

The City Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, December 13, 2021. 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 Commissioner Brian Roche, Commissioner Jameson Harrington, Commissioner Spuffy Cephas, Commissioner Chad Malkus, City Assistant Attorney Patrick Thomas, City Police Chief Mark Lewis, and Acting City Manager David Deutsch. 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 able to participate in the meeting by logging into the meeting by calling 408-418-9388 and entering the meeting number and password: Meeting Number 2555 161 9336; Password 5808.

Commissioner Malkus led in the Pledge of Allegiance, then a moment of silence for our youth and police department.

Agenda

1. Council to approve or amend agenda as presented.

The agenda was approved as presented on a 5-0 vote.

Presentations from the Public

None

Consent Calendar

After amending the consent calendar - item #5, NYE Ball Drop, 12/31/2021-1/1/2022, the consent calendar was approved on a 5-0 vote.

Ordinances for First Reading

None

Ordinances for Second Reading

None

Old Business9. **Public Hearing – Community Legacy Grant Modification**

On a motion by Commissioner Sputty Cephas and a second by Commissioner Chad Malkus the public hearing was open. With much discussion on how the outcome of the project would look. Adrian Holmes and Jermaine Anderson spoke regarding the parking area of the project. On a motion by Commissioner Sputty Cephas and a second by Commissioner Chad Malkus the public hearing was closed.

New Business10. **Discussion of Panhandling Ordinance –**

The Commissioners discussed the ordinance in detail. Commissioner Brian Roche made several comments regarding the ordinance. City attorney will need to clarify the language.

11. **RESOLUTION NO. 21-18 - A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS AND TAKE ANY AND ALL OTHER ACTION NECESSARY, INCIDENT, AND APPROPRIATE TO EFFECTUATE THE TRANSFERS OF THE PORT PROPERTY AND THE GATEWAY PROPERTY TO CAMBRIDGE WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT, INC.**

Sandra-Tripp-Jones stated that she is pleased with this stage of the project and looking forward to a positive working relationship. On a motion from Commissioner Malkus and a second from Commissioner Roche this resolution was approved on a 5-0 vote.

12. **RESOLUTION NO. 21-19 - A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND ACKNOWLEDGING THE CAUCUS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERS EASTERN SHORE AND CONDEMNING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ON MARYLAND'S EASTERN SHORE.**

On a motion from Commissioner Sputty Cephas and a second by Commissioner Malkus, this resolution was approved on a 5-0 vote.

13. **Groove City Black Heritage & Culture Group, Inc.**

Ms. Veronica Taylor of Groove City Black Heritage & Culture Group, Inc. is asking the city to donate a property near Cornish Park. With much discussion it was stated to contact Cindy Stone for a letter of support. Pat Escher stated that the property was paid for by CDBG grant funding and that the monies would have to be paid back. On a

motion by Commissioner Sputty Cephas and a second by Commissioner Harrington, this matter has been tabled while more information is collected about the grant funding, business plan, city expectation, etc.

14. MOU with the Phillips Packing House

Extensive discussion regarding the parking lot, how tenants and city officials will park. The question is to do we as the city want to have private parking. Commissioner Roche spoke of an open view of the water. There was also discussion on how and if the park will need to be reserved for usage.

15. Public Hearing – Block Grant Application for Cannery Park \$200,000.00 Request

A motion to open public hearing by Commissioner Malkus and a second by Commissioner Harrington.

A motion to close public comment by Commissioner Sputty Cephas and a second by Commissioner Malkus.

Pat Escher explained the grant and the state process regarding funding for Cannery Park.

A motion to support the grant was made by Commissioner Malkus and a second by Commissioner Sputty Cephas to support the grant with a 5-0 approval.

16. Assistant City Engineer

On a motion from Commissioner Roche and a second from Commissioner Malkus and a vote of 5-0 the Assistant City Engineer position was approved.

17. CWDI Lease Agreements

Sandra Tripp-Jones, Executive Director of CWDI spoke regarding the lease agreements. On a motion by Commissioner Harrington and a second by Commissioner Sputty Cephas and a 5-0 approval to agree to the lease agreements.

Meetings

The City of Cambridge Historic Preservation Commission will conduct a in person meeting on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. from City Council Chambers, 305 Gay Street.

Public Comment

Dorothy Drahzal and other citizens commented on the status of the mayor and submitted a petition asking that the city mayor resign. The petition had 120 signatures.

Dr. Theresa Stafford thanked the Council, Chief Mark Lewis, and staff for the extra security and lights in our communities.

Lynette Wongus asked if other employee salaries will be increased, she stated that the city should have the county do the upcoming elections. She said that city maps need to be updated. She also asked the reason for the city Police Board.

Department or Division Head Comments

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Roche spoke regarding the ideals of the traffic and safety committee.

Commissioner Harrington stated that Pine Street Community meeting at the Empowerment Center on December 14, 2021, from 6:30-7:30 pm, he also wished everyone happy holidays.

Commissioner Spatty Cephas stated he met with the police department regarding the crimes in the city. The Commissioner extended his condolences to the Woolford family. He said the Police Board meeting will be scheduled every fourth Wednesday of the month.

Commissioner Malkus thanked Chief Lewis and Commission President Lajan Cephas for all their hard work. He also stated that the public comment is not a question-and-answer session, but an opportunity to say what's on your mind.

Commission President Lajan Cephas wished everyone happy holidays.

Acting City Manager Comments

Acting City Manager spoke regarding the ARPA funds, he is asking Council to schedule a meeting to discuss these funds. He stated that he and the finance director met with others to discuss state funds, he said that a few community organizations have requested funding as well.

A motion by Commissioner Spatty Cephas and a second by Commissioner Malkus to go into closed session at 8:36pm.

Closed Session pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Provisions 3-305(b)(1) and (b)(7) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, compensation, removal, and/or resignation of two individuals over whom this public body has jurisdiction and to consult with the City Attorney regarding the same.

A motion to go into open session at 9:11pm by Commissioner Sputty Cephass and a second by Commissioner Harrington.

A motion by Commissioner Malkus to direct City Attorney to initiate process of amendment to employment agreement of the Acting City Manager, second by Commissioner Roche.

A motion by Commissioner Malkus to issue a formal complaint to remove the Mayor Bradshaw from office was approved on 5-0 vote.

Adjourn

A motion by Commissioner Sputty Cephass to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Commissioner Harrington and approved unanimously.

With no further business, Commission President Lajan Cephass adjourned the meeting at 9:18p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of the Council meeting Monday, December 13, 2021, insofar as I personally am aware.

Lajan Cephass
Commission President