

CAN's Unofficial Notes on the City Council Meeting of March 18th, 2024

The Mayor opened the meeting of a full Council in attendance with a request that citizens contact their County representatives and urge them to include all the proposed suggested changes to the County Charter. The County Charter is being changed for the first time this Fall and any changes have a long process to go through before they can be voted on by the public. The current suggested changes can be found at the County website.

The Council meeting proceeded with a presentation by Angie Hengst, Race Director for Eagleman and Ironman. She stated that last year's races were a little under expected participation with 1,721 starters for Eagleman and 1,138 starters for Ironman but that registration for this year seemed to be running ahead of last year. She also noted that the Cambridge Eagleman was ranked #12 globally for overall satisfaction and Ironman was rated #3 globally for the bike course and #9 globally for the run course. She thanked the Council for their support.

Ordinance 1234 which sets up the governance of the Cambridge Land Bank was approved for first reading. Second reading and the public comment section will be March 25th. The land bank buys up abandoned or hazardous houses and either rehabs them or tears them down. The City set aside \$1 million to start the program which will be the first in the State. The City Manager brought this idea from his previous job in Ohio. There were no comments from the Council members.

Ordinance 1235 which sets the tax rate for real-estate and personal property was approved for first reading. The second reading and public comment will be at the March 25th Council meeting. There was no discussion of the tax rate by the Council or how we compare to other jurisdictions, but the agenda included an attachment stating that the tax rate for both items would remain the same as this year. The rate for real estate is \$0.8096 per \$100 of assessed value and \$1.69 per \$100 for personal property.

The Council appointed Matt Pluta and Robin Stanley to the Planning and Zoning Commission and Penny Introcasa and Michael Dalidenas to the Historic Preservation Commission.

The Council then approved a contract with Rauch, Inc. for engineering services for Chesapeake Court and School House Lane. Commissioner Harrington recused himself from the voting because he works for Rauch. There was no discussion of the contract, but the agenda included an attachment stating that it would cost \$26,100.

There was no public comment. The Commissioner's comments thanked various groups for their participation. There was no discussion of the problems with Cambridge Waterfront Development, Inc. (CWDI) or why the City Manager resigned over the Council's lack of support for his position regarding CWDI.

The meeting began at 6:07 and ended at 6:37

By Chuck McFadden,

President, CAN