CAN’s Unofficial Notes on the

Cambridge City Council Meeting of February 13, 2023

Mayor Rideout opened the meeting at 6:00 pm. All Commissioners were present.

**Presentations:**

1. Alvin Harmon, the Bereavement Care Service Manger for Costal Hospice talked about serve ring four Counties of the Eastern Shore including Dorchester. He said Coastal Hospice provides free counseling and bereavement care for groups and individuals who are suffering from lose.
2. Captains Shane Hinson and Antoine Patton were sworn into leadership positions in the Cambridge Police Department.
3. Captain Hinson made a presentation on the new Shot Spotter system. This system pinpoints where gun shots are fired and reports that location to the Police within 60 seconds. This helps officers to get to the scene quickly.

**Consent Agenda:**

1. There will be a “Harriet Tubman Day of Celebration” on March 11 from 3 to 6 at 206 High St.
2. Appointment of Mayor Rideout to the Heart of Chesapeake Board.

**Ordinances:**

1. Ordinance 1212, which allows for rental apartments in the Mill St. School, was presented for its First Reading.
2. Ordinance 1211, which allows the City of Cambridge to issue a bond of $2,600,000 for the West End Sewer Replacement Project, was presented for its Second Reading. There were no Public Comments, and the Ordinance was approved (5/0).

**Old Business:**

1. The Council reappointed the members of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). The HPC is looking for an “alternate” member. Contact Brendon Hesson if you are interested.

**New Business:**

1. Resolution 23-04 was passed to come into compliance with IRS regulations regarding the expenditure of funds for the Sewer Project.
2. Resolution 23-04 was passed to extend the Arts and Entertainment District for downtown Main St.
3. There will be two or three job fairs for vacant City positions especially in the Police Dept and DPW. Dates are Feb. 22, March 18th and a date to be determined.
4. The Annual Cambridge Police Report showed an increase in thefts, but 55% of the thefts were in one store. The Council discussed how to present data contained in the report. The Council also discussed combining the Central Booking process with the County, which the City Manager will explore. Commissioner Roche wanted information on “fender benders” in parking lots which inflate the number of traffic accidents in the City.
5. Negotiations have begun with Ironman and Eagleman to renew the contract after this year’s event. A suggestion was made to run both events on the same weekend – one on Saturday and one on Sunday. This idea only received negative comments because it would reduce the revenue benefit to the City, stretch the volunteers who run the event, and cause the citizens to endure a whole weekend of limited access.

**Public Comment:**

1. LaShon Foster noted that Commissioner Malkus’s 12-month grace period to move back into his elected Ward expired on February 7, 2023, and that he should step down as Commissioner of Ward 5.
2. Dr. Theresa Stafford thanked the Council for putting on a great offsite planning conference which established the priorities for the City. It was suggested that it would be helpful if the City published the results of that meeting. Dr. Stafford also noted that, in the new City structure, the two African American Women in management positions were the lowest paid.
3. Michael Wheatly asked for volunteers and Board members for the non-profit Care and Share Committee, which does Christmas in July and cleanup projects.

**Commissioner Comments:**

1. Commissioner L. Cephas welcomed Brandon Hesson as the new Assistant City Manager and temporary head of DPW to the City team. She also noted that she was appointed to represent Cambridge on a National Organization that may lead to more grant opportunities for the City.
2. The Fire Chief spoke about the need for more volunteers, especially younger volunteers, and noted that the new Fire ladder truck should be delivered by April.