

The City Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 28, 2022. 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 Spuddy 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 into 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.

Commission President Lajan Cephas asked for a moment of silence for our youth and police department. Commissioner Spuddy Cephas led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda

1. Commission to approve or amend agenda as presented.

On a motion by Commissioner Spuddy Cephas and seconded by Commissioner Malkus the Agenda was approved on a 5-0 vote.

Presentations from the Public

None

Consent Calendar

2. March 14, 2022, Meeting Minutes
3. Nikki Short is requesting to have the Little League Parade, Saturday, April 9, 2022, from 8:00am-9:00am from Long Wharf to Race Street ballpark, Ms. Short is also requesting a Police escort due to the traffic lights on Race Street.
4. Chris Brohawn of RAR Brewing is requesting to have a "Skate Demo & 80's Cult" Classic Movie viewing meet and greet, on May 21, 2022, from 11:00am to 5:00pm on the parking lot behind Chesapeake College. Mr. Brohawn is also requesting to have Poplar Street blocked off from 11:00am to 5:00pm.
5. Groove City Black Heritage Culture Group is requesting to have the kick-off to 2nd Saturday on Pine Street on June 18, July 9, September 12, October 8, 2022, the time will be from 12pm to 6pm.

On a motion by Commissioner Spatty Cephas and seconded by Commissioner Harrington the Consent Calendar was approved on a 5-0 vote.

Ordinances for First Reading

6. **ORDINANCE NO. 1194 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND DECLARING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF CAMBRIDGE LOCATED AT 700 PHILLIPS STREET AND DESCRIBED IN A DEED DATED NOVEMBER 2, 2020 AND RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND AT LIBER A.J.C. NO. 1610, FOLIO 175, AND SHOWN ON DORCHESTER COUNTY TAX MAP 302, GRID 16 AS PARCEL 2384, WITH A TAX ACCOUNT NUMBER OF 07-104936, TO BE SURPLUS AND NOT NEEDED FOR ANY PRESENT OR FORESEEABLE PUBLIC USE, APPROVING THE SALE OF SUCH REAL PROPERTY TO GROOVE CITY BLACK HERITAGE & CULTURE GROUP, INC. FOR ONE DOLLAR, WITH ALL COSTS, CHARGES, AND FEES ASSOCIATED THEREWITH TO BE PAID BY GROOVE CITY BLACK HERITAGE & CULTURE GROUP, INC., AND AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND THE ACTING CITY MANAGER, OR SUCH OTHER CITY OFFICIALS AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS AND TAKE ANY AND ALL OTHER ACTION NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE SUCH SALE; PROVIDING THAT THE TITLE OF THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE DEEMED A FAIR SUMMARY AND GENERALLY RELATING TO THE SALE OF SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE.**

Ordinances for Second Reading

None

Old Business

None

New Business

7. Appointment of Thomas M. Carroll – Cambridge City Manager

The Acting City Manager gave an overview of the new City Manager and has asked Council to appoint Mr. Thomas M. Carroll. On a motion by Commissioner Harrington and seconded by Commissioner Roche, Mr. Carroll was then appointed as City Manager. Mr. Carroll's start date will be April 20, 2022.

8. Request For Proposals (RFP): RFP Pine Street Historic District Small Area Plan (PSNSAP) Consultant.

Pat Escher explained to Council the process and need for the RFP. Ms. Escher stated that the next step was to direct staff to move forward with the RFP. On a motion by Commissioner Spatty Cephas and seconded by Commissioner Harrington the RFP was approved on a 5-0 vote.

9. Economic Development and Grants Positions

Acting City Manager explained the need to fill these positions, stating that a lot of time would be spent working on grants. Commissioner Malkus feels the grant administrator position would be great for the community. Commission President Lajan Cephas stated that the grant administrator position would be an asset for the City. On a motion by Commissioner Spatty Cephas and seconded by Commissioner Malkus, the creation of a grants administrator position was approved along with filling the Economic Development position was approved. The motion passed unanimously.

10. City Lobbyist – The Acting City Manager gave an overview of the City Lobbyist proposal. He explained that there are funds in the FY22 budget for this position. On a motion by Commissioner Spatty Cephas and seconded by Commissioner Malkus this request was approved on a 5-0 vote.

