

The City Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 14, 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, 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. Commission to approve or amend agenda as presented.

On a motion by Commissioner Malkus and a seconded by Commissioner Spuddy Cephas the Agenda was approved after the removal of item #9.

Presentations from the Public

Dennis Carmichael – Design Work Packing House

On a motion by Commissioner Spuddy Cephas and a second by Commissioner Harrington to remove Dennis Carmichael from the February 14, 2022, Agenda.

Consent Calendar

2. January 10, 2022, Meeting Minutes
3. January 24, 2022, Meeting Minutes
4. Gary Glintz of Cambridge Mainstreet is requesting to have Sip & Savor on April 23, 2022, (rain date April 30, 2022) from 11:00am to 5:30pm. He is requesting to have Poplar Street closed.
5. Allen Nelson is requesting to have the Cambridge Classic Powerboat Race, on May 21, 2022, from 10:00am to 5:00pm at Gerry Boyle Park at Great Marsh.

6. Allen Nelson is requesting to have the Thunder on the Choptank on July 23, 2022, from 10:00am to 5:30pm at Gerry Boyle Park at Great Marsh.
7. Young Professionals of Dorchester County is requesting to use the alley behind Blue Ruin and a portion of city parking lot at the end of the alley. Fund Raiser benefiting Baywater Animal Rescue on 3/12/2022 from 4 pm – 8 pm. See attached map.
8. Young Professionals of Dorchester & Talbot Paddle Jam 2022 is requesting to use Gerry Boyle Park at Great Marsh - Kayaks and paddle boards will launch from and return to Gerry Boyle Park. They will travel by water into Cambridge Creek, to the visitor Center and to the Hyatt for more experienced participants. Fund raiser for YMCA of the Chesapeake. The event date will be 6/25/2022 (bad weather day 6/26/2022) from 8 am – 8 pm.
9. Sheila Jones is requesting to have the Garden Madhatter event on May 21, 2022, at Race Street and Cannery Way from 5:30pm-10:30pm

On a motion by Commissioner Spuddy Cephas and a second by Commissioner Malkus the Consent Calendar was approved on a 5-0 vote after amending item #9.

Ordinances for First Reading

None

Ordinances for Second Reading

10. **ORDINANCE NO. 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.**

- A. Second Reading
- B. Public Hearing
- C. Council Action

A motion to go into a public hearing for Ordinance 1191 was made by Commissioner Spuddy Cephas and seconded by Commissioner Malkus.

A resident with a local oyster company called in, in agreement with the Ordinance 1191. Pat Escher also spoke in agreement with the Ordinance.

The Commissioners are asking to have Item 13A to be taken out of the language for Ordinance 1191. On a motion by Commissioner Malkus and a second by Commissioner Harrington to strike 13A was approved on a 3-2 vote, with Commissioner Roche, Commissioner abstaining.

11. **ORDINANCE NO. 1193 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND AMENDING CHAPTER 12 (OFFENSES – MISCELLANEOUS) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF REGULATING PANHANDLING IN THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE; PROVIDING THAT THE TITLE OF THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE DEEMED A FAIR SUMMARY AND GENERALLY RELATING TO PANHANDLING IN THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.**

- A. Second Reading
- B. Public Hearing
- C. Council Action

On a motion by Commissioner Sputty Cephas and a second by Commission Harrington the public hearing was opened to the public.

Several citizens called in to state their opinions, most stated that the panhandlers were harmless and suffering from mental illness. Citizens were also against having the panhandlers incarcerated and fined. Commission President Lajan Cephas stated that having the panhandlers incarcerated would help them to get the help that is needed. She stated that after going before a judge, the state would then take over and assist in getting the medical attention that is needed. Chief Lewis stated that all other avenues have been exhausted.

Motion to close public hearing was made by Commissioner Sputty Cephas and a second by Commissioner Roche, and the Ordinance was approved unanimously

Old Business

12. Request to purchase City Property at Phillips Street

Ms. Taylor with Groove City Black Heritage & Culture Group is requesting to purchase the building located at 700 Phillips Street. The Commissioners acknowledged the receipt of the additional information and letters of support. Staff indicated that the cost of the property was \$3,535.00. These funds will have to be reallocated within the overall grant budget. The Commissioners instructed staff to prepare the necessary documents for the transfer of the property and they would determine the cost to Ms. Taylor upon receipt of that information.

Ms. Taylor stated that her organization is prepared to put up funds for the sale of the 700 Phillips Street property.

On a motion by Commissioner Spuddy Cephias and a seconded by Commissioner Harrington to have the City Attorney start the process for the sale of the Phillips Street property was voted unanimously.

