**CAN’s Unofficial Notes on the**

**Cambridge City Council Meeting of 1/23/23**

**By Charles McFadden**

Mayor Rideout opened the meeting as usual at 6 p.m.

**Presentations:**

1. The Mayor presented Jane Dorman with a retirement ring for all her years of service as the Water Resource Manager for the City. The Council and City Manager also praised her service to the community.
2. The Council heard a report by the Auditors that stated all the financial units of the City were in good shape and praised Deborah Cooper, the City’s Financial Director for her work. The City reported total revenues of $24,118,374 of which 32% came from property taxes, 22% from grants (AARA federal funds) and 33% from water, sewer and marina fees. The City’s expenses were $20,026,986 of which 311% was for public safety, 36% for water and sewer, 18% for public works, and 7% for general government. CAN will report on the entire 100 page audit when we find the strength and time to absorb it.
3. Chris Comer of Comcast talked about the Federal Affordable Connectivity Program which gives a $30 credit for internet users who are low income. Guidelines for the program can be found on the Federal Affordable Connectivity website.
4. Larry White and Jimmy Windsor gave an update on the Shoreline Resiliency Project. The plan calls for a $17.7 million investment to build up the shoreline. The plans is completed and open for public view. The City has to put up $1.859 million for its share; the rest is provided by the State. The money is spread over 3 years.
5. The City Manager swore in Ina Holden as the new Director of Administrative Services.

**New Business:**

1. Resolution 23-01- a technical amendment to bring the City guidelines into compliance with State Law. The resolution involves drawing two different salaries or compensations from the City. Approved 5/0
2. Resolution 23-02 – endorses the Dorchester Co. All Hazard Mitigation plan as the overall plan for the City and the rest of the County. Allows Cambridge not to have to develop its own plan but puts the City in a position to apply for grants and loans from the State. The resolution also commits resources to the Shoreline Resiliency program mention above. The Council approved 5/0
3. The Council approved 3/0 a technical amendment to the Mount Olive Baptist Church Deed. Both Commissioners Cephas abstained because of their close affiliation with the Church.
4. A proposed City Charter change and Special election provisions was tabled until February 13th. The change involves where Commissioners live and the need for special elections if they move out of their Ward. Commissioner Chad Malkus notified the City that he moved out of his Ward 5 last March 1 and Commissioner Brian Roche notified the Council he moved out of his Ward 1 last November. Both moves were due to not being able to renew their leases.
5. The City Manager presented his proposed change to the structure of the City Government. The new structure will have 6 departments as follows:
   1. Development Dept. will oversee all development projects, planning, Historic Preservation, Land Banking, Housing, Code enforcement, and Building safety Standards. The Department will be headed up by the new Assistant City Manager, Brandon Hesson
   2. Finance Office will combine the current administrative accounting staff with the utility billing staff to handle cashiering and cash management. The Department will be headed up by Deborah Cooper.
   3. Public Services Department will combine the water utility staff with the old Department of Public Works so all construction and street work will be in one Department. The position head is vacant.
   4. Cambridge Police – No major changes to the structure and the Department is headed up by Chief Justin Todd.
   5. City Engineer Department, this Department oversees contracts for the Marina and waste water treatment process. There are major projects slated for Sewers, pumping stations, the Marina and our shoreline. Bucky Jackson will be the new Department head when George Hyde retires this spring.
   6. Administrative Services will have responsibly for human resources, risk management, information technology and special projects. Ina Holden was sworn in as Departmental head at this meeting.
6. The Arts and Entertainment District is in the process of updating its program.

**Public Comment:**

1. LaShon Foster spoke out against the proposed charter change stating that the current Council cannot change the Charter for this Council. The current Council can only change conditions for the next and the current Council needs to follow the current Charter as to where Commissioners live. The problem is that Commissioners have moved out of their Wards during their terms.

**City Manager Comments:**

1. Mr. Carroll noted that there will be a meeting February 1st at the Council Chamber on “beautification” of the downtown area. It is a public meeting.

**Commissioners Comments:**

1. Chad Malkus noted his efforts to improve the Cambridge Cemetery located on Academy St. The old chain link fence is coming down and a new orient mental fence is going in, along with other improvements. He should be commended for his efforts in this project which was much needed.

Adjourned at 7:20