

# CAN's Unofficial Notes on the Cambridge City Council

## Meeting of June 27, 2022

The Meeting started at 6 pm as usual.

1. Presentation of a certificate of appreciation to Donna and Wayne Towers for their efforts over the years "beautifying" the City. Donna Tower spoke and thanked several other volunteers who help them with projects. Mrs. Towers asked the City Council to provide assistance in keeping up the flower beds and the other projects started by volunteers.
2. The Council passed the Consent Calendar – 5/0. The items included 1. A kids Triathlon at the YMCA, 2. Approved a Car Show/Bike show, and a letter of support to the Audubon Society.
3. The Council then moved on to a Second reading of a number of Ordinances.
  - a. #1198 Adjustment to the sign ordinance, No public comment.
  - b. #1199 Adoption of the FY 23 Budget. Minor adjustment for wages to DPW employees, not provided to the public, otherwise same as June 21<sup>st</sup> presentation. Public comment as follows:
    - i. Request for more funding to attend the City gardens and flowers
    - ii. Question on how much was going to Non-profits. Answer at meeting was \$1 million but no mention of page 14 of the budget, \$750,000 going towards non-profits and gun violence.
    - iii. Opposition to one way proposal for Poplar St. and the elimination of 3 traffic lights (replaced by stop signs)
    - iv. Opposition to such a large increase to the budget by former Mayor Ripken. The Council explained it was due the \$12 million received from the federal government (ARPA)
    - v. Support for the budget and well thought out priorities.
  - c. #1200 Adoption of the Tax structure for FY23. No public comment
  - d. #1201 Purchase of 601 Chesapeake Court for \$537,000. Both Commissioners Cephas rescued themselves for ethics conflicts.
    - i. Former Mayor Ripken's complained about the high price being paid for the property. The Council explained that the state of Maryland supplied all the funds and that they wanted the

property demolished. This was in line with Pine St. redevelopment plan.

All ordinances passed 5/0 except #1201 which was 3/0 due to fact the both Commissioners had a conflict of interest as outline in the Cambridge Ethics code.

No “Old Business”, “New Business” or “Meetings” on the agenda.

The Council then moved to Public Comment, as follows:

- a. Jermaine Anderson, owner of the Canvasback building which includes the new Ice Cream shop, complained about his \$100 fine for excessive noise from the Ice Cream shop. He explained that this area is part of the Arts and Entertainment area and loud music should be expected.
- b. The operator of the Ice Cream shop also complained about the \$200 in fines she received. She stated that music was part of the concept for her shop.
  - a. It was noted in the City Managers comments that he and the Police Chief have met with both of the above to see what they can work out.
- c. A citizen stated that there was good coverage of the City Council proceeding available and then went on to ask the Council for more support for beautification.
- d. A business owner on Poplar St. complained about the proposed one-way pilot on Poplar St and stated he would close his store if the City went forward with the project.

The City Manager commented on the noise violations as noted above.

The Council Comments centered on thanking the new City Manager and Finance Director for their efforts on the budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

Notes provided by

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President, CAN