

The City Commissioners conducted the City business on Monday, July 13, 2020 by way of a conference call because of the Corona Virus threat. The Mayor was stationed at her normal station in the City Commission Meeting Room on Gay Street. City Commissioners conference called into the meeting utilizing 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.

Mayor Victoria Jackson Stanley called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. The delay was the result of commissioners having to re-register with the Webex system prior to being granted access to the virtual meeting. All the city Commissioners were present on the conference call including the City Attorney Chip MacLeod, City Police Chief Mark Lewis, City IT Director Dale Price, and City Manager Patrick Comiskey. Commissioners Rideout, Sydnor, Foster, Cannon, and Hanson participated remotely in the conference call.

The Mayor reported on the outcome of the closed session held at 5:00 pm - All met in closed executive session to discuss a proposed contract with Cambridge Waterfront Development, Inc. (CWDI) but no action was taken on the report that was provided.

The meeting began with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Hanson.

1. Agenda

The Agenda was approved on a motion by Commissioner Rideout and seconded by Commissioner Hanson on a 5-0 vote.

Public Comment

Ms. Sheila Woods Jones spoke about the Pine Street project and monies involved and asked for an accounting of where the money has been spent. Pat Escher responded to her request along with Carol Richardson, both will follow up with Ms. Jones to go over what funding had been received, what has been spent, and what remained.

Requests from the Public

None

Consent Calendar

2. June 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The Consent Calendar was approved on a motion from Commissioner Rideout and a second by Commissioner Cannon, the following items were approved 5-0.

3. The request of Nora Stork to hold an “after the wedding breakfast” at Gerry Boyle Park on August 9th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
4. The request of Bill Christopher to change the date of the Dorchester Relay for Live from 9/16/20 to 9/11/20 from 5:00 p.m. to Midnight at the Wharf at Governor’s Hall.
5. The request of the Dorchester Skipjack Committee to have the 2020 Choptank Heritage Skipjack Race on 9/25-9/26 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Long Wharf.
6. The request of the Dorchester Center for the Arts to hold the Dorchester Showcase – Annual Street Fair and Art Walk on September 27, 2020 from noon to 5:00 p.m.
7. The request of Kimberly Pritchett to have a Community Summer Vendor Day at the corner of Race and Cedar Streets on August 1st (or the alternate date of August 15th) from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Ordinance for First Reading

8. Charter Resolution No. CR-2020-02 that authorizes the City Manager as the Supervisor of Elections to mail out Election Ballots to all registered voters when the city is under an emergency order.

The Mayor called for a public hearing. Five citizens called in and provided comment.

On a motion Commissioner Rideout and a second by Commissioner Hanson, the Charter Resolution was passed on a vote of 3-2 with Commissioners Hanson, Cannon, and Rideout voting in favor and Commissioners Foster and Sydnor voting in opposition.

Ordinance for Second Reading

9. Charter Resolution No. CR-2020-01 gives the City Council the ability to determine by an ordinance the compensation package for city elected officials starting with the next city council.

The Mayor called for public comment. No citizen responded with public comment.

With a motion from Commissioner Rideout a second by Commissioner Hanson, the vote was 4-0-1 with Commissioner Foster abstaining.

10. Ordinance No. 1164 – Amending the City’s Unified Development Code
Recommendation That Council:
 - A. Open the public hearing, take public comment, and close public hearing
 - B. Adopt Ordinance No. 1164

The mayor called for public comment. Three individuals called in and provided public comment. Also, the Mayor identified a letter provided by Jane Devlin she requested for submission into the record.

Commissioner Rideout moved to approve the Ordinance as proposed. As there was no second, Commissioner Rideout's motion died after which Commissioner Hanson moved to deny the proposed Ordinance with a second by Commissioner Sydnor that passed on a vote of 4-1 vote. Commissioner Rideout voted against the motion.

Old Business

11. Executive Order No. 2020-04 Resolution No. 20-11 – Extension of State Emergency. The Resolution was approved on a motion by Commissioner Rideout and a second by Commissioner Cannon. The motion passed 5-0.
12. Approval of contract for Dennis Carmichael, Landscape Architect for Cannery Park in the amount of \$104,200. On a motion by Commissioner Hanson and a second by Commissioner Cannon, the Dennis Carmichael company was approved 5-0.
13. Pine Street Neighborhood Revitalization – Bids for Demolition. The Pine Street Neighborhood bid for demolition of 4 houses was approved for Charles Rideout, as the low bidder on a motion by Commissioner Sydnor and a second from Commissioner Cannon. The motion passed on a vote of 4-0-1 with Commissioner Rideout abstaining. While Mr. Rideout is no known relation to Commissioner Rideout, the Commissioner wanted to avoid any confusion, as he also has a brother by the name of Charles Rideout.
14. Resolution No. 20-12 – Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Amendment
15. Resolution No. 20-13 – Updated Position and Salary Grades and add more Police Officer positions.

Both Resolution 20-12, 20-13 were postponed to the next meeting. The decision to postpone was passed on Commissioner Sydnor's motion and a second by Commissioner Cannon on a vote of 4-0-1, with Commissioner Foster abstaining due to her conflict of interest regarding matters related to the police department.

New Business

16. The contract of Regina Bellina to be the Housing Specialist was approved on a motion by Commissioner Sydnor and a second by Commissioner Rideout. The motion passed 5-0.

17. Planning and Zoning Stipend Increase Request – Has been moved to the July 27, 2020 meeting on a motion by Commissioner Sydnor and a second by Commissioner Foster. The motion was adopted 5-0.

18. City Elections – Fall 2020 – Vendors Contracts, Qualifying Requirements, Election Specifics, and Judge and Poll Workers and Helpers Approvals.

City Council approval of the October 2020 City Council election process including the contract with the private election vendor, the candidate qualification requirements, the specifics of how the election would be done, and the approvals of the election judges and alternate judges/poll workers. On a motion by Commissioner Rideout and a second by Commissioner Hanson. The motion passed on a vote of 3-2. Commissioners Rideout, Hanson, and Cannon voted for the measure and Commissioners Sydnor and Foster voted against the measure.

19. Resolution No. 20-14 – Requesting MML Legislative Support and Local Initiatives - was approved on a motion by Commissioner Rideout and a second by Commissioner Hanson. The motion passed 5-0.

20. LaSara Kinser was approved as an alternate for the HPC. The motion was made by Commissioner Cannon and seconded by Commissioner Rideout with an approval vote of 5-0.

Comments

Traffic and Safety Committee Report

Chief Lewis reported on the recommendations of the traffic and safety committee for a variety of projects around the city to help on such matters as the following:

- Street signs in and on Choptank, Willis, West End, School and Travers Streets
- Streetlights for Edgewood Avenue
- Speed limit signs for Bayly Road
- No parking near the fishing pier to move visitors over to the visitor center
- Speeding concerns on Locust and East Appleby
- The need for City curbs to be painted near intersections
- Improving the turn lane at Race and Cedar
- Safety floats at Sailwinds

Requests from the Public


None

Adjourn

A motion by Commissioner Hanson to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Commissioner Sydnor and approved unanimously.

With no further business, Mayor Victoria Jackson-Stanley adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of the Council meeting Monday, July 13, 2020, insofar as I personally am aware.


Victoria Jackson-Stanley
Mayor