

CAN's Unofficial Notes on the City Council Meeting of April 24, 2023

The Mayor opened the meeting at 6 pm with a silent prayer and all Council members were present except Lajan Cephas who attended by Webcam.

Presentations to the Council

1. Dr. Steve White spoke about the rescue of a man by citizens and the police. The Mayor gave citations to all the rescuers in a nice ceremony.
2. Randous Wallace and former Mayor Victoria Jackson made a presentation about an Art contest for the National Council of Negro Women.
3. Tom Hurley, President of American Legion Post 91 talked about his book on Officer Daniel Beyers, the only Cambridge Police officer to die in the line of duty. This was in 1953 and the incident occurred over a domestic dispute.
4. City Manager Tom Carroll presented the 2024 budget to the Council. He praised the work of Finance Director Deborah Cooper, who prepared the document which can be found on the City Website. There will be two work sessions – May 8th and 22nd for the Council and public input.

Consent Agenda: The Council approved-

1. A Community Funday for Everybody on June 17th at 934 Pine St.
2. An Uproar Anniversary on June 10 at 618 Pine St.
3. **Approved the 2023 Special Election by a private contractor. The Special Election is for Wards 1 and 5 and will be held June 6, 2023. Only residents of those Wards can vote. A runoff election will be held July 11th if a candidate does not receive 50% of the vote plus one.**
4. Approved the Egypt Road Solar Easement
5. Awarded a contract to replace the sewer and add new sidewalk gutters.
6. Awarded a Bikeway Feasibility study.

Ordinance No. 1216:

Approved Ordinance 1216 which updated the City Map to include areas annexed since 2004 and extended the City ordinances to cover all areas of the City.

New Business:

1. Approved Derek Griffin and Dewey Barlow to the Utility Commission
2. Approved Gaver Nichols and Will Bishop to the Board of Zoning Appeals

Public Comment:

1. Dr. Theresa Stafford asked for \$17,000 to employ youths (those under 18) this summer.
2. Robert Aaron asked where the Special Election was to be held. Mr. Carroll I responded that the site has not yet been determined.
3. Tom Hurley asked the Council to reconsider its health care policy for City Workers especially the Police. At present, workers and officers lose their health care if they do not have at least 25 years of work history with the City. So if a worker or an officer is hurt on the job and cannot work, they lose their health insurance right at the time when they need it most.

Division Reports:

1. Pat Escher updated the Council on the Rails to Trails Program. This is an effort by the City and County to use the old railroad tracks into walking and biking trails. A short portion has been accomplished behind the Packing House and more to come.

City Commissioners Comments:

1. Most comments were "thank you" to the staff for their hard work.
2. Chad Markus commented on the new fence and retaining wall around the Cemetery on Academy St and Cedar. Councilman Markus has worked on this project for years before it finally happen.

Adjourned into private session around 7:30 to discuss personnel matters

By Charles McFadden,

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