

The City Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, January 24, 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 Spotty 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 Malkus led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda

1. Council to approve or amend agenda as presented.

On a motion by Commissioner Malkus, and a second by Commissioner Harrington the agenda was approved as presented.

Presentations from the Public

Proposed Site Improvements for the Harriet Tubman statue – Herve Hamon, Adrian Holmes

Herve Hamon and Adrian Holmes gave an overview of the Harriet Tubman statues project to be placed on the courthouse grounds. Mr. Hamon spoke about fundraising, and the project is expected to be complete by September 2022.

GFNY Proposed Cycling Event Presentation

The GFNY group is asking both the City and County to help fund their cycling event. The Commissioners requested additional information from GFNY.

Consent Calendar

No Items

Ordinances for First Reading

2. **Ordinance 1191 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND AMENDING § 4.2.3(B) AND TABLE 1: PERMITTED USES BY ZONING DISTRICT OF THE CITY'S UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE TO PROVIDE THAT RESTAURANTS ARE A PERMITTED USE WITH CONDITIONS IN THE INDUSTRIAL ZONING DISTRICT; PROVIDING THAT THE TITLE OF THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE DEEMED A FAIR SUMMARY AND GENERALLY RELATING TO RESTAURANTS IN THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.**

Ordinances for Second Reading

None

Old Business

3. Update on Flood Mitigation Planning Project & Grant Opportunities

Larry White gave an overview of the Flood Mitigation project. He explained the FEMA grant process and mentioned various flood control techniques being considered. The Commissioners thanked Mr. White for his efforts.

New Business

4. Budget Amendments

The Acting City Manager explained in detail the budget amendments. On a motion by Commissioner Sputty Cephas and a second by Commissioner Harrington the budget amendments were approved on a 5-0 vote.

5. Request for Proposal – Mace's Lane

Carol Richardson presented Council with the grant process of the various phases of the Mace's Lane project. On a motion by Commissioner Malkus and a second by Commissioner and 5-0 vote; the Council approved the issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Construction Manager for the project.

6. ARPA Funds

Acting City Manager explained the ARPA funds to Council. He stated that the funds need to be committed by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026. Commissioner Malkus stated that he would like to have a special meeting to discuss ARPA funds. Commission President Lajan Cephas stated that the non-profits are waiting to hear back from Council. Commissioner Sputty Cephas stated that the City should come up with a process of how the funds will be distributed. Commission President stated that for

any program to be put into place, they need to know what the numbers of are. Commission President Lajan Cephas stated that the department heads also discussed their needs. Commission President Lajan Cephas asked if the City has hazard pay for our employees. Commissioner Harrington stated that he would like to see monies for non-profits, and he supported the RFC request to replace the rescue truck. He stated that he would like to explore hazard pay. Commissioner Roche said it's a shame that we started late on this however, but he feels strongly that an application process for ARPA funds is needed. It was decided to have a work session Monday, January 31, 2022, regarding ARPA funds.

7. Traffic Control

The intersection of High Street and Church Street has been on red flash in all directions, for the last several months, as recommended by the Traffic Safety Committee. The proposal now is to remove the traffic signals and control the intersection by stop signs. On a motion by Commissioner Roche and a second by Commissioner Malkus and a 5-0 vote, the change to a stop sign controlled intersection was approved including removal of the traffic signals.

8. Form of Government

The Commissioners discussed various approaches to addressing the Charter regarding the office of Mayor. Council asked the City Attorney to be prepared for further discussion at a Special Meeting on January 31, 2022.

9. Election Discussion

On a motion by Commissioner Malkus and a second by Commissioner Spuddy Cephas this item was tabled, until the February 14, 2022, Council Meeting.

Meetings

The City of Cambridge Planning & Zoning Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 6:00 pm at Council Chambers, 305 Gay St., Cambridge, Maryland.

Public Comment

Krista Pettit – Spoke about One Mission Cambridge, a consortium of churches in Cambridge.

Maya Woods – 704 Governors Avenue – asked if there were any grants from the City to help the middle school with cheerleading uniforms. Ms. Woods also asked what the requirements were to run for the second ward.

Department/Division Head Comments

Chief Lewis – no comments

Adam Pritchett – no comments

Pat Escher – spoke of grants for Cannery Park, she explained the grant process, she talked about a small park on Leonard Lane. She stated DHCD, herself, Yvette Robinson met and did a walk-through on Pine Street.

Yvette Robinson - spoke about the walk through on Wells Street and Schoolhouse Lane. She stated that Douglas Street and Washington Street will be a part of the project as well. A community meeting will be held to get ideas for Cornish Park, including the design of the basketball court.

George Hyde stated that the city received a grant from the Maryland Energy Administration for solar panels at the Public Safety Building.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Roche – looking forward to preliminary talks regarding the budget.

Commissioner Harrington - invited everyone to come to the Ice & Oyster Festival.

Commissioner Malkus – spoke regarding the Ice & Oyster Festival. He also thanked the Chamber of Commerce.

Acting City Manager Comments

David Deutsch stated that Cross Street Partners had requested that the Commissioners visit the Packing House for a tour. The visit was agreed upon for 11am on February 2, 2022.

He mentioned the FY2023 Budget and stated it would be an item on the February 14, 2022, agenda.

On a motion by Commissioner Spuddy Cephas and a second by Commissioner Harrington, the Commissioners unanimously voted to go into closed session.

Closed Session pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Provisions 3-305(b)(1) to discuss the employment of a specific official over whom the Commissioners have jurisdiction and

pursuant to 3-305(b)(7) and (8) to consult with the City Attorney regarding a potential settlement of pending litigation.

Adjourn

A motion by Commissioner Sputy Cephass to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Commissioner Roche and approved unanimously.

With no further business, Commission President Lajan Cephass adjourned the meeting at 9:05p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of the Council meeting Monday, January 24, 2022, insofar as I personally am aware.

Lajan Cephass
Commission President