

The City Commissioners conducted the City business on Monday, March 22, 2021 by way of a conference call because of the Corona Virus threat. The Mayor was stationed at his normal station in the City Commission Meeting Room on Gay Street. All the commissioners were present, in person or participated virtually through Webex. The assistant city attorney Patrick Thomas and IT Director Dale Price, and Matt Pluta of Shore Rivers were present, in person. The city manager Patrick Comiskey, city engineer George Hyde, and University of Maryland Extension Agent Jennifer Dindinger participated remotely using Webex. Police Chief Mark Lewis did not attend the 5:00 p.m. meeting but participated in the 6:00 p.m. meeting remotely using Webex. Citizens were able to observe the meeting by going on-line to TownHallStreams.com. until the closed session began.

The Mayor opened the meeting at 5:00 pm. The Council held a Work Session with The Cambridge Clean Water Advisory Committee. Several members of the committee spoke in detail regarding the clean water process. The commission work session ended at 5:52 p.m.

The Mayor convened the regular meeting at 6:02p.m. All the commissioners were present in person or virtually through Webex. 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 the Mayor during 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 132 958 6308; Password 5808.

Commission President Cephas led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda

Commission President Cephas made a motion to amend the Agenda to reflect the discussion section for the department heads. On a motion by Commissioner Roche and a second by Commission President Cephas the Agenda was amended and approved

Requests from the Public

Consent Calendar

The Consent was approved after being amended. Commission President Lajan Cephas made a motion to have Item No. 15 (Appraisal Services-W.R. Cain and Associates) of the March 8, 2021 meeting minutes amended to reflect the issue was not closed but multiple proposals were to be solicited for appraisal services then brought back to the city commission for consideration. Also, Commissioner S. Cephas stated that he would like to have comments made by Lynette Wongus and Sheila Jones requesting public comment to be placed at the beginning of the meeting. The motions were properly seconded and approved unanimously.

On a motion by Commission President Lajan Cephas and a second by Commissioner Harrington the consent calendar was approved unanimously including approval of the

Cambridge Community Arts Foundation's letter of support for the Dorchester Women's Mural and the Kid's Fishing Derby.

Ordinances for Introduction and First Reading

5. Ordinance No. 1174 – Withdrawn for reintroduction at a future meeting.
6. Assistant City Attorney Patrick Thomas read the proposed ordinance aloud for first reading. Ordinance No. 1175 - An Ordinance Of The Commissioners Of Cambridge, Maryland Enacting A New Chapter 16.5 Entitled "Honorary Street Name Signs" Of The Code Of The City Of Cambridge, Maryland For The Purpose Of Establishing Policies And Procedures For Honorary Street Name Signs In The City Of Cambridge; Providing That The Title Of This Ordinance Shall Be Deemed A Fair Summary And Generally Relating To Honorary Street Name Signs In The City Of Cambridge.
7. Assistant City Attorney Patrick Thomas read the proposed ordinance aloud for first reading. Ordinance No. 1176 - An Ordinance Of The Commissioners Of Cambridge, Maryland Amending Chapter 8 (Health And Sanitation) Of The Code Of The City Of Cambridge, Maryland For The Purpose Of Clarifying That The City's Code Enforcement Officers, As Well As Other City Employees And Officers Duly Authorized To Enforce The Provisions Of Chapters 4 And 8 Of The City Code Generally, Are Authorized And Empowered To Enforce The Provisions Thereof; Providing That The Title Of This Ordinance Shall Be Deemed A Fair Summary And Generally Relating To Garbage, Refuse, And Solid Waste In The City Of Cambridge.

Ordinances for Second Reading, Public Hearing, and Adoption

No ordinances were considered for a second reading.

Old Business

8. Loan Incumbency Certificate with 1880 for Sweeper Truck and Clam Shell Truck

The bank authorization form approving the city manager to sign any loan documents was signed off on by the Commission and the City Attorney.

New Business

9. A motion to go into closed session was made by Commission President Lajan Cephas and a second by Commissioner Sputty Cephas to discuss item one: Item 1 pursuant to General Provisions Article 3-305(b)(7) of the Annotated Code of Maryland to obtain legal advice from, and consult with, the City Attorney regarding a legal matter. The motion was approved unanimously.

The commissioners ended the closed session at 6:36 p.m. The mayor advised the public the session was held to discuss outstanding property taxes owed the city and a possible proposal where payments would be made as properties are developed.

A motion to go into closed session was made by Commission President Lajan Cephass and a second by Commissioner Harrington to discuss item two: Item 2 pursuant to General Provisions Article 305(b)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.)

The motion was approved unanimously. The commissioners entered the closed session at 6:42 p.m. and exited the closed session at 7:23 p.m. The mayor advised the public the session was held to discuss the possible retention, adjustment, cancelation, or request for proposals for services regarding a services agreement with the city.

10. Blackwater Crossing, Tax Reduction Request

Commissioner Malkus made a motion to approve in principle the proposal for Blackwater Crossings tax reduction request provided the stipulations discussed were addressed and that the city manager and city attorney communicate this to the county government so the process of negotiation might continue. The motion was seconded by Commissioner L. Cephass and approved unanimously.

11. Police Board Appointees

Ward 1 – Abbey Messick; motion to approve by Commissioner Roche and approved unanimously. Ward 2 – Lynette Wongus; motion by Commissioner L. Cephass and approved unanimously. Ward 3 – Cesar Gonzalez; motion by Commissioner Harrington and approved unanimously. Ward 4 - Lashon Foster; motion by Commissioner S. Cephass and approved 3-2. Commissioners L. Cephass, Harrington, and S. Cephass voted for the appointment and Commissioners Roche and Malkus voted against the appointment. Ward 5 – Mike Stewart; motion by Commissioner Malkus and approved unanimously. Mayor – Chantay Nelson; motion by Mayor Bradshaw and approved unanimously.

12. Code Enforcement Officer Job Description

Commissioner Roche proposed including knowledge in GIS requirement in the position description. A second to the motion was made by Commissioner L. Cephass and approved unanimously.

Commissioner L. Cephass made a motion that the housing task force be asked to provide a recommendation on the reporting requirements of the code enforcement officers. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harrington. The motion was passed unanimously.

Commissioner L. Cephas made a motion to include a provision regarding confidentiality in the position description. A second to the motion was made by Commissioner Harrington. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner S. Cephas made a motion to approve the job description as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harrington and approved unanimously.

Meetings

March 24, 2021 – Commission Work Session with CWDI Board at 6:00 p.m. including closed session.

March 25, 2021 - City Commission Tour of Phillips Packing House Factory F Building and Cannery Park at 4:00 p.m.

March 29, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. A special session to discuss a city service contract

April 2021 - Discussion about City Code Chapter 8, Health and Sanitation

Public Comment

Pete McFensis, 1405 Way Street, Ward 2 asked about updates to garbage provisions include changes to yard waste pick-up requirements.

Lynette Wongus, 1005 Jimson Road, asked about the status of hiring the consultant with the small area plan

Veronica Taylor, 2512 Westwind Blvd., Ward 4, asked a question about how CDBG grant funds will be used

Division or Department Head Comment

Commissioner Comment

Mayor's Comment

Adjourn

A motion by Commissioner S. Cephas to adjourn seconded by Commissioner L. Cephas and approved unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of the Council meeting Monday, March 22, 2021.



Andrew Bradshaw
Mayor