

The City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 22, 2018 in Council Chambers. A quorum being present, Mayor Victoria Jackson-Stanley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Those Commissioners in attendance were Commissioners Rideout, Foster, Cannon, and Hanson. Commissioner Sydnor was absent. Mayor Victoria Jackson-Stanley asked for a moment of silence. Commissioner Hanson led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda

1. Council to approve or amend agenda as presented.

Sandra Tripp-Jones asked that Item No. 4 be moved from the Consent Calendar to New Business.

A motion by Commissioner Hanson to approve the agenda with the one change was seconded by Commissioner Rideout and approved 4:0.

Public Comment

Michael Wheatley, on behalf of Rescue Fire Company, thanked the Council for letting them use the old firehouse for their train garden.

Michael Wheatley, as treasurer of the Main Street Board, announced that on January 23rd they will be doing their Downtown Cambridge brand unveiling at 437 Race Street.

Michael Wheatley thanked the Historic Committee, Pat Escher, and Herve Hamon for the great job they did assisting him and Martin Mullaney for a property issue they have been able to settle.

Sharon Smith and other members of the Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods (CAN) said a major topic of discussion at their meeting was the lack of code enforcement in the City. They feel the way code enforcement is currently being executed is not working. They have heard of cases of people being retaliated against for reporting someone or someone retaliating against someone because they thought that was the person who reported them. Having citizens use the feature on the website to report something is not working. They feel this is not the citizens' job, it is the City's job. If we don't enforce our codes, the condition of the City will continue to go downhill in terms of the buildings and infrastructures. They are asking Council to pay attention to the issue of code enforcement and to do it quickly. They will be coming back periodically to share their ongoing concerns if steps are not taken in a timely manner.

Charles McFadden, President of CAN, said at their meeting on Saturday, there were hot topics on housing, code enforcement, retaliation, etc. CAN is trying to set up friendly neighborhoods and this not getting us friendly neighborhoods. Neighbors are pointing fingers at each other. The other issue is that they would like to have the housing stock raised up but more importantly, there are people living in those houses. Inside inspections are needed to make sure these houses are up to code. Lots of rentals are not up to code.

Greg Boss has been studying some housing data over the past year. He has discovered that about 25 percent of our housing is under rental license. Looking through the Code, he can see that licenses require inspections to be issued but there is no requirement for them to be re-inspected upon renewal. As a citizen, he can see that it has resulted in a lot of grandfathering where you wonder how they got a license if they were inspected every year. They would like to get some insight into just what the scope of the complaint problem might be and became aware that there is a data base of where the complaints are registered by citizens. That is a self-limiting system. People only do it if it affects them. Cambridge has a very limited number of resources they can put into a problem like this. He is recommending looking at the people we issue rental licenses to first for doing code enforcement. The City should take the point of anonymizing it so a citizen who lives in a substandard apartment doesn't have to take the brunt of it. Having the database visible on line, not just so the complainer can recall it, but anonymized, would keep all of us accountable to one another. He also recommended inspections be done to a schedule and the schedule should be published.

Monet Dio a resident of Church Street, spoke on behalf of the Recovery House for women. They are at capacity right now and are hoping to see what the City has to offer as far as resources or ideas. There is an epidemic going on with addiction. They are pretty much the only place for women in the county. The Director is looking to open other houses but funds are low. Mayor Stanley said she does not have an immediate answer. She asked Ms. Dio to call her at City Hall and she will try to help with some resources.

Consent Calendar

2. SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes from Council Meetings on January 8, 2018
Recommendation: That Council approve as submitted.
3. SUBJECT: Request from The Maryland Small Business Development Center, Eastern Shore Region for renewal of the Services and Facilities Agreement
Recommendation: That Council renew the lease
5. SUBJECT: Request from Dorchester Chamber of Commerce for permission to hold the Crabi Gras Hot Sauce & Oyster Festival in the 300 block of High Street on Sunday, October 14, 2018 from 1:00 pm until 6:00 pm; close that portion of the street from 11:30 am until 7:00 pm; a variance from the noise ordinance; permission to erect a tent; and permission for alcohol to be served
Recommendation: That Council approve the request subject to:
 - A. Submission of a certificate of property and liability insurance naming the City as additional insured, acceptable to the City prior to event and
 - B. Submission of Health Department Certificate prior to event.
 - C. Submission of Liquor Board Certificate prior to the event.
 - D. Payment of \$360 for police coverage and \$240 for DPW services.

A motion by Commissioner Rideout to approve Consent Calendar Items 2, 3, and 5 was seconded by Commissioner Hanson and approved 4:0.

