**CAN’s Unofficial Notes on the**

**Cambridge City Council meeting of 2/26/2024**

 The meeting started at 6:02 with the Mayor and 4 Council members physically present. Council President Lajan Cephas and City Manager Tom Carroll attended by zoom. Sputty Cephas led a presentation to the coaches of the South Dorchester High School boys basketball team which won the area championship and is moving on to the State Tournament.

 The Council approved the consent agenda which included having the powerboat regatta on May 19th and the “Thunder on the Choptank” race on July 20th. Moving on to “Old Business”, the Council approved a 7 member Board to manage the Land Bank Authority which they established in 2023 with a $1 million budget. The purpose of the land bank is to purchase abandoned houses, tear them down and sell the lots or rehab the houses for resale. This is the first land bank on the eastern shore and it will be interesting to see how effective it will be.

 Tyasia Johnson, executive assistant to the City Manager, gave a report on vacancies on city boards and commissions. If you are interested in serving on a board or commission, you can apply by contacting your Ward Commissioner. The vacancies are as follows:

1. Planning and Zoning- a Ward 4 vacancy and one open alternate position for a 5 year term.
2. Historic Planning Commission, one full time member and one alternate position for a 3 year term.
3. Board of Zoning Appeals, 2 full time members and one alternate for a 3 year term.
4. Ethics Commission, one full time member and one alternate.
5. Police Advisory Board, one full time member from Ward 3

Wayne Suggs, our new Director of Public Works spoke on the uses of the $100,000 Community Safety Grant as follows:

1. A string of overhead lights for the 500 block of Race St.
2. Two new light poles with cameras on Greenwood Ave.
3. 6 new street lights on Pine St near the Empowerment Center
4. Installation of ADA compliant ramps on Pine St.

There was no public comment.

In the Director’s report, Director Suggs noted that the sidewalks, from the 500 block of Race St to the start of Popular St., will be getting repairs. He also noted that the 2nd phase of replacing traffic lights with stop signs was beginning and that city spring cleaning trash pickup was starting in Ward 5.

In the Commissioner’s report, Laurel Atkiss noted that a comedy show put on by the “All for Love” group at the Packing House was very successful and hoped this would continue to be a great place for the community. Commissioner Sputty Cephas noted that February was Black History Month and that we have numerous local black officials working in our community. He pointed out Mayor Cephas of Hurlock and our own former Mayor Victoria Stanley Jackson as examples. Commissioner Brian Roche spoke about a meeting he had with state officials on the old fishing pier on Rt. 50. He said that the state had no money for the project in the next 5 or 6 years and would keep the existing bridge closed.

The meeting ended at 6:42.