

The City Commissioners conducted the City business on Monday, August 10, 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 6:00 p.m. 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 meeting began with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Mayor.

1. Agenda: The agenda was approved after Item 8 was moved from old business to new business. The motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Rideout and Seconded by Commissioner Cannon. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Requests from the Public

A request from Mr. Batson, which was hard to hear and understand, was to reactivate the Cambridge Housing Task Force, this request will be continued over to the next meeting so that the Mayor can obtain more information from Mr. Batson.

Consent Calendar

The Consent Calendar was then approved on a motion of Commissioner Hanson and a second of Commissioner Rideout on a 5-0 vote.

2. July 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes
3. Dri-Dock Recovery and Wellness Center's request to have a "Walk thru Recovery Works Event 2020" at the parking lot of 524 Race Street on September 9, 2020 from noon to 4 p.m.
 - 3a. Awaken 48-Hour Worship Service event changed the location to the church parking lot across from city hall. They also advised they will have no music playing or a PA

system operating after 9:00 p.m.; also, they will observe social distancing and will use the restrooms in the church.

Ordinance for First Reading

4. Ordinance 1164 regarding a zoning matter within the Hyatt has its first reading and was continued to the August 24th meeting of City Council for 2nd reading, public hearing, and possible passage.

Ordinance for Second Reading, Public Hearing, and Adoption

5. Ordinance 1166 – Amending Chapter (Motor Vehicles and Traffic), Article II (Parking) of the Code of the City of Cambridge. The city attorney read the ordinance aloud and the mayor opened the floor for a public hearing. No one from the public provided comment. This Ordinance was passed on a motion of Commissioner Hanson and seconded by Commissioner Cannon on a vote of 5-0.

Old Business

6. SUBJECT: Pine Street Neighborhood Revitalization – Acquisition of properties. Recommendation: That Council approve the purchase of 4 lots along Douglas Street offered for \$32,000 by Ms. Akisha Reed. The report on the purchase indicated how the purchase amount was determined after discussion with county and state representatives but without an appraisal.

Commissioners Sydnor and Foster wanted an Appraisal to be done. After further discussion and on motion of Commissioner Hanson and a second by Commissioner Rideout, the purchase contract was approved 3-2 with Commissioners Hanson, Cannon, and Rideout in favor and Commissioners Foster and Sydnor in opposition.

7. Pine Street Neighborhood Revitalization – Amended demolition bid to include asbestos testing and asbestos removal from buildings and proper disposal. The cost of the bid increased after having to add the cost of asbestos removal. After a lengthy discussion the amended contract was approved on a motion by Commissioner Cannon and a second by Commissioner Hanson with a vote of 5-0.

New Business

8. Commissioner Foster Residency Resolution 2020-15 - That discussed holding a public hearing to address the Residency Requirement regarding Commissioner Foster. After discussion and argument, on a motion of Commissioner Rideout and a second of Commissioner Hanson, the Resolution was passed on a vote of 3-1-1 with

Commissioners Cannon, Hanson, and Rideout voting in favor, Commissioner Sydnor voting in opposition, and Commissioner Foster abstaining. The matter is scheduled to be heard on August 24th.

9. Resolution 20-16 Waterway Improvement Fund Grant Agreement - LG-0933N-2-\$250,000 (George Hyde).

On a motion of Commissioner Rideout and second of Commissioner Hanson, the vote of the Commissioners was 3-2 with Commissioners Hanson, Cannon, and Rideout voting in favor and Commissioners Foster and Sydnor voting in opposition. The Mayor was asked to cast her vote based on the written opinion of the City Attorney that was provided in June of this year to the Mayor and all Commissioners.

The Mayor voted to abstain and to continue the matter after she had time to review further the city attorney's opinion.

10. Re-appointments

George Breig - Planning and Zoning Commission – term July 2020-2024

Hubert Trego - Planning and Zoning Commission – term July 2020-2024

Sharon Smith - Historic Preservation Commission – term July 2020-2023

On a motion of Commissioner Hanson and a second of Commissioner Rideout the committee re-appointments were approved.

Public Comment

Jermaine Anderson spoke about Cornish Park.

Regina Cephas spoke about dilapidated properties.


Nancy Jackson spoke about the city doing rental inspections.

Mia Woods spoke about the Bradford House conditions. She invited Commissioners to stop by on Tuesday afternoon, August 11, 2020 to hear from the residents.

Adjourn

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

With no further business, Mayor Victoria Jackson-Stanley adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m. I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of the Council meeting Monday, August 10, 2020, insofar as I personally am aware.


Victoria Jackson-Stanley
Mayor