

The City Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, April 25, 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 Sputty 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 police department. Commissioner Sputty Cephas led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Agenda**

1. Commission to approve or amend agenda as presented.

On a motion by Commissioner Roche seconded by Commissioner Harrington to add Item 14 Request for Support for Bacteria Monitoring. A motion by Commissioner Malkus and seconded by Commissioner Harrington to remove Item 8 from the Consent Calendar and add it to New Business for discussion. A motion was made by Commissioner Sputty Cephas and seconded by Commissioner Roche to add Item 15, Discussion on repairs for apparatus for the Rescue Fire Company. The Consent Calendar was then approved as amended on a motion by Commissioner Sputty Cephas and seconded by Commissioner Roche.

### **Presentations from the Public**

#### **Consent Calendar**

2. April 11, 2022, Meeting Minutes
3. Ms. Tilghman is requesting to have a "birthday party" on the vacant lot at 1018 Pine (South Pine) from 12pm-11pm on May 7, 2022.
4. Amy Craig is requesting to have the Rotary Club "duck race festival" at the Circuit Court House on Court Lane, on August 13, 2022, from 11:00am to 2:00pm.
5. ShoreRivers and the Sierra Club are requesting to plant trees throughout the City.

6. New Beginnings Youth and Family Services is requesting to have "Safe Play" on 614 Greenwood Avenue, on Tuesday, April 26th from 4pm-6pm and Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 7pm, Friday, May 6th from 4pm-7pm. They are also requesting to have the 500 and 600 block of Greenwood Avenue closed at this time.
7. Harvesting Hope, Inc. is requesting to have the Cambridge Youth Expo on May 7, 2022, at Cannery Way from 11:00am to 4:00pm.

#### **Ordinances for First Reading**

8. **ORDINANCE NO. 1195 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND AMENDING CHAPTER 11 (MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC), ARTICLE II (PARKING) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROHIBITING PARKING ON GREENWOOD AVENUE BETWEEN GLORIA RICHARDSON CIRCLE/CAMELIA STREET AND PARK LANE; PROVIDING THAT THE TITLE OF THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE DEEMED A FAIR SUMMARY AND GENERALLY RELATING TO PARKING IN THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.**

#### **Ordinances for Second Reading**

9. **ORDINANCE NO. 1194 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND DECLARING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF CAMBRIDGE LOCATED AT 700 PHILLIPS STREET AND DESCRIBED IN A DEED DATED NOVEMBER 2, 2020 AND RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND AT LIBER A.J.C. NO. 1610, FOLIO 175, AND SHOWN ON DORCHESTER COUNTY TAX MAP 302, GRID 16 AS PARCEL 2384, WITH A TAX ACCOUNT NUMBER OF 07-104936, TO BE SURPLUS AND NOT NEEDED FOR ANY PRESENT OR FORESEEABLE PUBLIC USE, APPROVING THE SALE OF SUCH REAL PROPERTY TO GROOVE CITY BLACK HERITAGE & CULTURE GROUP, INC. FOR ONE DOLLAR, WITH ALL COSTS, CHARGES, AND FEES ASSOCIATED THEREWITH TO BE PAID BY GROOVE CITY BLACK HERITAGE & CULTURE GROUP, INC., AND AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND THE ACTING CITY MANAGER, OR SUCH OTHER CITY OFFICIALS AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS AND TAKE ANY AND ALL OTHER ACTION NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE SUCH SALE; PROVIDING THAT THE TITLE OF THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE DEEMED A FAIR SUMMARY AND GENERALL**

- A. Second Reading
- B. Public Hearing

**C. Council Action**

On a motion by Commissioner Spuddy Cephas and seconded by Commissioner Harrington, the public hearing was opened.

Lynette Wongus – stated that it is vital to serve the underserved community.

Jeremaine Anderson – stated that he was in support of the Groove City Black Heritage group taking over the building.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Commissioner Spuddy Cephas and seconded by Commissioner Roche.

Discussion ensued, and a number of clarifications were sought for the agreement between the City of Cambridge and Groove City. The Commissioners voted to table the ordinance until May 9, 2022.

**Old Business****New Business**

10. **ARPA Reporting**  
The City Manager explained to Council of the standard deduction with the ARPA funds.
11. **Special Election, Possible Charter Amendment**  
The proposals for the Special Election are due on May 6, 2022. A Work Session has been scheduled for May 16, 2022, at 6pm to further discuss Charter Amendments. The commissioners confirmed that any discussion about a charter amendment would have no effect on the timing of the special election for the vacant mayor position.
12. **2023 Property Tax Rate Options**  
The City Commissioners elected to proceed with the Constant Yield tax rate for the upcoming fiscal year. The tax rate in FY 22 is 0.8301 and will be 0.8096 for FY23.
13. **Request for Support for Bacteria Monitoring Program**  
Commissioner Roche explained the importance of having the water assessed for water quality. He said that the bay waters contain bacteria and sea nettles. He stated that we help ShoreRivers help us. On a motion by Commissioner Roche and seconded by

Commissioner Malkus, the Bacteria Monitoring Program was approved for funding for \$1,920.

14. Fire Chief Pritchett explained repair needs for two pieces of critical fire equipment. After discussion, Commissioner Sputty Cephas moved to provide not-to-exceed \$100,000 for the repairs and Commissioner Malkus seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0. The monies will come from ARPA funds and or the General Fund.
15. Alpha Genesis is requesting to have “Juneteenth – BLM Community Public Art Event” on Saturday, June 18, 2022, from 10:00am to 10:00pm at Cannery Way. A street closure is being requested.

After much discussion on the street closures, on a motion by Commissioner Sputty Cephas and seconded by Harrington, the Alpha Genesis request was approved.

### **Meetings**

The City of Cambridge Board of Appeals public meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 6:00 pm at Council Chambers, 305 Gay Street, Cambridge, Maryland.

### **Public Comment**

LaShon Foster – stated that the ARPA funds are for the citizens of Cambridge as well.

Robert Aaron – stated that he is a homeowner and does not want to see the property taxes go up.

Rev. Linda Walker – would like to applaud the city.

Wendy Jones – wanted to know the history of the building on Phillips Street, she stated that she did not want to see the property taxes increased.

Mr. McFadden – asking Council to be bold, he also spoke of the retention of the Police Department, he stated that the Police pay needs to be increased.

### **Department/Division Head Reports**

Ina Holden – thanked the City Manager for coming out and meeting her employees

Chief Pritchett – stated that the RFC is strictly volunteers, and added that they do not bill for services.

Chief Lewis – welcomed the City Manager and thanked him for riding along with his employees.

**City Manager Comments**

The City Manager thanked the Commissioners and his co-workers for making him feel so welcomed.

**Commissioners' Comments**

Commissioner Roche – welcomed the City Manager

Commissioner Harrington – thanked ShoreRivers for the tree planting

Commission Lajan Cephas – thanked the City Manager, she also thanked Mr. McFadden for stating that we need to be “Bold”

Commissioner Spuddy Cephas – reminded the public of the deadline for the non-profits of the ARPA funds

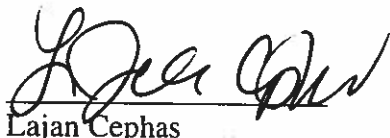
Commissioner Chad Malkus – stated that he was excited to have the new City Manager on board.

**Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Spuddy Cephas and a second by Commissioner Malkus.

With no further business, Commission President Lajan Cephas adjourned the meeting at 8:17p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of the Council meeting Monday, April 25, 2022, insofar as I personally am aware.



Lajan Cephas  
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.*