CAMBRIDGE MATTERS # 30.5

By: Commissioner Steve Rideout

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September 30, 2019

A special meeting of City Council was held at 2:30 p.m. on the 30th to address some issues that could not wait until our next scheduled meeting at the end of October. After the meeting was opened, the Mayor and Commissioners discussed a contract for installing of lights on Pine Street.

An RFP had gone out for the installation that received two bids. Staff was asking that City Council award a contract for the light installation to Tieder Electric LLC in the amount of $42,000.40 and to allow staff to negotiate with the successful bidder for some additional lighting given that the city had received a grant award of additional monies. On motion properly made and seconded, City Council on a 5-0 vote awarded the contract as requested and authorized staff to negotiate for additional lights that would benefit that portion of the city.

With the Consent Calendar the following items were approved on a 5-0 vote:

* Allowing the Mistletoe Market in Cannery Way on Saturdays from November 9th to December 14th
* Approving a banner over Race Street for the Festival of Wreaths from November 21st to December 5th
* Approving the STEM Event for Dorchester County on November 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Cannery Way
* Authorizing a partial lane closure on Dorchester Avenue on October 29th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for the Ribbon Cutting/Open House at the Phillips Packing House

Under Old Business, Mr. Wheeler advised that the cost of the Deep Harbour River Walk would be increasing by $2,700 due to the increase in the cost of cement. No start date has been set.

With the sidewalks on Bayly Road, they have been delayed as the result of requests from the State of Maryland and no date has been set to start that work.

Concerns about the condition of a gazebo and fences at Cornish Park resulted in some discussion. Someone has offered to fix or replace the gazebo at their own cost, and Mr. Wheeler was directed to contact the person to determine what might be done. Mr. Wheeler was concerned that the roof of the gazebo might fall and injure someone.

We also learned that the city is close to ordering the cameras that are scheduled to be installed at the Housing Authority property

Following the end of the Special Meeting, City Council met in a work session about the 2020 elections. The plan to have them take place at the same time as the Presidential Elections has run into problems so the city manager has been looking into options.

After a discussion by the members of City Council, staff, and the city attorney, the consensus was that the city attorney prepare charter changes for the election date and to prepare notices for the public for the required city council meeting. No final decisions were made subject to holding the public meetings, but the likelihood is that the city will be hiring a private provider to run the elections for Mayor and Commissioners that will take place at a time to be set around the middle of October. The desire of the Commissioners is to hold the election on a Saturday, but all of this will not be finally determined until formal notice has been given to the public, for a public hearing on the matter, and for the public to have the opportunity to provide input as required by the law.

One other item of interest was given to me by Commissioner Hanson that I want to share. It is the following:

If you are would like to participate in the Cambridge Police Department Citizen’s Academy the start date will be Wednesday November 13th, 2019, 6:30PM @ the Cambridge Police Department. The Academy is for 6 weeks (not on weeks with Holidays). For more information please contact SGT Patton, PFC Foster and PFC Washington @ 410-228-3333.

Thanks for Reading.