

The City Commissioners conducted the City business on Monday, April 27, 2020 by way of a conference call because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The mayor was stationed at her 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.

Mayor Victoria Jackson Stanley called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. All the city Commissioners were present on the conference call including the city attorney, city police chief, and city manager. Commissioners Rideout, Sydnor, Foster, Cannon, and Hanson participated remotely in the conference call.

### **Agenda**

1. Council to approve or amend agenda as presented.

The Agenda was approved on a motion from Commissioner Rideout and seconded by Commissioner Cannon. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Comment**

The Mayor invited citizens to call in for public comment and provided verbally the telephone number to call. No citizens called in for public comment.

### **Requests from the Public**

Sandra Tripp-Jones, acting director of Cambridge Waterfront Development, Inc. (CWDI), made a presentation on activities of the board. She advised the Mayor and City Commissioners what CWDI plans to do moving forward with the development of Sailwinds Park and the adjoining area that includes the Dorchester Hospital. Ms. Tripp-Jones spoke about the property transfer agreement related to the Port Property that was distributed to the Mayor and City Commissioners prior to the meeting. The draft agreement was prepared by the CWDI attorney, Chip MacLeod, who is also the city attorney. Commissioner Sydnor asked about the city being reimbursed for the sale of the property. The city attorney acknowledged that proceeds from future transfers are to be used in connection with the redevelopment and that funds may be used somewhere else nearby in the city related to replacing Governor's Hall. A motion by Commissioner Sydnor to approve the consent draft and consider an MOU regarding the city's expectation for receiving funds and increased tax base from the property transfer to CWDI. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Foster and was approved unanimously.

Also, as part of this discussion, Ms. Tripp-Jones asked that Commissioners Hanson and Sydnor be part of an ongoing group to work on meeting with the State for approval of the transfer agreement. Both agreed to participate. She also asked that an additional transfer agreement be considered for the transfer of the "Gateway" property on Rt 50 from the City to CWDI. A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Sydnor and seconded by Commissioner Hanson. The motion passed unanimously.

**Consent Calendar**

2. April 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously and seconded on a proper motion.

A motion to approve the consent calendar was made by Commissioner Rideout and seconded by Commissioner Sydnor. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Old Business**

3. Purchase of Properties with CDBG Funds: the commissioners were presented with a report on the proposed purchase of 18 pieces of land and properties in the Pine Street Area that had been foreclosed on by the county. State funds would be used for that purpose, and the city would be waiving any taxes or monies owed on those properties. Included in the proposal was the negotiation of the purchase of 414 Pine Street subject to final approval of the commissioners. On a motion by Commissioner Rideout and a second by Commissioner Cannon, the proposal was approved 5-0.

**New Business**

4. Approve increasing the city budget to \$84.84 of soft drink proceeds at the police department to go to the Police Event Fund. This passed 5-0 on a motion by Commissioner Sydnor and a second by Commissioner Cannon.
5. Approve increasing the budget to create a Virus Care Fund Account for up to \$3,000 from donations from the public, with no funds coming from the city, for the purchase of cleaning materials for special care packages for distribution to households in Dorchester County. This passed 5-0 on a motion by Commissioner Hanson and a second by Commissioner Rideout.
6. Approve increasing the budget by \$25,000 to purchase supplies for firefighters and police personnel for safety gear for preventing Covid-19 virus infection and subject to the city seeking reimbursement through the county for state and federal Covid-19 funds made available to the State of Maryland and localities. This passed 5-0 on a motion by Commissioner Rideout and a second by Commissioner Hanson.
7. Eagleman Agreement for June was postponed to the next meeting to make sure that all the agreements are reviewed by legal counsel to ensure any required changes are made before presentation to the City Commission.

**Meetings**

No meeting(s) were announced

**Mayor and Council**

The Mayor spoke about the many calls that she has been on almost every day about the Covid-19 virus. She mentioned that Dorchester County had 55 confirmed cases and that 2 individuals had, unfortunately, died from the virus.

The Mayor said she is working on a list of businesses still open.

She also said she will be meeting with the city manager and department leaders to listen to the department affairs.

Commissioner Rideout thanked Anne McAnulty, Shannon Thorpe, and Barbara Knepp and all of those who had sewn masks for people at the request of the health department. Over 1200 were requested and made by this group of volunteers.

Commissioner Cannon mentioned the Care and Share donation of \$1,000.00.

Commissioner Sydnor asked the Police Chief if any of the officers had come down with the virus, and we were all informed that none had been infected so far.

Commissioner Foster raised the issue of people with second homes here coming for short and long stays and what obligations did they have to isolate themselves if they were from elsewhere in Maryland or from out of state. The city attorney provided an opinion letter that stated the following:

“The Governor’s March 30, 2020 Executive Order requires all persons living in the State to stay in their homes or places of residence except under limited circumstances, which do not specifically include an individual traveling between multiple residences that they own (e.g., a primary residence on the Western Shore and a second home in Cambridge). Unless such travel falls under one or more of the limited circumstances, then then it is likely not permitted. With respect to people living outside the State, Governor Hogan announced on March 30, 2020 that anyone having traveled outside the State must self-quarantine for 14 days. The State Office of Legal Counsel offered interpretive guidance stating that the 14-day quarantine does not apply to persons who regularly commute into the State from an adjacent state or vice versa unless they should otherwise self-quarantine under CDC or MDH guidance. This exception appears geared towards people who commute for work purposes, not for recreational purposes.

The Executive Order further states that “each law enforcement officer of the State or a political subdivision shall execute and enforce” the Order. Accordingly, the City Police must enforce its provisions within the corporate limits of the City. The Executive Order also states that “the effect of any statute, rule, or regulation of an agency of the State or a political subdivision inconsistent with this order is hereby suspended.” Accordingly, the City Council cannot pass an ordinance or other legislation that conflicts with the Executive Order, such as imposing greater travel restrictions than set forth therein.

Based upon the foregoing, we believe it is a matter for local law enforcement and the local health department. Chief Lewis will be e-mailed so that he is aware of the concerns expressed below. Enhanced public awareness of the stay-at-home order and quarantine requirements may be beneficial as well.”

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

With no further business, Mayor Victoria Jackson-Stanley adjourned the meeting at 7:15p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of the Council meeting Monday, April 27, 2020, insofar as I personally am aware.

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Victoria Jackson-Stanley  
Mayor