**CAN’s Unofficial Notes on the**

**Cambridge City Council Meeting of Jan. 9, 2023**

Submitted By Charles McFadden, President, CAN

1. The meeting started at 6 pm with the Mayor leading a prayer supporting the State Delegates in their 2023 session.

2. Acting County Manager Jeff Powell spoke about having a closer relationship with the City. Mayor Rideout suggested that the City and County re-establish the joint committee of 2 Commissioners from each group meeting on a regular basis. Mr. Powell thought that was a good idea and will take it back to the County Board.

3. The Council approved the Consent Agenda, 5/0 which contained the following:

1. Appointed Fire Chief Brad Walters to the Traffic and Safety Committee
2. Mr. Wade wants to show an outdoor movie in the City’s parking lot on Jan. 20 and 21.
3. Ms. Cook wants to hold a “Stars of the Banner” on May 11
4. Authorized the County to mitigate deer at the airport.
5. Approved plans for non-profits to receive ARPA funds
6. Approved a letter of support for the Eastern Shore Regional Trail Vision
7. Approved Council minutes for Oct. 17 and 24.

4. Had the first reading of Ordinance 1211 which authorizes the City bonds up to $2.6 Million for the first phase of the sewer and pumping station update.

5. Had the second reading (amended) of Ordinance 1207 which establishes a Citywide curfew for children. The City Attorney read or described several changes to the Ordinance that were requested at the last meeting. The Attorney stated that the amendments did not substantially change the Ordinance, although the age was reduced from under 18 to under 16. Therefore, the Council did not have to reopen the Public Comment. The Council then voted 4/1 for the curfew with Commissioner Jameson Harrington in the negative.

6. Commissioners approved 5/0 Ordinance 1209 which raises the monthly water bill starting in July. The increase is necessary to pay for the sewer fixes. The last increase was 10 years ago.

7. Commissioners approved 5/0 Resolution 1210 which increases the sewer bills to residents for the same reasons as Ordinance 1209 to pay for repairs.

8. Justin Todd was sworn in as the new Police Chief. Chief Todd is a local resident of Dorchester Co. with 22years of experience on the Police Force. He and his wife and two children live just outside of Cambridge, and he has been a driving force in establishing “Community Policing” in the City. It was a well deserved promotion and everyone commented on his excellent performance.

9. The Council discussed amendments to the City Charter and agreed to set up a committee of two Council members – L. Cephas and Malkus along with the City Manager and Attorney to research the matter and bring it back to the Council.

**Public Comment**:

Several citizens praise Chief Todd’s work in the Community

Shirley Tilley complained about the Hern Building on Race St and said that the building was draining water into her business and home. Her kitchen was unusable when it rains and it was affecting her building foundation. The City Manager replied that the Hern building was privately owned and not city property. He stated that the City had contacted the owners who promised in November to fix the problems by January. Just before the meeting, he re-contacted them and they said “sorry” they will fix the problems by March. Meantime, Ms. Tilley is being flooded.

**Departmental Comments**:

The new Police Chief thanked everyone for the kind words. He also stated that the Police Department was sponsoring a basketball program for youths 8 to 14 from 6 pm to 8 pm every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday night at Macy Lane Elementary.

**Commissioners Comments**:

All the Commissioners and Mayor thanked Chief Todd for his good work

Commissioner Malkus commented on the Oyster and Ice Festival this weekend.

Commissioner L. Cephas talked about the contacts she made with the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development to which the City will apply for $4 million for lead removal in houses. She stated that there are more opportunities with HUD to get more grants for the City.

The Council adjourned into a close session to discuss personnel issues.