

The City Commissioners conducted the City business on Monday, August 24, 2020 by way of a conference call because of the Corona Virus threat. The Mayor was stationed at 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.

Commissioners Foster, Sydnor, and Rideout joined the Mayor at City Council Chambers while Commissioners Hanson and Cannon participated through the city WebEx Program. Mayor Victoria Jackson Stanley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The following were present on the conference call: The Assistant City Attorney Patrick Thomas, City Police Chief Mark Lewis, City IT Director Dale Price, and City Manager Patrick Comiskey.

The meeting began with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Mayor.

Agenda

1. Council to approve or amend agenda as presented.

An addition was added to the Agenda under Requests from the Public.

The Agenda was then approved 5-0 on a motion from Commissioner Sydnor and seconded by Commissioner Rideout.

Public Comment

None

Comments

The Mayor spoke of the reactivation of the Cambridge Housing Task Force that had been established many years ago. The Mayor read from a 1969 report regarding the housing in Cambridge. The Mayor requested that each commissioner identify two representatives from his or her Ward to recommend for the Task Force.

Requests from the Public

A PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) was requested by Commissioner Sydnor on behalf of Santo Grande of Delmarva Community Services - a project for low income senior residences at their Chesapeake Grove facility here in Cambridge.

After some discussion, Commissioner Sydnor moved to approve the request with a second by Commissioner Foster. Commissioners Rideout and Hanson had not had the opportunity to talk with Mr. Grande about this proposal and did not know if the \$200 annual per unit payment was reasonable. Thus, they voted against the motion. The vote was 3-2 for

passage. Under the Council's Rules of Procedure, four votes were required to approve the matter, as it had not been placed on the agenda. As a result, the motion was defeated.

It was decided that more information was needed to vote on this request. Commissioners Hanson and Rideout will schedule a meeting with Mr. Grande and his staff. A City Council meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2020 at 10:00 am to consider this request.

Consent Calendar

The Consent Calendar was approved on 5-0 vote on a motion from Commissioner Rideout and a second by Commissioner Sydnor. That included the following:

- August 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes

- Veronica Taylor of (Groove City Culture Fest) requested use of Cornish Park for Groove City Community Day on Saturday, September 5, 2020 from 3pm to 9pm. (Also requesting a noise variance). Subject to Health Department approvals.

Ordinances for Introduction and First Reading

3a. Ordinance No. 1167 – Amendment of the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

Ordinance No. 1167 – this Ordinance request came from the Rescue Fire Company for a budget amendment to provide funds to repair their Tower Truck. It was continued to the September 4th meeting to give two of the Commissioners time to review the documentation, as they indicated that they had not received it prior to the meeting.

Ordinances for Second Reading, Public Hearing, and Adoption

4. Ordinance No. 1164 – Ordinance on Hyatt Zoning
 - A. Second Reading
 - B. Public hearing and passage of Ordinance 1164

Ordinance 1164 proposed to amend the UDC to allow the City Commissioners to approve amendments to development plans for projects in the Planned Water Community District and the Planned Water Resort District, subject to certain conditions. After the public hearing, at which no one requested to speak, this Ordinance passed on a motion by Commissioner Rideout and a second by Commissioner Hanson on a vote of 5-0.

Old Business

5. Resolution 20-16 Waterway Improvement Fund Grant Agreement

The State of Maryland had proposed a \$250,000 grant to help the city to improve the city marina and modify existing finger piers on unused 60' and 50' boat slips to accommodate smaller boats, provide an engineering study of the excessive wave action within the marina, prepare engineering design and permitting for Piers E,F, and H (older original

piers), replace piling caps, and make asphalt paving repairs in the parking lot. At the August 24th meeting, the vote was 3-2 to approve the grant. The Mayor was asked to vote, as budget amendments require at least a four-fifths vote of all members elected to the legislative body. The Mayor declined to vote. The \$250,000 grant for which the city would have been required to provide no matching funding was defeated. Resolution 20-16 was removed from the agenda as it was moot due to the other related vote.

