

The City Commissioners conducted city business on Monday, May 26, 2020 by way of a conference call because of the Coronavirus threat. The Mayor was stationed at her normal seat in the City Commission Meeting Room on Gay Street. City Commissioners called into the meeting utilizing Webex. Citizens were able to observe the meeting by going online to TownHallStreams.com. Citizens were invited to call in their public comments by calling the mayor during the meeting at 410-228-5808.

Mayor Victoria Jackson Stanley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. City Commissioners Rideout, Sydnor, Foster, Cannon, and Hanson all were present remotely and participated in the conference call. Additionally, present remotely on the conference call were City Attorney Chip MacLeod, City Police Chief Mark Lewis, City IT Director Dale Price, and City Manager Patrick Comiskey.

Agenda

1. Council to approve or amend agenda as presented
Commissioner Rideout made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.
Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Requests from the Public

City Planner Pat Escher reported on the Pine Street Area project and what monies have been received, expended, or committed for the project. Rhodana Fields of the Choptank Chapter of Habitat for Humanity participated in the presentation.

Public Comment

Jim Brady called into the meeting in support the holding of the traditional fireworks display on July 4th with proper social distancing and areas in the park being marked off for families.

Consent Calendar

2. May 26, 2020 Meeting Minutes
A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Hanson and seconded by Commissioner Cannon. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Dorchester Showcase – Annual Street Fair & Art Walk
A request was made that this event be moved to a later city commission meeting.

Ordinances for Introduction and First Reading

4. Charter Resolution No. CR-2020-01 – Compensation for Elected Officials
The city attorney read the charter resolution and advised a second reading and public hearing will be held on July 13, 2020.

Ordinances for Second Reading, Public Hearing, and Adoption

5. Ordinance 1162 City of Cambridge Tax Rates for Real and Personal Property
City Commissioners called for a public hearing on the ordinance, then Commissioner Rideout made a motion to approve the real and personal property tax rates. Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1. Commissioner Sydnor abstained from the vote.
6. Ordinance 1163 City Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for All City Funds
With a motion by Commissioner Rideout and seconded by Commissioner Cannon, this Ordinance was approved on a 3-0-2 vote. Commissioners Foster and Sydnor abstained from the vote. Commissioner Sydnor later requested to change his vote from an abstention to no.

Old Business

7. Award of Contract for Franklin Street Boat Ramp Repairs
On a motion from Commissioner Hanson and seconded by Commissioner Rideout, this award was approved on a 3-0-1 vote. Commissioner Foster abstained from the vote and Commissioner Sydnor did not vote.

New Business

8. Allocation of \$3, 811.00 to the Vehicle account 201-860
Commissioner Rideout made a motion that the police vehicle account 201-300-860 be increased by \$3,811 received from the sale of the old police department SWAT vehicle. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cannon and approved unanimously.
9. Resolution 20-006 Financing Agreement between the city and the state to pay for sidewalk construction along Bayly Road
Commissioner Rideout made a motion to approve the resolution and accompanying agreement. Commissioner Hanson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Fireworks Show – July 4, 2020

Commissioner Rideout made a motion that the fireworks show be canceled. There was no second to the motion, so the motion failed. Commissioner Foster made a motion to put together a plan and present it to the county health officer. If the County health officer remained against the city holding the fireworks show after seeing the city's plan, then the fireworks show would be canceled. Commissioner Sydnor seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1. Commissioner Rideout voted against the motion.

Public Comment

Ms. Bonnie Wagner called in and spoke in favor of having the fireworks show.

Mr. Charles Finley called in and said he wants to see the Coast Guard repair and keep the Hambrooks Bar Light that has been a fixture of the Choptank for many years. It was stated the U.S. Coast Guard was going to try to salvage the light and provide it to a local museum provided someone paid for the transportation.

Commissioner Foster announced that she was recommending Grady Wilson as a candidate for the HPC. The Mayor asked that he provide his application and credentials as quickly as possible.

Commissioner Hanson thanked the city police, first responders, and the city MUC for all the great work they are doing on behalf of the citizens of Cambridge.

Adjourn

A motion by Commissioner Cannon to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Commissioner Rideout and approved unanimously. With no further business, Mayor Victoria Jackson-Stanley adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of the Council meeting Monday, May 26, 2020, insofar as I personally am aware.

Victoria Jackson-Stanley
Mayor