

The City Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, May 9, 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 Spuddy Cephas, Commissioner Chad Malkus, City Assistant Attorney Patrick Thomas, City Police Chief Mark Lewis, Fire Chief Adam Pritchett, and City Manager Tom Carroll. 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 the youth in our community and the police department. Commissioner Spuddy Cephas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda

1. Commission to approve or amend agenda as presented.

The removal of Ordinance 1194 from the Agenda was moved by Commissioner Roche and seconded by Commissioner Malkus. All members voted to remove Ordinance 1194 from the Agenda.

Presentations from the Public

Alpha Genesis – Update on the Beacon of Hope Statue – Ms. Holmes gave an overview of the statue; the artist Vinson was also present.

Consent Calendar

The Consent Calendar was approved as presented on a motion by Commissioner Spuddy Cephas and a second by Commissioner Roche.

2. May 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes
3. DaVonta Smith is requesting to have a “Basketball Tournament” in Cornish Park on May 21, 2022 (rain date May 22, 2022), and May 27, 2022 (rain date May 28, 2022) from 4pm to 8pm.

4. Stephen Hackett of 3c Dorchester is requesting to have “outreach community” on May 12, 2022, from 6:00pm-8:00pm at Greenwood Avenue and Cosby Avenue.
5. Letter of Support – Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services.

Ordinances for First Reading

Council Agenda Report, Ordinances No. 1196 and 1197

Both Ordinances were read aloud by the City Attorney for discussion.

6. **ORDINANCE NO. 1196 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND REPEALING ORDINANCE NOS. 881, 882, AND 934 REGARDING THE BY-LAWS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION; PROVIDING THAT THE TITLE OF THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE DEEMED A FAIR SUMMARY AND GENERALLY RELATING TO THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION.**

ORDINANCE NO. 1197 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND AMENDING § 4.5 OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REQUIRING THAT CONTRACTS FOR THE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORIC AREA OVERLAY DISTRICT INCLUDE A STATEMENT OF THAT FACT; REQUIRING SELLERS OF SUCH PROPERTY TO PROVIDE BUYERS WITH CERTAIN INFORMATION; AND GENERALLY RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORIC AREA OVERLAY DISTRICT.

7. **ORDINANCE NO. 1198 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND AMENDING § 6.5.2(E) (SIGN PROGRAMS) OF THE CITY’S UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION MAY APPROVE A SIGN PROGRAM THAT DEVIATES FROM THE STRICT INTERPRETATION OF § 6.5 (SIGNS) THEREOF, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS; PROVIDING THAT THE TITLE OF THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE DEEMED A FAIR SUMMARY AND GENERALLY RELATING TO SIGNAGE IN THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.**

Ordinance No. 1198 was read aloud by the City Attorney for discussion.

Ordinances for Second Reading

None

Old Business

Council Action Report, Cannery Way – Mural Viewing Area

8. Harriet Tubman Mural Viewing Area – Master Plan process update and potentially locating a replica of Ben Ross’s cabin in the area (Mr. Ross was Harriet Tubman’s father).

Pat Escher gave an overview of the Master Plan for the viewing area. A lengthy discussion about the plan and where the cabin would be placed. On a motion by Commissioner Spuddy Cephias and seconded by Commissioner Harrington, Council requested that a small area plan be completed for the area where the cabin would be placed at Cannery Way.

New Business

9. ICMA Management Fellowship Program – The City Manager explained the process of the fellowship program.
10. Gun Violence Proclamation – Commission President Lajan Cephias read the Proclamation aloud, it will be placed on the City website.
11. Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Heritage Month Proclamation - Commission President Lajan Cephias read the Proclamation aloud, it will be placed on the City website.
12. Solid Waste Contract Extension
 - a. Council Action Report, Chesapeake

On a motion by Commissioner Roche and seconded by Commissioner Spuddy Cephias to extend the contract for six months. There will be a report on the May 23, 2022, Agenda.
13. Spot Shooter Program
 - a. Council Action Report, Spot Shooter Program

Chief Lewis explained the Spot Shooter program. The Chief stated that the Governor's office will substantially fund the program for the City to get started, and the cost to the City for one year will be 14,200. On a motion by Commissioner Spatty Cephias and a seconded by Commission President Lajan Cephias the Spot Shooter program was approved.

