

The City Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, July 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 Commissioners 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 Thomas 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 408-418-9388 and entering the meeting number and password: Meeting Number 2555 16109336; Password 5808.

Commission President Lajan Cephas asked for a moment of silence for the youth in our community and the police department. Commissioner Sputty Cephas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda

Commission to approve or amend agenda as presented.

Motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Commissioner S. Cephas and seconded by Commissioner Harrington. Approved 5:1

Presentations from the Public

Ms. Krista Pettit (Race St, Cambridge) - One Mission Cambridge is a group of religious organizations that have gotten together to provide services to the community. We have a food pantry, job listings, counseling with pastors, community navigation, monthly dinners and support groups.

Ms. Amy Craig (Somerset Ave, Cambridge) – West End Property Owners have met and have some concerns in the West End area and the whole city. They will send a copy of their concerns to the City Council, but their top ones are as follows.

- ❖ Cars are racing on some of wider streets, like Somerset Ave, Hambrooks Blvd and Glenburn Ave.
- ❖ Gerry Boyle Part at Great Marsh is having a lot of nighttime activity, not all legal or safe. Would like to see some cameras put up at all the city owned parks.

Mr. Larry White (Cambridge) – Make Cambridge Resilient Community Development Program has been very busy with getting the information needed to acquire some more grants. The current grant has helped with design and planning; and he has been working the City Planner, Patricia Escher and the City Engineer, George Hyde for this program to coincide with the Comprehensive Plan and the Working Waterfront Plan. The sea levels will continue to rise, and we need to have a plan for the infrastructure to continue and support this program. They are working to obtaining a grant that will help the future of this program to continue with the

workforce to operate and maintain it. The State of Maryland has a grant, which is the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program that they would like to apply for at the end of the month of July.

Motion to proceed with the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program was made by Commissioner Roche and seconded by Commissioner Malkus. Approved 5:0

Mr. Melvin Russell (Baltimore) introduced himself to the City Council and spoke that he was here to listen and to advise on the Community Policing Program. He would like to listen to all the various groups in the community, such as education, religious, support, and others to see what each one is doing and how to support them and each other in the task ahead. He has worked with other cities in the country and around the world to help with the issues that Cambridge is dealing with.

Consent Calendar

1. June 27, 2022, Meeting Minutes
2. July 11, 2022, Meeting Minutes
3. Gregory Aldridge is requesting to have a Tent Revival on August 17th through 19th, 2022. Event will be held from the corner of Center St to Robins St. Time of event 4 to 9 pm each day.
4. Relentless Faith Ministries is requesting to have a Unity in the Community event on August 20, 2022. Event will be held in the city lot on the corner of Race St and Cedar St. Time of event is 11 am till 4 pm.
5. Zion Baptist Church is requesting to have a Community Day on August 27, 2022. Event will be held between Cross St to Cedar St along Pine St. Time of event will be 11 am till 5:30 pm.
6. Mrs. Chris Hopkinson is requesting to have a Bay Paddle Race on August 28, 2022. Event to be held on the Choptank River from Tilghman Island and ending at Gerry Boyle Park at Great Marsh. Time of event is 8 am till 5 pm.
7. Alpha Genesis is requesting to have a Day of Resilience from September 9th till 11th, 2022. Street closures on High St from the corner of Spring St to Court Lane and on Spring St from corner of Gay St to High St and lastly on Race St from the corner of Craig's Drug Store parking lot to Muir St. Time of the event will be estimated at 8 am till 11 pm. Event to take place at Dorchester Co Courthouse and Cannery Way / parking lot. Street closures will only happen on September 10th.
8. Dorchester Center of the Arts is requesting to have their 46 Annual Dorchester Showcase, which is a Street Fair and Art Walk on September 25, 2022. Event will be held on High St from Long Wharf Park to the corner of Poplar / Locust St. Time of event is from 11 am till 6 pm.
9. Del-Mar-Va Council, Boy Scouts of America is requesting to have their Annual Cubmobile Derby on October 2, 2022. Event will be held on Court Lane from High St to the Spring St. Time of the event is from 8:30 am till 6 pm.
10. Contract for the resurfacing of Dorchester Avenue – George Hyde, City Engineer
11. Contract for the design of Wells Street improvements with Rauch Inc. Engineering – Yvette Robinson, Housing Specialist.

Commissioner S. Cephas wanted to make sure that No.#4 will have a total street closure on Center St during the Tent Revival, so not to have cars on the street during the event.

Motion by Commissioner S. Cephas with the amendment to the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Roche. Approved 5:0

Ordinances for First Reading – NONE

Ordinances for Second Reading - NONE

Old Business –

12. CWDI Board Appointments

City Manager Thomas Carroll spoke that two positions with this CWDI Board will be coming available and this Council is asked to come up with a few candidates. The skills would need to be in the area of economic development, marketing, law, real estate and others.

