of the Commission. Please note that the order of agenda items is subject to change and that meetings are subject to audio and video recording.