

The City Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, February 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 Spatty 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 community and police department. Commissioner Malkus led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda

1. Commission to approve or amend agenda as presented.

After amending the Agenda for Consent Calendar item number 4 – the amended Agenda was approved on a motion by Commissioner Harrington and a second by Commissioner Spatty Cephas.

Presentations from the Public

Dennis Carmichael – Design Work Packing House

Mr. Carmichael spoke about the plans for the Packing House and the support from DHCD Secretary Holt for Cannery Park. He stated that there were plans to have the courtyard as a performing arts place. There will be a Digital Media education space on the second floor.

City Auditor –Leslie A. Michalik (Lead Auditor), Mike Kleger (PKS Partner), Ms. Michalik gave the Commissioners an overview of the City’s FY22 audit.

Matt Pluta - Cambridge Clean Water Advisory Committee Report

Mr. Pluta spoke regarding the design grants, storm water, walkways, in the way of storm water management.

Consent Calendar

The Consent Calendar was approved unanimously after amending Consent Calendar item number 4.

2. February 28, 2022, Meeting Minutes
3. Sheila Jones is requesting to have the Garden Party Annual Fundraiser event on May 14, 2022, at the 400 block of Race Street from building edge at HoneyBee Trading down to intersection at Race and Muir from 5:30pm-10:30pm.
4. Nancy Jackson is requesting to have the Bicentennial of Harriet Parade & Festival on August 6, 2022, from 8:00am to 8:00pm on the track and field at Maces Lane School.

Ordinances for First Reading

None

Ordinances for Second Reading

None

Old Business

None

New Business

5. Amendment to the MOU for Sanitary District #7

The MOU for sanitary district #7 is to connect fourteen lots to the city sewer lines. The process will not be of any cost to the city. On a motion by Commissioner Malkus and a second by Commissioner Roche this action was approved on a 5-0 vote.

6. RFP for an Election Company
and Form of Government Conversation – (no attachment)

The City Attorney explained the process for Council to have staff issue an RFP regarding a 3rd party vendor for the City Election for Mayor. Commissioner Spuddy Cephas motioned to have staff provide the RFP.

7. Housing Specialist Report – Yvette Robinson – (no attachment)

Yvette Robinson gave an update on the housing funding for the HOW(Home Ownership Works) program. Parts of the funding would come from a CBDG grant. Parts of the funding would be used for Schoolhouse Lane, Chesapeake Court and Wells Street. The program will also offer housing counseling for homeowners.

Ms. Robinson explained that the fencing around Cornish Park will be done; however, the pricing has changed. The CBDG will help with the increase in pricing. The public hearing for the grant will be March 14th, 2022. The RFP for the artist is complete and will be sent out soon. A tree planting process will also take place in the park as well as artwork. Ms. Robinson mentioned a land banking process, and how it would be funded. Commissioner Roche thanked Ms. Robinson for investing in our old neighborhoods that have been neglected for some time and he also would be interested in more information regarding the land banking process.

Both Commission Lajan Cephas and Commissioner Harrington spoke regarding their interest in the land banking process. Commissioner Sputty Cephas also thanked Ms. Robinson for her efforts. Commissioner Malkus also thanked Ms. Robinson.

8. ARPA

The Acting Manager spoke on the ARPA process for non-profits.

Roche asked for clarification on the process as to make sure the same organizations are not abusing the ARPA process. How can the city find out about the organizations track record and if they meet all the criteria to qualify for the ARPA funds?

A motion by Commissioner Sputty Cephas to have the Acting City Manager come up with a process to determine which city non-profits would qualify for the ARPA funds.

An ARPA sub-committee will be formed to review the application process, this will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Meetings

Planning and Zoning will meet at 6:00pm, March 1, 2022, at Council Chambers, 305 Gay Street, Cambridge, MD.

Historic Preservation Commission will meet at 6:00pm, March 16, 2022, at Council Chambers, 305 Gay Street, Cambridge, MD.

Public Comment

LaShon Foster – spoke regarding the application process for Mayor

Robert Aaron – spoke regarding the application process for Mayor

Theresa Stafford – spoke regarding the ARPA process, she asked the city to create a application process and make the monies accessible.

Department/Division Head Reports

Adam Pritchett – thanked Council for there representation to Mr. Stacks funeral.

Chief Lewis – talked about the temporary lights on Woods, he has obtained grant funding, asking permission to move forward on having the permanent lights installed. Chief Lewis thanked Ms. Holden and Dale Price for the cameras on the those poles as well.

Acting City Manager Comments

Commissioners' Comments

Commission President Lajan Cephas explained the process for the RFP for election.

Commissioner Spatty Cephas spoke regarding the passing of Mike Edgar, who served on city committees for years. He also spoke regarding the city Charter change regarding the mayor position.

A motion to go into Closed Session was made by Commissioner Spatty Cephas and a second by Commissioner Malkus.

Closed Session pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Provisions 3-305(b)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, and compensation of specific appointees, officials, and employees over whom the Commissioners have jurisdiction.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was given by Commissioner Spatty Cephas and a second by Commissioner Harrington.

With no further business, Commission President Lajan Cephas adjourned the meeting at 9:10p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of the Council meeting Monday, February 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.