

## **CAN's Unofficial Notes on the Cambridge City Council of May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The meeting started at 6 pm with four Commissioners present and Council President Lajan Cephas attending via the internet.

Robin Sample made a presentation on Lupus and announced that there was going to be a walk for awareness on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

The consent agenda was approved 5/0 which increased the budget by \$17,000 for New Beginnings Youth and Family Services and \$8,000 for Dorchester Lacrosse. The agenda also included approval for a number of planned events.

Three ordinances were approved. The first authorized the tax rate for fiscal year 2024, the second was for approval of the fiscal year budget, and the final was for a change in zoning from industrial to residential for 6.2 acres off Leonard's Lane.

### **Special Election**

**The Special Election for Wards 1 and 5 will be held June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church at 205 Maryland Ave. A Possible runoff election would be held on July 11, 2023. The City will begin to receive mail-in ballot requests on May 11, 2023 and absentee ballots are available in person or by emailing a form which is on the City's website. ONLY RESIDENTS OF WARD 1 AND 5 ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE in this election**

Davette Askins, Michael Wheatley and Chantay Nelson were appointed as election judges. Fay Singer, Tyvonnia Braxton and James Ewing were appointed election clerks.

The League of Women Voters has requested to host a debate.

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The Council appointed Ron Berman and Tim Crosby to the Historic Preservation Commission to fill the departures of George Vojtech and Susan Morgan. The City gave no explanation for their sudden departures.

The Council approved two amendments to the 2024 budget. The first was to raise the FY2024 budget by \$1.06 million from surplus FY2023 funds to pay for repaving roads (\$450,000), a new dump truck and several other minor capital improvements. The second, was for \$250,000 to buy back employees' excess leave. Several police officers have accumulated a lot of leave since the Department experienced so many departures in the past 3 years. This program will pay them for the leave instead of them taking so much time off.

The City Manager presented a study on all the Commissions, Boards and Committees reporting to the Council and requested that some that have not met in a long while be eliminated and others be standardizing as to their terms and starting dates.

The Fire Department announced that the new ladder truck was going to be delivered next week.

The Police are sponsoring a "Cops on the Roof Top" fund raiser to support our youth.

The meeting ended at 6:49

Charles McFadden,

President of CAN