

The City Commission held a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, August 9, 2021. The meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at 305 Gay Street in Cambridge.

Mayor Bradshaw opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m. All city commissioners were present: Roche, L. Cephas, Harrington, S. Cephas, and Malkus. Also present were Police Chief Mark Lewis, Fire Chief Adam Pritchett, Planning Director Pat Escher, Economic Development Director Carol Richardson, Assistant City Attorney Patrick Thomas, and City Manager Patrick Comiskey. Commissioner L. Cephas led the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioner Malkus made a motion to go into closed session under General Provisions Article 3-305(b) (2) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice. The motion was seconded by Commissioner S. Cephas and approved unanimously.

The city commission entered closed session at 6:03 p.m. and exited closed session at 6:07 p.m.

The mayor stated the commission met in closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

Commissioner Roche advised the commission he is a volunteer member of the Choptank Heritage group, and he will not be voting on the consent calendar since a letter of support for the Choptank Heritage Trail Grant is on the agenda.

Commissioner S. Cephas made a motion seconded by Commissioner Harrington and approved unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Phil Reed of the Rotary Club of Cambridge gave a presentation of the Duck Race Festival being organized by the club. The event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 25, 2021.

Commissioner Harrington made a motion seconded by Commissioner Malkus to approve the consent calendar as presented. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0-1. Commissioner Roche abstained from the vote.

Assistant City Attorney Patrick Thomas read aloud Ordinance No. 1187 for a first reading and advised the city commissioners the ordinance would go to the state ethics commission for review and approval prior to the city commission holding a second reading on the measure.

Assistant City Attorney Patrick Thomas read aloud Ordinance No. 1186 for a second reading. The mayor opened the floor for public comment. No member of the public commented. Commissioner S. Cephas made a motion to adopt the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harrington and adopted by the commission unanimously.

Tim Wess of Enterprise Fleet Management presented contracts for the city commission to consider. Commissioners reviewed the documents and decided to consider the agreement at the next meeting.

Commissioners considered an agreement for housing specialist services with Yvette Robinson. The mayor allowed public comment from Sheila Jones of 704 Governors Avenue. Ms. Jones spoke in favor of the agreement. Commissioner S. Cephas moved to approve the agreement seconded by Commissioner L. Cephas and adopted unanimously by the commission.

The Chamber of Commerce Office space lease agreement was forwarded to the city attorney to prepare a document for consideration at a future meeting.

Commissioner Malkus made a motion to approve contributing \$5,000 to the Groove City Culture Fest. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harrington and adopted unanimously.

Public Comment:

Sandra Trip-Jones, the executive director of CWDI, distributed a letter protesting the city's proposed ethic's ordinance. She read the content of the letter aloud.

Frank Narr of 15 Sandy Acres Road, Cambridge, and a board member of CWDI spoke against the Ethics Ordinance.

Theresa Stafford of 2429 Rock Drive thanked the city commissioners for being responsive to her.

Sheila Jones of 704 Governors Avenue asked about the city's violence prevention plan.

Jerry Burroughs of 2616 Brian Circle spoke about the ADA committee's activities.

Commissioner S. Cephas made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Harrington and approved unanimously to go into closed session under General Provisions Article 3-305(b) (1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and under (2) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

The commissioners entered the closed session at 7:47 p.m. City IT Director Dale Price, City Manager Patrick Comiskey, and Assistant City Attorney Patrick Thomas were also present.

The commissioners exited the closed session at 8:05 p.m.

The mayor advised the closed session was held to discuss an employment agreement with a person to serve as an interim city manager. A motion to approve the agreement with the proposed changes was made by Commissioner Malkus and seconded by Commissioner S. Cephas. The motion passed 5-0.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner S. Cephas, seconded by Commissioner Malkus, and approved unanimously.

With no further business, Mayor Andrew Bradshaw adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m. I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of the Council meeting Monday, July 19, 2021, insofar as I personally am aware.

Andrew Bradshaw
Mayor