

**CAN's Unofficial Notes on
City of Cambridge City Council Meeting
Monday, April 11, 2022
In Person and Virtual Meeting
Attended 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM.**

Submitted by Alison Kennedy

Agenda

Agenda approved as presented.

Public Comments

1. Steve Vondenboch resides on Race Street and is asking that sections of sidewalk on Race that are in bad shape be removed.
 - He is speaking for himself and his neighbors.
 - *Questions by Council*
 - Lajan Cephas, Council President and Ward 2, asked if Mr. Vondenboch had spoken to the Acting City Manager, David Deutsch.
 - Mr. Vondenboch said "No".
 - David Deutsch, the City Manager, said that proper sidewalks improve the city as a whole and he will work with the residents of Race Street to solve this problem.
 - All wards approved this solution.
2. Residents of Muse St. would like the tree wells replaced.
 - All wards approved this solution.

Calendar

- All events on the calendar gone over and approved by all wards.

Amendment Readings for Ordinances

- Ordinance 1192 – (Off street parking requirements for new development and land use)
 - The city attorney read the ordinance.
 - This is second hearing on Ordinance 1192.
 - *Public Hearing – no questions from the public*

Questions by Wards

- Brian Roche, Ward 1, was in favor of the changes made.
- Jamison Harrington, Ward 3, agreed with Ward 1.
- Chad Malkus, Ward 5, commented that his Ward has a lot of parking lots which is not good. He is in favor of the changes.
- Sputty Cephas, Ward 4, had no comment.
- All wards approved the changes made.

Discussion about Trash Collection

- Discussion opened by Acting City Manager, Mr. Deutsch, suggesting an extension of the Chesapeake Waste contract until December 31, 2022.
- This will give time to research a return to in-house trash collection.

Questions/Comments by Wards

- Chad Malkus, Ward 5, had no questions.
- Sputty Cephas, Ward 4, commented that there have been known problems that need fixing. He believes the extension is enough time to straighten out issues.
- Lajan Cephas, Ward 2, asked why this date was chosen.
 - The Acting City Manager, Mr. Deutsch, responded that December 31, 2022 is 6 months after current contract expiration.
 - The additional time will allow for more bids to come in. There were only 2 bids before. Mr. Deutsch would like to see 3 or 4 bids.
 - Mr. Deutsch is concerned about capital costs going into in-house trash service.
 - All vehicles were sold to Chesapeake Waste.
 - If go in-house, will have to buy or lease equipment which is an expensive undertaking.
- Chad Malkus, Ward 5, commented that he is open to all options but currently favors going in-house.
- Lajan Cephas, Ward 2, will consider other options but is currently in favor of in-house trash service.
- Brian Roche, Ward 1, is in favor of in-house trash service but they must have container enforcement.
 - When the city had in-house service before, people were permitted to put out bags of garbage without the container.
 - It caused garbage to be strewn all over the streets in the city.
 - Mr. Roche is in favor of giving residents the option of paying for curbside recycling.

- Mr. Roche wondered if complaints were just coming from 1 or 2 areas of the city. He asked if Ms. Holden was on the phone.
- Ms Holden is the member on staff that is in communication with Chesapeake Waste.
 - Ms. Holden called in and said that complaints are coming in from all over the city, not just one section.
 - Ms. Holden said that talking to the owner is more effective than talking to the supervisor.
 - Ms. Holden has a list of complaints, the person making the complaint and their address. She is working on completing this list.
 - Top complaints –
 1. Trash collectors just take the bags out of the container and leave loose trash.
Response: Chesapeake Waste has been informed by Ms. Holden that they must use the truck tipper.
 2. Garbage falls on the street and it is not picked up.
Response: Council members would like a broom and dustpan be supplied to every truck to pick up garbage spilled.
- Mr. Deutsch said it is important to keep the service goals in mind to pass on to a trash contractor, if the city goes in that direction.
- Brian Roche, Ward 1, agreed with Mr. Deutsch that they should have a bulleted list of service goals.
- Lajan Cephas, Ward 2, does not want to extend the Chesapeake Waste contract.
 - Mr Deutsch, Acting City Manager, said that the 6 month extension is to provide time for the needed data to be collected to ensure an informed decision.
 - Otherwise, they will have to put out a search for a new trash contractor based on the data collected by May 22, 2022.
 - This will be putting a lot of pressure on the new city manager that is starting in April (April 20, 2022).