13. Continuation of Form of Government discussion

The City Attorney spoke regarding possible changes to the City Charter regarding the position Mayor. The new provisions were posted on the City website.

14. ARPA Update

The Acting City Manager stated that at the next meeting he expected to have a framework for decision making regarding allocating funds for non-profits.

15. GFNY Bicycle Race Support Request

The City Manager explained in detail the reasons for the fund request. The city asked GFNY to get references of past event holders as GFNY is requesting the County to match the city contribution. The GFNY representative is asking the City of Cambridge to bring GFNY in for three years. The City and County are each being asked to provide \$11,250 in the first year. Mr. Deutsch recommended that half of the amount be provided in the current year, and the other half in FY23. A motion by Commissioner Malkus and a second by Commissioner Harrington this item was approved on a 5-0 vote.

16. Consideration of Funding Request for Harriet Tubman Statue on The Courthouse Grounds

Adrian Holmes stated that they have raised \$200,000 dollars, and hopes that future fundraisers will raise the additional \$50,000. Ms. Holmes is asking the city to help with the foundation and base of the statue. Ms. Holmes is asking the city to contribute \$50,000 to match what the county has donated. Both Herve Hamon and Amy Craig spoke in reference to the need of financing for the statue. The Acting City Manager stated that he would look into the ARPA funds to see if this donation would qualify.

Commissioner Malkus motioned to approve the request and a second by Commissioner Spuddy Cephias, the request was approved on a 5-0 vote.

New Business

17. Council to vote on Chair Pro-Tem Position

On a motion by Commissioner Harrington and seconded by Commissioner Roche to vote for Commissioner Spuddy Cephias for Chair Pro-Tem.

18. FY23 Budget Discussion

The Acting City Manager has asked the Commissioners' for their ideas and comments for the FY23 budget. He stated that the city auditor will speak at the upcoming City Council meeting.

FY23 Budget Requests:

Commission President Lajan Cephas is requesting for the City to have a grant writer and an Assistant City Manager, more Code Enforcement Officers, equipment for DPW, repair of the old City Hall Building, and raises for City employees.

Commissioner Spuddy Cephas mentioned a need for grant writer.

Commissioner Harrington requested infrastructure funding.

Commissioner Roche seconded the request for the old City Hall Building, he also stated that we need new city software and that we should create a committee to start the process. He stated that he would like more livable street, including planting of trees, to improve neighbor revitalization.

Commissioner Malkus spoke regarding the repair of the old City Hall building. He stated that there are grants that will help the city fund the repairs.

Meetings

The Rails to Trails Committee will meet on February 15, 2022, 1:30pm at Council Chambers, 305 Gay Street, Cambridge, MD.

The Historic Preservation Committee will meet on February 16, 2022, 6:00pm at Council Chambers, 305 Gay Street, Cambridge, MD.

Public Comment

Robert Aaron – Colonial Rd, would like to see the Mayor position filled.

Jerome Stanley – 417 Leonard Lane, commented on the change to the City Charter, highly opposed to City Charter change.

LaShon Foster - 2527 Southside Drive, stated that she would like for some of the funds to go to the youth in the way of scholarships for sports. Council should follow the Charter to have an election for the Mayor.

Mr. Hauffman - 883 Waters Street, wanted to put his support in for having a Mayor.

Adrian Holmes - 505 Maryland Avenue, called in regarding the letter of support for the statue to be placed on the courthouse grounds.

Department/Division Head Reports

None

Acting City Manager Comments

The Acting City Manager explained the event #9 that was pulled off the Agenda – it was suggested that the events are taken off the agenda. It was suggested that staff just send an email/memo to Council regarding the events.

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Roche spoke regarding the ARPA process, stating that he talked with a citizen in the Cambridge area how the application process should work regarding funds for non-profits.

Commissioner Spuddy Cephias extended his condolences to the Webster family, also thanking Chief Pritchett for responding to a fire call at Commissioner Spuddy Cephias' church.

Commissioner Malkus thanked everyone for his birthday wishes.

Motion to enter into closed session was made by Commissioner Spuddy Cephias and a second by Commissioner Harrington.

Closed Session pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Provisions 3-305(b)(1), (7), and (8) to discuss: 1) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of specific appointees, employees, or officials over whom the Commissioners have jurisdiction; and 2) to consult with the City Attorney and City staff regarding potential litigation and obtain advice from the City Attorney regarding the same.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was given by Commissioner Spuddy Cephias and a second by Commissioner Harrington.

With no further business, Commission President Lajan Cephias adjourned the meeting at 9:37p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of the Council meeting Monday, February 14, 2022, insofar as I personally am aware.


Lajan Cephias
Commission President