5.a 2020 City Election Specifics – with All Mail Out Ballots

The 2020 City Election Specific document was amended to state that all ballots will be sent to every registered voter. Much of the current information is not relevant such as information on absentee voting and people assisting voters in preparing and sending in their votes. Commissioner Foster raised her concerns about how the voting machines would be tested and secured on the voting day and the security of the ballot boxes at the Post Office. The City Manager asked that we approve the Election Specific document. On a motion by Commissioner Rideout and a second by Commissioner Hanson, the amendment to the City Election Specifics was approved on a vote of 3-2, with Commissioners Hanson, Cannon, and Rideout in favor and Commissioners Foster and Sydnor opposing.

5.b. Resolution 20-18 and Executive Order 2020-05 Extension SOE

The only reported difference from prior Executive Orders was that it would go for 60 days rather than 30 days. The City Manager explained that he had done this due to the anticipated length of the current COVID-19 crisis so that these documents did not have to come back to City Council every month. On a motion by Commissioner Rideout and a second by Commissioner Cannon, the Executive Order was approved on a vote of 3-2 with Commissioners Cannon, Hanson, and Rideout in favor and Commissioners Foster and Sydnor opposing.

New Business

6. Resolution 20-17 – A Resolution of The Commissioners of Cambridge, Maryland Supporting Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Neighborhood Business Works Program Financing to Packing Plant Building located at 411 Dorchester Avenue, Cambridge, Md 21613.

Resolution 20-17 was passed unanimously on a motion by Commissioner Rideout and a second by Commissioner Hanson. This Resolution supports the Maryland DHCD Neighborhood Business Works Program financing to the Packing Plant Building on Dorchester Avenue that is under development.

7. Purchase of two police cars and designation of two police cars as surplus for sale.

The purchase of two police cars was a budget item for the purchase, and for the designation of two cars as surplus for sale. On a motion by Commissioner Sydnor and a second by Commissioner Cannon, this request was approved 5-0.

8. Committee Re-appointments

On a motion by Commissioner Rideout and a second by Commissioner Hanson the following board members were approved on a vote of 5-0:

Carlton E. Stanley – Housing Board of Review – term August 2020-2023

Kisha Petticolas, Esq. – Housing Board of Review – term August 2020-2023

William Bishop – Housing Board of Review – term August 2020-2023

Mike Edgar – Housing Board of Review – term August 2020-2023

Julia Farrow – Housing Authority Board – term June 2020-2025

Public Hearing**9. Resolution 20-15 - the Residency Requirement regarding Commissioner Foster.**

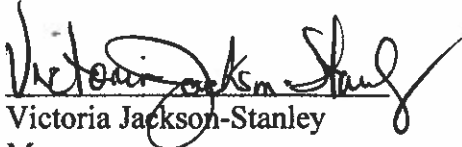
Resolution 2020-15 convened a public hearing regarding the residency qualifications of Commissioner Foster to continue serving as Commissioner in Ward Three. Commissioner Foster was present with her attorney, Edward Simon. Mayor Jackson-Stanley recused herself from chairing the hearing because she had a conflict of interest due to both her and Commissioner Foster running for the position of Mayor in the upcoming October election. Commissioner Rideout chaired the hearing as the Chair *Pro Tempore*.

During the hearing, extensive evidence was presented in support of the Resolution and by Commissioner Foster in opposition to the Resolution. Several people came forward to testify on her behalf. Commissioner Hanson moved that the Commissioners find that Commissioner Foster had violated the terms of section 3-5 of the City Charter which was seconded by Commissioner Rideout. The vote was tied 2-2 with no ability to break the tie. Commissioner Hanson and Chair *Pro Tempore* Rideout voted in favor of the motion to find that Commissioner Foster had violated the terms of 3-5 of the Charter, and Commissioners Cannon and Sydnor voted in opposition. Commissioner Foster insisted on voting and claimed her right to do so. Chair *Pro Tempore* Rideout ruled that Commissioner Foster could not vote, and Commissioner Foster's effort to vote was not allowed. No appeal to the Chair *Pro Tempore*'s ruling was made by any Commissioner and no vote was requested to overturn his decision. Thus, Commissioner Hanson's motion failed on a vote of 2-2 and Commissioner Foster's effort to cast a vote was denied.

Adjourn

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

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m. I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of the Council meeting Monday, August 24, 2020, insofar as I personally am aware.


Victoria Jackson-Stanley
Mayor