13. Residences at River Marsh Homeowners Association request for assistance with bridges.

City Manager Thomas Carroll received a request from the HOA to have the city help with the repairs and maintenance of the three bridges with the estimate being \$1.3 million dollars. Mr. Hunter Fairchild and Mr. Duke Fairchild spoke on the support and maintenance of the bridges and wintertime is the best time to work on them. The need for these repairs is now rather than later. They have requested funding from the City of Cambridge, Dorchester County and the Rural Economic Development Fund.

14. Incumbency Certificate

City Manager Thomas Carroll advised the Council that the City Finance Director, Ms. Deborah Cooper had checked a few more institutions to secure a loan for the \$1.7 million dollars for the replacement of Rescue Fire equipment / trucks. Queenstown Bank has given the city the 2.95% financing which was lower than the Bayvanguard bank that was mentioned at the last meeting.

Motion by Council President Cephas to authorize the borrowing of the \$1.7 million dollars from Queenstown Bank with the financing of 2.95%, seconded by Commissioner Harrington. Approved 5:0

Fire Chief Adam Pritchett spoke to the Council about the need for all the fire trucks and that some of the parts to fix them are no longer available. To order a truck today will not give them a truck for about two years. He will work with the City Manager to have a presentation at the next meeting on the specifications, duties and estimates of ordering a new fire engine or rescue truck.

New Business - NONE

Meetings

Planning Commission meeting at 6 pm on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, at the Council Chambers.

Gun Violence Reduction Working Group at 6 pm on Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at the Public Safety Building in the Training Room.

ARPA Non-profit Review Committee at 6 pm on Thursday, August 18, 2022, at the Council Chambers.

ARPA Non-profit Review Committee at 6 pm on Thursday, August 25, 2022, at the Council Chambers.

Added meeting was the Police Committee will meet on Wednesday, July 27, 2022, at 5 pm.

Public Comments

Ms. Theresa Stafford (Rock Dr., Cambridge) commented that this Council should put the same aggressiveness to other parts of the city, like they just did for the River Marsh / Hyatt area. The homes in the area need to be addressed by the city with the landlords or homeowners.

Mr. Melvin Russell (Baltimore) spoke that he listened to the Consent Agenda and wondered why each church was having their own revivals or community day and not having one together. He will visit each of the events if he can.

Ms. Myra Woods (Governors Ave., Cambridge) commented to the Council about the violence, poverty, gangs and run down homes all over the city and she will continue to let the Council know. She will be having a zoom meeting with others around the state about Violence vs. Cambridge on Aug. 4th at 6:30 pm. She will send information to all the council members and other in the city to participate with the meeting.

Mr. McFadden (Belvedere Ave, Cambridge) spoke that he was the President of C.A.N. and he supports the safety issues addressed tonight with the West End area, CPD and the Fire Dept.

Department / Division Head Reports

Ms. Yvette Robinson, Housing Specialist spoke about the progress on Wells St and the grants obtained to help with Pine St, School House Lane and Chesapeake Court areas. She is looking for local contractors and developers with the housing repairs and for new homes. Cornish Park progress is coming along with some new equipment being delivered recently and getting contractors lined up to start that project. The housing study from 2017, has been revised and review and that information will be gathered and sent to the City Council by the next meeting.

Chief Lewis spoke that the National Night Out was coming up on Aug. 2nd at the Dorchester County pool and encouraged all to come out to the big event.

City Manager Comments

Mr. Thomas Carroll spoke of the candidates for Election Judges and Clerks for the Special Election for Mayor. Judges are Mr. Michael Wheatley and Ms. Dyvette Askins and for the Clerk being Ms. Cheryl Hanna.

Motion by Commissioner S. Cephas to approve the names listed by the City Manager, seconded by Commissioner Malkus. Approved 5:0

The Finance Director, Deborah Cooper had informed him that the \$5,000 for the support of the Groove City event is in this 2023 Budget.

Motion by Commissioner Harrington to approve the \$5,000 funds to go to the support of the Groove City event this year, seconded by Commissioner S. Cephas. Approved 5:0

City Little League has been selected to go to championships and is raising funds for their kids to participate.

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner S. Cephas commented that the Refuge Temple of God will also be having their Community Days on July 31st from 11 am till 4 pm. He also stated that the city as a whole needs to address the issue at hand and not just this Council.

Commissioner Malkus commented that the infrastructure and budget for the city involves all areas of the city and not just one section or just one ward.

Council President Cephas commented that the crime and other issues around the city will take the whole city to resolve.

Closed Session pursuant to Md. Code Ann. §3-305(b)(1) and (7) to discuss personnel matters affecting specific individuals.

Motion made by Commissioner Malkus to close the regular meeting enter into the Close Session meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Roche. Approved 5:0

Motion made by Commissioner S. Cephas to approve the salary increase for city employees presented by the City Manager, seconded by Commissioner Harrington. Approved 5:0

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner S. Cephas and seconded by Commissioner Harrington. Approved 5:0.

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

July 25, 2022
Cambridge, MD

Lajan Cephas
Commission President