

The City Commissioners conducted the City business on Friday, September 4, 2020 by way of a conference call because of the Corona Virus threat. The Mayor was stationed 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.

Mayor Victoria Jackson Stanley called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. All the city Commissioners were present on the conference call including the Assistant City Attorney, Patrick Thomas, City Police Chief Mark Lewis, City IT Director Dale Price, and City Manager Patrick Comiskey. Commissioners Rideout, Sydnor, Foster, Cannon, and Hanson participated remotely in the conference call.

After a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance, the September 4, 2020 meeting began.

1. Agenda

The Agenda was amended at the request of Commissioner Sydnor and approved 5-0 on proper motion and second.

Public Comment

None

Requests from the Public

None

Ordinance for First Reading

2. Ordinance No. 1167 – Amendment of the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget -Repair of Fire Ladder Truck

The first item for discussion was Ordinance 1167 that was the funding for the repair of the ladder truck for approximately \$38,000. The proposal was to set aside \$48,000 from anticipated State Highway User Funds for that purpose. Commissioner Sydnor objected to using Highway User Funds; and after several alternative proposals, a portion of the monies scheduled to be used for the long overdue repair of the roof at the old city hall building was set aside for the proposed ladder truck repairs so the Ordinance had to be amended to show that change.

Included in Ordinance 1167 was the acceptance of the \$250,000 grant from the State of Maryland for repairs at the marina. This grant had been delayed from a prior meeting and voted down at the second meeting as well, because there was a need for four votes to

amend the budget and the vote both times had been 3-2. After the first 3-2 vote, Commissioner

Rideout asked the Mayor to vote pursuant to a legal opinion by the city attorney that allowed her to vote on this matter.

The Mayor needed time to read the grant and when the matter came back on August 24th, 2020, the Mayor declined to vote thus leaving the item as being defeated for lack of a 4th vote. Commissioner Sydnor had raised some concerns about how the \$250,000 was going to be used and whether it was different than the \$99,000 and \$80,000 that had been previously granted to the city for the marina and the boat ramp.

Ordinance 1167 was approved on a vote of 5-0 on a motion by Commissioner Rideout and a second by both Commissioner Hanson.

3. Resolution 20-16 Waterway Improvement Fund Grant Agreement for Cambridge Marina Work

After discussion on how the grant money would be spent, Resolution 20-16 was approved on a 5-0 vote on a motion from Commissioner Rideout and a second by Commissioners Hanson and Cannon. This allowed the Mayor to sign the Waterway Improvement Fund Grant Agreement.

4. Letter of Support for Delmarva Community Services Project and Approval of Tax Exemption

The request for a letter of support for Delmarva Community Services (DCS) and their Senior Residences as Chesapeake Grove Project was initially discussed on August 24th, with a proposed letter for the Mayor to sign that gave the project a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) of \$200 per unit for 60 units that are expected to be built.

On a 3-2 vote the approval failed, as the matter had not been placed on the August 24, 2020 Agenda.

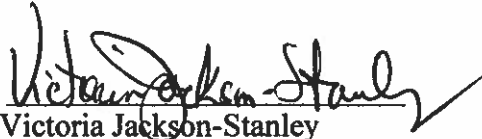
Following the August 24th meeting, Commissioners Rideout and Hanson met with Santo Grande and the project consultant to obtain more information. They learned that DCS was actually seeking a tax exemption of \$200 per unit for a total tax exemption of \$12,000 per year for 15 years.

The letter of support and a letter of intent authorizing the City Manager and the City Attorney to work with DCS to prepare the necessary documentation for the Commissioners' review and approval was approved on a motion by Commissioner Rideout and seconded by Commissioner Cannon.

Adjourn

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

With no further business, Mayor Victoria Jackson-Stanley adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m. I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of the Council meeting Monday, September 4, 2020, insofar as I personally am aware.


Victoria Jackson-Stanley
Mayor