**CAN’s Unofficial Notes on the**

**Cambridge City Council Meeting of Feb. 27, 2023**

The Mayor started the meeting at 6 pm with a silent prayer and the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**Presentations:** Jymil Thompson of the Dorchester Co. Campaign for Grade Level Reading which focuses on improving 3rd grade reading levels, gave an update of what the organization has accomplished this last year. The organization funded a pre-K pilot program at one of the elementary schools which has been very successful and they wish to expand. They also coordinated with private day-care facilities to train and help expand reading programs. They created “Bedtime in a box” which is a box with books, PJs and an alarm clock so that parents can read to their children at nighttime. The organization is also hiring an Early Childhood Development specialist to work with the schools and day cares.

The Mayor gave Mr. Thompson a citation of appreciation for all his work.

**Consent Calendar:** The Council approved 5/0 the following:

1. Cambridge Classic Powerboat Regatta on May 20/21, 2023
2. “Thunder on the Choptank” boat race on July 22/23, 2023
3. “Unity in the Community” event on April 29,2023
4. “Christmas in July” on July 8th 2023
5. Poplar St. will be closed on March 1 & 6 to replace street lights
6. “How” Agreement was past

**Ordinance for first reading – no public comment allowed**

1. Ordinance 1213 which is a technical ordinance needed to combine the old Water Commission into the new City organization.
2. Ordinance 1214 allows for the City to purchase 1009 Washington Sr. for $60,000.

**Old Business:**

A lengthy discussion on delaying the Special Elections for Ward 1 and Ward 5 until sometime in June was had. The discussion revolved making it easier for the City Staff and the Board of Elections, which doesn’t have any elections in April, May or June. There was no discussion on what the citizens in the Wards want. Commissioner Malkus will be out of his Ward for 18 months and waiting until June would allow Commissioner Roche of Ward 1 to establish his residency requirements of 6 months so that he can run in Ward 5.

Commissioner Harrington brought a motion to have the election in April but that was voted down 4/1. Everyone seemed concerned about the over worked City Manager putting the budget together in April but no concern about the end of year budget close out in June.

**New Business:**

The City Manager is planning on establishing a new committee to deal with water front issues, such as “shoreline resiliency”, Marina dock replacement, the contract with Oasis Marinas and other shoreline issues. He will convene a meeting in March of all interested parties.

The City Manager announced a Council work session on March 13th to discuss changes to the City Charter especially around “special elections”.

**Meetings:**

1. Planning and Zoning on March 7th at 6pm
2. Traffic and Safety Meeting on March 9th at 1pm
3. Special Election Work Session on March 13th at 5pm
4. Leonard’s lane Park Community Meeting on March 14th at 6pm
5. Historic Preservation Meeting on March 15th at 6pm
6. City of Cambridge Job Fair, March 18th 1 to 3 at the Police station
7. Waterfront issues, Listening session, March 22 at 4pm

**Public Comment:**

1. LaShon Foster said that the Council was not following the City Charter by postponing the Special election and the Commissioner Malkus was sitting and voting illegally.
2. Robert Aaron said that Commissioner Malkus should step down and that he and several members of Ward 5 did not want a respresentative who lives in another Ward.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:05

By Charles McFadden, President of CAN