**CAN’s Unofficial Notes on the**

**Cambridge City Council Meeting of 12/12/2022**

The meeting opened as usual at 6 pm with the Mayor noting the weekend shootings in the City and leading a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims.

**Dorchester Hazard & Flood Plan Presentation**

Larry White and Jimmy Windsor led a presentation on the Dorchester Hazard and Flood Plans that have to be approved by both the County and the City in order to apply for funding from FEMA. Mr. White explained that the river is projected to rise 2 feet by 2050 and the City needs to prepare for that, as well as an expected major storm surge of 5 feet (for a total of 7 feet). Plans are being developed but need to be approved by the end of January, 2023 in order to be eligible for federal funding. The Council agreed to discuss the plan at the first Council meeting in January.

**Consent Agenda Approved**

* List of the City’s 2023 holidays
* Council Meeting dates
* Six Pillars bike race on May 6th
* Cambridge Crab run on May 14th
* Letters of support and approval of Council Minutes

**Ordinances for First Reading – Numbers 1209 and 1210**

These ordinances deal with raising the rates for water, sewer and trash pickup by 10%. The City has not raised rates in a number of years but is now facing a $20 million project to fix the sewer system which dumps sewage into the river during heavy rainstorms. The City has been fined regularly for this, but the new sewer project will fix the problem. The rise in rates will pay for the loans or bonds needed by the City.

**Ordinances for the Second Reading**

Ordinance 1207 - Youth Curfew

Ordinance 1207 provides for a pilot project of installing City Curfew for persons 16 years of age and younger. This was the hot topic of the night and had a lengthy discussion. The second reading of an ordinance allows for public comment and 8 citizens spoke – LaShon Foster (against), Mr. Sanchez of the ACLU (against), Dr. Theresa Stafford (for), Greg Meekins (against), Shay Cisco (against), Dave Thatcher (against), Jo Stanley (against), and Nancy Shockle (delay until things can be worked out with Social Services).

The Council had a detailed discussion and asked for the opinion of the Acting Police Chief Justin Todd who was in favor and the City Manager, Tom Carroll, who was also in favor. After a long discussion, the Council voted on a number of amendments – 5-0 and asked the City Attorney to rewrite the Ordinance to adjust a number of technical problems. The amended ordinance will come up for final vote in January with a projected start date of February 1.

Ordinance 1208 – Purchase of Property

The Council quickly approved this ordinance which provide for the purchase of two properties on Pine St. for a total of $25, 000. This is a part of a new City-wide program under the title of “land bank” which is funded at $1 million and allows the City to purchase run down houses and either to demolish them or rehab them for sale. Hopefully, the sale of vacant lots or rehabbed houses will refurbish the “land bank funds” and it will be a long-term effort to clean up the City housing stock.

**Old Business**

The Council approved a contract with Blue Lotus, a consulting firm, to help with the technicals of setting up a land bank program.

The Council approved a project to have a 4-way stop at Somerset and School Streets to slow down traffic. This has been an ongoing topic since August.

The Council approved 18 contracts with non-profits who were the recipients of the $1 million City allocation of the federal ARPA funds. The contracts spell out the guidelines the non-profits must follow and the reporting requirements.

**New Business**

The Council approved two resolutions that provide for payments in lieu of property taxes for new solar farms. This reduction in taxes is necessary to make these projects economically viable.

The Council approved changes to the Traffic and Safety Committee to include participation of the City engineer and the fire department.

The Council approved small changes to Solid Waste (Trash) rules to have Chesapeake Waste pick up bulk trash instead of the City and changes to the dates of pickup of small commercial establishments.

**Meetings**

The City Council will have a goal setting meeting on January 7th

**Public Comment**

Mike Wheatly thanked the City for the cooperation on the Santa Swim and announced the opening of the train garden at the old City Hall building.

Dr. Stafford thanked the Council with going ahead with the curfew and thanked Acting Chief Todd for the police action over the weekend.

Mia Woods complained about the way she has been treated by Council President Cephas and asked for her resignation.

**City Manager Comments**

The City Manager thanked Jane Dorman for her service of 39 years to the City, mainly at the City water system (which has always received excellent grades for water quality).

**City Commissioner Comments**

Everyone thanked the Police Department for their work over the weekend.

Commissioner Jamison noted the Dec 17th Christmas event on Pine St.

President of the Council Cephas noted that she attended two conferences for the City and made good contacts with HUD on housing and funding for the Leonard Lane Park which is under development.

Commissioner Malkus noted that Eagleman and Ironman brought in approximately $12.2 million in direct and indirect funds to the City.

Commissioner Sputty Cephas asked for a prayer for the slain victims to end the meeting.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:33.