

On Monday, July 27, 2020 at 5:00 pm the City Commission met in Open Session for the purpose of voting to meet in closed session pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 3-101(b)(1)(ii) and 3-305(b)(7) to discuss the administration of the Charter of the City of Cambridge and to obtain legal advice from the City Attorney with respect thereto. At 5:09 p.m. the mayor called the meeting to order. The meeting was held as a conference call with all city commissioners participating. On a motion of Commissioner Cannon and seconded by Commissioner Rideout the city commissioners went into closed session on a vote of 3-1-1. Commissioners Rideout, Cannon, and Hanson voted to go into closed session. Commissioner Sydnor voted against the motion and Commissioner Foster abstained from the vote. Also participating in the meeting were City Manager Patrick Comiskey and City IT Manager Dale Price. City Attorney Chip MacLeod joined the meeting at 5:20 p.m. City Commissioners ended the closed session at 5:52 p.m.

The City Commissioners began their regular session by conference call on Monday, July 27, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. A quorum of conference callers on the line, Mayor Victoria Jackson-Stanley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those Commissioners in attendance were Commissioners Rideout, Sydnor, Foster, Cannon, and Hanson. Chip McLeod, City Attorney; Patrick Comiskey, City Manager; Mark Lewis, Police Chief; and Dale Price, IT Manager also participated in the meeting. Mayor Victoria Jackson-Stanley asked for a moment of silence for the late Congressman, John Lewis. Commissioner Hanson led in the Pledge of Allegiance. The public participated in the meeting by watching Townhallstreams and calling in on the telephone next to the Mayor's station.

The Mayor advised the public participating through townhall streams of the content of the closed session by providing a general summary.

Agenda

1. Council to approve or amend agenda as presented.

The Agenda was approved with Item 5 "Awaken the Dawn" event removed from the consent agenda. The motion to approve was made by Commissioner Hanson and seconded by Commissioner Cannon. The agenda, with the change, was approved 5-0.

Public Comment

The mayor invited comment from the public and announced the call-in number. No one called in at that time.

Requests from the Public

There were no requests from the public.

Consent Calendar

2. July 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes were approved on a motion of Commissioner Hanson and a second by Commissioner Rideout. The motion passed 5-0.

3. Alpha Genesis requested September 12, 2020 for “A Day of Resilience 2020” from 12pm-1:30pm at the Dorchester County Circuit Courthouse.
Both items 3 and 4 were approved on a motion of Commissioner Rideout and a second by Commissioner Hanson. The motion passed 5-0.
4. Alpha Genesis requested September 12, 2020 for “A Day of Resilience 2020” from 5pm to 9pm at Cannery Way/Harriet Tubman Mural
5. The “Awaken the Dawn” request was removed from the consent agenda and discussed as a separate item. Commissioners expressed concern about the noise after hours. No action was taken.

Ordinances for Introduction and First Reading

6. Ordinance 1166 – Amending Chapter 11 (Motor Vehicles and Traffic), Article II (Parking) of the Code of the City of Cambridge. The Ordinance was read by the City Attorney after which it was continued over to the August 10, 2020 City Commission meeting for 2nd reading, public hearing, and possible adoption.

Ordinances for Second Reading, Public Hearing, and Adoption

7. Ordinance 1165 and Resolution No. 20-12 – Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Amendment
No action was taken.

Old Business

8. Resolution No. 20-13 – Updated Position and Salary Grades and the Pay Scale of City Worker and Police Officer positions. The motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Rideout and seconded by Commissioner Hanson. The motion passed 3-2. Commissioners Rideout, Cannon, and Hanson voted for the motion. Commissioners Sydnor and Foster voted against the motion.
9. SUBJECT: Grant MD-18-CD-31 – Purchase of one County property in the Pine Street Neighborhood Revitalization Area. After discussion on how the grant would be spent, the purchase request was approved on a 3-2 vote. Commissioner Rideout made the motion and Commissioner Hanson seconded the motion. Commissioners Rideout, Cannon, and Hanson voted for the motion. Commissioners Sydnor and Foster voted against the motion.

Public Comment

The mayor invited comment from the public and announced the call-in number.

A request was from LaJan Cephas asking that the city get moving on the Pine Street Neighborhood Revitalization project and start working together.

Ms. Clemons commented on people completing the Census. It is not too late to complete.

Chief Mark Lewis and Commissioner Cannon commented on putting Rumble Strips on Bayly Road.

Greg Meekins is in support of continuing efforts toward housing, building houses not just tearing them down. He also spoke on compensation between degreed staff vs. non-degreed staff.

Lynette Wongus also called in to discuss some matters, one of which was the closed meeting that had taken place at 5:00 p.m. She also spoke on some other matters regarding the closed session.

Mayor and Council

After a long discussion regarding the closed session, the Mayor reported that on a vote of 3-2 with Commissioners Hanson, Cannon, and Rideout voting in favor and Commissioners Foster and Sydnor voting in opposition, a public hearing will be held regarding the residency of a sitting Commissioner during the Commissioner's term of office. Later in the meeting the date for that public hearing was set for August 24th with the sitting Commissioner to report to the Mayor by August 10th with the name of her attorney.

The Mayor read the letter that City Hall received from the NAACP regarding the elections.

Adjourn

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

With no further business, Mayor Victoria Jackson-Stanley adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm. I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of the Council meeting Monday, July 27, 2020, insofar as I personally am aware.

Victoria Jackson-Stanley
Mayor