- Sputty Cephas, Ward 4, complained that the trash issues have always been put on the back burner.
 - He asked will the city be expected to come up with a competent contract drawn up by August 1 or September 1?
 - He went on to comment that May 22, 2022 is 45 days from now (April 11).
 - May 22, 2022 should be enough time for the City Manager and staff to start the RFP (contract) process with the data that they have collected.
 - Brian Roche, Ward 1, reminded the other ward members that the new city manager was starting April 20.
 - Mr. Roche asked if 45 days is enough time to sufficiently cover the bullet points needed to draw up a thorough and complete contract.
 - Lajan Cephas, Ward 2, asked Ms. Holden if she could continue to collect data until May 22, 2022 and start the RFP process.
 - Ms Holden said she would honor this request. If she cannot get it done, she will ask for more time.
- Sputty Cephas, Ward 4, ***motion to extend contract and direct staff to start process of having data needed collected in 45 days (by May 22).***
- All wards approved the motion by Sputty Cephas, Ward 4.

Police Department Request

- Asking to purchase 2 software programs that will be used mostly for state reporting.
- One program is for internal affairs of the state.
- One program is for police department.
- Geared to accountability
- The police department has already purchased a program to cover policies and important regulations so they are up to date on that.
- Cost initially is \$8,100.00/yr. After that \$4,500/yr. for maintenance.
- All wards approved the purchase.

Public Comment

1. Citizen called in: *How soon will **in-house trash pick-up** begin in the city?*
 - Lajan Cephas, Ward 2, responded that Ms. Holden will provide data by May 22, 2022.
 - The council will review findings at that time.
2. Head of Ethics Committee called in to City Manager: *Please **extend the deadline for Ethics forms** until June 1, 2022 (so as not to incur late fees). Reporting requirement is by the city not the state.*
 - New city manager will have to review request.
3. Citizen in person: *Would like to see a **skateboard park** built in Cambridge to eliminate skateboarding in the street and restricted areas.*
 - Passed out information on Salisbury's skateboard park to the council members.
 - The information included how Salisbury put in the park and paid for it.
 - It took 5 years to complete the Salisbury skateboard park.
4. Adrian Holmes, President of Alpha Genesis: *What is the next step in the process of development and renovation of Cannery Way?*
 - Alpha Genesis would like access to the second floor so they can begin renovations.
 - Called in to say that assessment easement and plan were approved at prior meeting.
 - All that is required is to schedule access to the building on Cannery Way.

Department and Division Reports

- Ina Holden, Superintendent of Public Works – no updates
- Pat Escher, Division Manager Planning and Zoning
 1. *Maces Lane* is moving forward.
 - A renovation company has been selected.
 - A project manager will be designated to oversee things moving forward.
- Bradley Walters, Asst Chief Rescue Fire Company – No updates
- David Deutsch, Acting City Manager
 1. *Street sweeping* schedule has been posted on the website.
 2. May 6, 2022 is when *trash RFP responses* are due.
 3. Update on the *Bradford House*
 - Concerns have been coming in about the condition of the building.
 - These concerns are being approached on several fronts both state and federal.
 - There has been some improvement – security has been added onsite
 4. This is Mr. Deutsch's last meeting as the new city manager is starting April 20, 2022.
- Council Comments
 1. Brian Roche, Ward 1
 - *Pedestrian markers* have been put out at various locations around the city to mark Pedestrian Crossings. Some markers have been obliterated by vehicles.

- *Poplar Street* – This area should be looked at to make sure the area is safe and correct any need for improvement.
 - *Mr. Roche* is in favor of a *skate park* for Cambridge.
 - Cannery Park will include a skate park; although not a large area like the Salisbury Skateboard Park.
 - Citizens should be part of the initiative to move things forward.
 - The Department heads were supposed to have provided budget reports by April 1, 2022.
 - Acting City Manager said this was a fluid date.
 - *Mr. Roche* said that the council members need these reports to be effective.
 - The new city manager is aware that *The Bradford House* is a priority for the city and the council members.
2. Jamison Harrington, Ward 3
 - At Governor Hall, there was a *reenactment of the Tuskegee Airmen*.
 - There was a very good out.
 3. Sputty Cephas, Ward 4
 - *Condolences* to the Cambridge family that lost their 22 year old son.
 - *Thanks to David Deutsch* for his good service.
 - In favor of *youth summer programs* and other things for young people.
 - *Happy birthday* to Lajan Cephas.
 4. Chad Malkus, Ward 5
 - *Working with Main Street* and their new board members will move things in a positive direction.
 - *Sincere thanks to David Deutsch* for his service.
 5. Lajan Cephas, Ward 2
 - Thanks to the exiting Acting City Manager, David Deutsch.
 - *Too many shootings* in the city.
 - Need grassroots organizations in the community to come together to prevent violence.

Meeting adjourned