**City of Cambridge**

**Unofficial City Council Meeting Notes**

**Monday, August 23, 2021**

**In Person and Virtual Meeting**

6:00 pm (Meeting began at 6 PM. Notes taken from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Meeting continued after 8:00 PM)

Submitted by Alison Kennedy

**Agenda was changed**

* Concerns brought up about tiered licensing proposal particularly around rental properties.
	+ There have been a lot of public comments.
	+ It was suggested that tiered licensing be moved to a work session.
	+ Decision was made that when the council reached the items in question on the agenda, there would be a motion to table them for now.
* It was suggested the CAN presentation about the Oasis Marina Committee be moved to a work session and removed from the agenda.
* Agenda amendments approved by all wards.

**Announcement:** Fishing Derby will be held August 25, 2021 at Long Wharf.

**Reading of Amendments to Ordinances**

* City attorney read amendments to certain ordinances.
	+ This is the second reading.
	+ Charter resolution
		- Maximum fines on misdemeanors have been changed.
			* Caps now set to $1000.00.
			* Open for public comment – no comments made.
			* Some misdemeanors mentioned:
				+ syphoning water
				+ pan handling
				+ urinating/defecating in public
		- interfering with firefighters
* Comment made that when applying penalties, the subject should be looked at holistically before changing the charter.
	+ One ward councilman objected to tabling this subject saying the amendment has nothing to do with tiered licensing, which the council had talked about earlier.
		- * After discussion about how amendments addressed raising the caps limits, the amendment was approved as written.
* Tiered licensing
	+ Brian Roche, Ward 1, seeks to table this subject and have a work session for more discussion.
	+ There was a second to tabling this subject.

**Enterprise Leasing Proposal**

* There was a representative that answered more questions raised by the council members.
* The council is moving forward with this.
* Meeting set up for 8/24 with Enterprise representative and Superintendent.
* All agreed to keep with the budget already slated for vehicle fleet this year.
* All the wards approved the contract.

**Fire Truck Purchase Approval**

* Three trucks have been approved for some funding.
* There is 12 – 14 months process before delivery once the contract is signed.
* If the 3 trucks were sold, that the fire department has now, they would get approximately between $200,000 - $250,000 for them.
* Three new trucks to replace them would be an outlay of $4,000,000.00.
* The discussion turned to using the funds received for COVID to help pay for the trucks.
* Councilman Roche from Ward 1 asked if the fire department could apply for ARPA funding (COVID funding for state and local government) to help pay for the new trucks.
* Councilman Roche prefers if the trucks go back to manual operations rather than electronic which can break down.
* It was brought up that the council should talk to experts that could tell them what was important to have on fire trucks.
* A work session was proposed.
* ARPA funding has to be used by December 2024.
* The city has until next year to pay for 1 truck.
* Priority items for the fire department:
	+ Tower replaced or repaired
	+ Rescue equipment replaced
	+ Ladder Truck replaced (this is most needed)
* The fire chief said that he believes in the Pierce Manufacturing brand of firetrucks and equipment.
	+ There are 8 – 10 brands of firetrucks manufactured.
	+ The prices on trucks and equipment go up every year.
* The fire department has looked into grants for fire equipment since 2016 without success.
	+ Usually grants go to smaller municipalities with a small operating budget or no budget at all.
* Brian Roche from Ward 1 asked about looking into purchasing used firetrucks.
	+ Someone that works at the Rescue Fire Department says that the current trucks have stopped working at critical times.
	+ The representative from the fire department went on to say that he did not approve of purchasing used fire trucks.
* It was reiterated again at the meeting that the tower ladder truck and the rescue vehicle need replacing.
* All wards approved of replacing the tower ladder truck at this time.
	+ It was approved that a portion of ARPA funds ($1,500,000) would be used to purchase the truck.

**Other Discussions**

* Ward 1 proposed reducing the burden on developers to maintain parking lots.
* Ward 1 brought up that water needs to be cleaned before going back into the Choptank River.
	+ Salisbury has made some measures that have been successful.
	+ City Council needs to work with the city attorney to make a motion to amend the ordinance.
	+ This must be introduced before going to the Planning Commission.