

The City Commissioners conducted the City business on Monday, February 22, 2021 by way of a conference call because of the Corona Virus threat. The Mayor was stationed at his normal station in 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. Citizens were also offered to participate in the meeting by logging into the meeting by calling 408-418-9388 and entering the meeting number and password: Meeting Number 132 958 6308; Password 5808

Commissioners held a work session at 5:00 p.m. to listen to the health insurance services provided for city workers through McWilliams Financial Services. Chet McWilliams provided the presentation.

Mayor Andrew Bradshaw called the regular meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. City Commissioners L. Cephas, Harrington, S. Cephas, and Malkus and city attorney Chip MacLeod, and City IT Dale Price were present for the meeting. Commissioner Roche, Police Chief Lewis, Fire Chief Pritchett, and City Manager Comiskey participated in the meeting virtually.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commission President Lajan Cephas.

1. Agenda

Commissioner Malkus made a motion to approve the agenda seconded by Commissioner L. Cephas after the agenda was amended removing item 9, moving item 3 from the consent calendar to new business, and breaking up item 10 to allow for each land parcel be considered individually. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Bradshaw presented a Mayoral Citation to Chief Yogananda Pittman, the recently appointed acting Chief of the United States Capitol Police. Chief Pittman is a Cambridge native. Chief Pittman accepted the award virtually and gave thanks to many from her Hometown.

Public Comment

Veronica Taylor – called regarding CBDG, wanting to know where the other monies would be spent – the Mayor stated that the other monies would go to property acquisitions.

Lynette Wongus – spoke regarding the Pine Street Committee. Ms. Wongus wanted to know if there were two different Pine Street committees. The Mayor explained that there were different groups/committees at different times. He also stated that a Pine Street committee would be established soon.

Requests from the Public

None

Consent Calendar

The consent calendar with item 3 moved to new business was approved on a motion of Commissioner Malkus seconded by Commissioner S. Cephas. The motion passed 5-0.

2. February 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes
3. Alpha Genesis CDC is requesting a letter of support for the General Assembly Bond funding application in the amount of \$500,000 to improve the viewing area adjacent to the Harriet Tubman Mural "Take My Hand".
4. Avenues Recovery is requesting a letter of support for the expansion of their services.
5. Request to have Commission President Lajan Cephas appointed to the County Heritage Area Board.
6. Support Letter for the honorary dedication of a section of Washington Street between Pine and Race Streets in honor of Janelle Henry Buck.
7. Appointment of Ms. Bronte Lake as an alternate to the Historic Preservation Commission.

Ordinance for First Reading

None

Ordinance for Second Reading

None

Old Business**New Business**

8. Resolution No. 21-05 – A Resolution of the Commissioners Cambridge, Maryland approving a recruitment bonus for Cambridge Police Officers.

The resolution was read aloud by city attorney MacLeod. A motion to approve was made by Commissioner S. Cephas and seconded by Commissioner Harrington. The motion passed 5-0. Chief Lewis spoke in favor of the resolution.

9. Purchase and transfer of eight Dorchester County Tax Sale properties to the City of Cambridge.
Recommendation: That City Council approve the purchase of eight properties from Dorchester County, pending the City Attorney's review of the deeds.

Item 9 was REMOVED from the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

Item 11, Resolution No. 21-06 establishing the last "full" week of February every year going forward as "Cambridge Movement Remembrance Week" as part of Black History Month. The resolution was approved unanimously on a motion by Commissioner Spatty Cephias and a second by Commissioner Malkus Resolution.
Commissioner Spatty Cephias also mentioned Dion Banks and the good work he does for our community.

10. Purchase and transfer of five properties from private citizens to the City of Cambridge.
Recommendation: That City Council approve the purchase of five properties from private citizens pending the City Attorney review of the deeds.

After much discussion, Commissioner Malkus made a motion to approve the purchase of 642 Washington Street and not purchase any of the other lots. The motion seconded by Commissioner Harrington and approved 4-0-1. Commissioner L. Cephias abstained having filled out Form 2-11 citing a financial relationship with the owner of the property's mother.

Item 3, Letter of support for Alpha Genesis CDC to secure \$500,000 in funding through a General Assembly Bond for the purpose of improving the viewing area adjacent to the Harriet Tubman Mural "Take My Hand" was approved unanimously on a motion from Commissioner Malkus and a second from Commissioner S. Cephias.

Meetings

Monday, February 22nd Commission Work Session 5:00 p.m. Virtual

-Learn about City Health Insurance Program – Chet McWilliams

Wednesday, February 24th Commission Work Session – 1:00 p.m. Virtual

-Learn about LGIT the city's property and liability insurance provider

-Learn about LGIT's Health Insurance Program

Friday, February 26th Commission Work Session 11:00 a.m. Virtual

-Meet with the CWDI Board and Secretary Holt at the Hyatt

-Learn about Maryland State Supported Projects in Cambridge

Ethics Commission: City Official and Staff Training Opportunities

-Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

-Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Department or Division Head Comments

Police Chief Lewis thanked the commission for passing Resolution 21-05.

Commissioner Comments

Each Commissioner participated in the discussion

Mayor's Comments

The Mayor invited citizens with an interest to apply for the committee openings.

Adjourn

A motion by Commissioner S. Cephas and seconded by Commissioner L. Cephas to adjourn was approved unanimously.

With no further business, Mayor Andrew Bradshaw adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m. I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of the Council meeting Monday, February 22, 2021, insofar as I personally am aware.

Andrew Bradshaw
Mayor

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.