14. CWDI Press Release -- Brands Site

The City Manager reported that the brand for CWDI will be Cambridge Harbor -- more details will be presented at the May 23, 2022, Council meeting.

15. Administrative Updates

a. Council Action Report, Administrative Updates

A plan is in process to open City Hall to the public. The plan will include a citizen phone in the lobby as well as cameras. There is new management at the Bradford House and Blue Ruin has purchased Chesapeake Electric.

16. FY2023 Budget Schedule

a. Council Action Report, Budget Schedule

The City Manager stated that a draft budget will be available by the end of May, a special meeting will be held in June for the FY23 budget.

17. Committee Appointments: Board Vacancies for the Planning Commission, the Historic Preservation Commission and Board of Appeals and others:

a. Council Action Report, Appointments

On a motion by Commissioner Spatty Cephias and a second by Commissioner Harrington -- Bill Clyde and Robin Sample were re-appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

John Hansen -- resigned from the Traffic and Safety Committee- please email ward2@chooscambridge.com for information.

Katie Day -- re-appointed- Ethics Committee

Portia Johnson-Ennels -- inactive ADA Committee Member -- vacancy

Historic Preservation Committee -- alternate needed

Planning and Zoning -- needs a citizen from Wards 4 and Ward 5

18. Bikeways Network Program Grant
 - a. Council Action Report, Bikeways

Commissioner Roche explained the process to apply for a grant for the statewide masterplan to apply for a feasibility study. It would be \$8,000 City match to apply for the grant. On a motion by Commissioner Malkus and seconded by Commission President Lajan Cephas, this request was approved.

Meetings

There will be a Listening session for the "Take My Hand" viewing area improvements May 11, 2022, at 5:30 pm at the mural.

Public Comment

Lashon Foster – Ms. Foster thanked the City police for informing a citizen on how to get his car repaired, she then asked about the timeframe for the Mayoral election.

Juanita Churchill – spoke regarding having Council add another Commissioner.

Sheila Jones – spoke regarding gun violence in the community, and to have police patrol for the kids that walk home from the Maces Lane school.

Theresa Stafford – thanked Commission President Lajan Cephas for her support in the street closure on Greenwood and Cosby Avenue. Dr. Stafford also invited the Council to the next scheduled event. Dr. Stafford thanked Chief Lewis for the police presence during the event.

Eugene Mohmad – spoke in agreement of the Shot Shooter program.

Jeremaine Anderson – Mr. Anderson asked the City board members to get engaged in the process within the community.

Department/Division Head Reports

Pat Escher spoke regarding the Rails and Trails project and how it is coming along.

Chief Lewis spoke regarding a state funded program for community policing, starting July 1, 2022.

City Manager Comments

-Election RFP's

The City Manager stated that we have received an RFP for the upcoming election from True Ballot with a cost of approximately \$10,000 plus some expenses.

Commissioners' Comments

Roche – requesting that the City flags be replaced around town.

Commissioner Spuddy Cephias – spoke of the upcoming Banner of Stars and Hometown Heroes Celebration event on May 19, 2022, at Sailwinds Park from 4:30pm to 8:00pm. Commissioner Cephias also said that there will be a legislative session at the public library at 6:00pm.

Commission President Lajan Cephias spoke regarding keeping the kids safe and busy during the summer.

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 related thereto.

Commission President Lajan Cephias and Spuddy Cephias recused themselves of the Closed Session, the gavel was passed to Commissioner Roche.

Council went into Closed Session at 7:57pm


Council went back into Open Session at 8:35pm

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Malkus and seconded by Commissioner Harrington.

With no further business, Commissioner Roche adjourned the meeting at 8:37p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of the Council meeting Monday, May 9, 2022, insofar as I personally am aware.


Lajan Cephias
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.