Ordinances for Introduction and First Reading

6. SUBJECT: Ordinance No. 1113 – An ordinance of The Commissioners of Cambridge, Maryland, to modify the City of Cambridge Comprehensive Plan as adopted by the commissioners on March 28, 2011 to incorporate the growth tier map adopted by the Commissioners on December 10, 2012; providing that the title of this ordinance shall be deemed a fair summary and generally relating to the City of Cambridge Comprehensive Plan.

Recommendation: That Council:

- A. Introduce Ordinance No. 1113 by reading of title only; and
- B. Schedule February 12, 2018 for second reading, public hearing and adoption of Ordinance No. 1113.

Chip MacLeod read the ordinance title. This is a requirement of State law. A public hearing is scheduled for February 12, 2018.

New Business

4. SUBJECT: Request from Shanay Jackson for permission to hold the Jackson Family Reunion in Great Marsh Park on Saturday, June 30, 2018 from 1:00 pm until 6:00 pm and permission for adults to bring their own beer or have beer available to them.

Recommendation: If Council wishes to approve the request, the City Manager recommends that approval be subject to:

- A. The applicant providing a rope barrier around the event and
- B. The applicant agreeing to limit and control alcohol consumption to the area inside the barrier.

A motion by Commissioner Hanson not to approve the request to use Great Marsh Park for their family reunion based on the fact that they are requesting to have alcohol in the park but if they want to go without alcohol that is fine, died for lack of a second.

A motion by Commissioner Rideout to approve the request without alcohol was seconded by Commissioner Hanson and approved 4:0.

7. SUBJECT: 2017 Dorchester County Flood Mitigation Plan
Recommendation: that Council:
- A. Hear a presentation by Anna Sierra, Dorchester County Emergency Services Director on subject plan, and
 - B. Conceptually approve the Dorchester County Flood Mitigation Plan.

Anna Sierra presented an overview of the Hazard Mitigation Plan as well as the Flood Mitigation Annex to that plan and then presented the strategies that the stakeholder group came up with.

A motion by Commissioner Hanson to adopt Resolution 18-001 adopting the 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan was seconded by Commissioner Cannon and approved 4:0.

8. **SUBJECT:** Police Chief's Annual Report
Recommendation: That Council receive a report and presentation from Interim Police Chief Wayne Bromwell.

Chief Wayne Bromwell gave a detailed report about the programs that the Cambridge Police Department is involved in and statistics about crime in 2017 compared to other years.

9. **SUBJECT:** Teen Court Grant Award
Recommendation: That Council appropriate \$4,500.00 into the 2018 General Fund budget to increase the Cambridge Police Department Budget by \$4,500.00 for the Teen Court program.

A motion by Commissioner Hanson to approve the recommendation was seconded by Commissioner Cannon and approved 4:0.

Meetings

10. **SUBJECT:** Work Session on FY 2019 budget issues:
Recommendation that Council schedule Feb. 16, 2018 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Public Safety Building Training Room, 8 Washington Street, Cambridge, MD for subject Work Session

11. **SUBJECT:** Work Session on priorities for Council Goals, capital projects and grants applications
Recommendation that Council schedule Feb. 23, 2018 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Public Safety Building Training Room, 8 Washington Street, Cambridge, MD for subject Work Session.

A motion by Commissioner Cannon to approve the two work sessions was seconded by Commissioner Rideout and approved 4:0.

12. **SUBJECT:** Cannery Park Design
Notice of Cannery Park Community Design Charrettes and Media Kick-Off Event:
- Media Kick-Off Event: Jan. 23, 2018 at 11:00 am at 411 Dorchester Avenue, Cambridge.
 - First Design Charrette on Jan. 23, 2018 from 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm at the Empowerment Center, 615 B Pine Street, Cambridge
 - Second Design Charrette on Jan. 25, 2018 from 6:30 at the Public Safety Training Room, 8 Washington Street, Cambridge

Notices

Mayor and Council

January 22, 2018
Cambridge, MD

Mayor Stanley announced she was invited by the United States Embassy in Addis Abada, Ethiopia to participate in a traveling program on Democracy and Rule of Law from February 17 through 27, 2018. She will speak to approximately 300 members of the Young African Leaders Initiative Network during that proposed time. She will be out of the country from February 17th through the 26th. She asked Commissioner LaShon Foster, Mayor pro tempore, to lead the Council meeting on February 26th.

Commissioner Cannon thanked Chief Bromwell to taking care of a situation that was on-going for a while.

Adjourn

A motion by Commissioner Cannon to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Commissioner Rideout and approved 4:0.

With no further business, Mayor Victoria Jackson-Stanley adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m. I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of the Council meeting Monday, January 22, 2018, insofar as I personally am aware.


Victoria Jackson-Stanley
Mayor