11. CDBG Grant Public Hearing –

RESOLUTION NO. 22-01 - A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION(S) FOR AND RECEIPT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (“CDBG”) FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 - PINE STREET NEIGHBORHOOD SPECIAL PROJECT (THE “PROJECT”) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,800,000.00, WITH SUCH FUNDING TO BE PROVIDED BY THE STATE OF MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (“DHCD”).

Commissioner Spatty Cephas motioned to go into public hearing.

Yvette Robinson gave an overview of the CDBG grant. The CDBG grant is requesting 2.8 million dollars for homeowner rehabilitation. It involves upgrades to Cornish Park, Bethel and Wells Street. The CDBG grant will also provide programs to assist the community in

homeownership. There will also be new construction on Chesapeake Court and Schoolhouse Lane. The CDBG grant will also support infrastructure.

Ms. Robinson also explained the HOW program. The Governor has allocated ten million dollars, with Baltimore and Cambridge having been chosen as the only cities to participate.

Commission President Lajan open the floor for public comment CDBG public hearing.

Public Comment – CDBG Public Hearing

LaShon Foster asked if this grant is the same as the old grant for improvement to the Pine Street area. Ms. Robinson explained the process of the monies involved in the grant. She also stated that we would be giving new contractors an opportunity to work with the City.

Mike Detmer stated that the areas mentioned in the CDBG grant are areas that need additional help.

A motion to close the public hearing by Commissioner Sputty Cephas and seconded by Commissioner Malkus, on a vote of 5-0 this was approved.

Commissioner Harrington stated that he was excited that the City was getting funding from the state. He also thanked Ms. Robinson for her help.

Commissioner Roche also thanked Ms. Robinson, Pat Escher and state for their help. He also stated his concern about the park being fenced in.

Commissioner Sputty Cephas thanked Ms. Robinson and Pat Escher for their efforts in making this all happen. He also stated that he is excited that our City was chosen for the HOW program.

A motion to adopt Resolution 22-01 was made by Commissioner Harrington and seconded by Commissioner Sputty Cephas and approved on a 5-0 vote.

Meetings

The City of Cambridge Board of Appeals public meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 6:00 pm at Council Chambers 305 Gay Street Cambridge, Maryland.

The City of Cambridge Planning & Zoning Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 6:00 pm at Council Chambers, 305 Gay Street, Cambridge, Maryland.

Public Comment

LaShon Foster wanted to know what the status was with the RFP for the upcoming election, Ms. Foster also wanted the status of the Bradford House.

Dr. Stafford spoke regarding the status of the monies that were put aside for the non-profits ARPA funds. She also asked for volunteers to come into the elementary schools to help kids with reading.

Department/Division Head Reports

Ina Holden reminded the community that “grass cutting” season is upon us.

Chief Pritchett spoke regarding the rescue training over the weekend.

Chief Lewis stated that the Police Department received a \$8,000 donation for the lighting on Woods Street. The Chief also said that the annual Easter Egg Hunt will be April 16, 2022, from 1pm-2pm at Long Wharf.

Pat Escher spoke regarding getting a grant from the DNR which will go to the Cannery Park. Ms. Escher also spoke on the final plans for the Leonard Lane project.

Acting City Manager Comments

Commissioners’ Comments

Commission President Lajan Cephas is excited to have the new City Manager, she thanked David Deutsch for his tenure here in Cambridge.

Commissioner Harrington thanked Mr. Deutsch, he also thanked Ms. Holden and DPW for the hard work.

Commissioner Spuddy Cephas stated that there is a CWDI “branding event” April 7, 2022, 6:30-8:30 at the CSDHS, doors will open at 6:15pm.

Motion to go into closed session by Commissioner Harrington and seconded by Commissioner Malkus.

Commission President Lajan Cephas and Commissioner Spuddy Cephas removed themselves from the Closed Session.

Closed Session pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Provisions 3-305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of certain real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Harrington and a second by Commissioner Malkus.

With no further business, Commissioner Chad Malkus adjourned the meeting at 7:51p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of the Council meeting Monday, March 28, 2022, insofar as I personally am aware.

Lajan Cephas
Commission President

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.