

CAN's Unofficial Notes on the Cambridge City Council Meeting of June 8th, 2024

The Mayor began the meeting at 6:00 with three members present and Lejan Cephas and Brian Roche attending electronically. Lejan Cephas later joined the meeting in person. After some agenda discussions, the Mayor asked Richard Colburn, former State Senator and up-coming Commander of American Legion Post 91 to speak.

Mr. Colburn's concerns were around getting a new fishing pier. The old pier near the American Legion has been condemned and is slated for demolition. However, Mr. Colburn cannot get the State to respond to the American Legions requests to build a new pier, either at the Visitor's Center or at the boat ramp in Cambridge Harbor. He requested help from the City and also asked that the Council get the County Commissioners to join in a request for a new pier. The Mayor said that the City would follow up after gathering some more facts on the matter.

The Council passed the consent agenda 5/0 which included past minutes and several upcoming community events.

Moving on, the Council nominated the following to be on the Council Compensation Committee:

Ward 1 – Allen Jordan Michaels

Ward 2 – Dion Banks

Ward 3 – Charles McFadden

Ward 4 – Wyritya Myster

Ward 5 – Carlos Estin

The Committee's purpose is to make recommendations on the Salaries and Benefits of the City Council Commissioners.

The Council then took up the downtown traffic lights and approved the removal of lights at Spring and Gay Sts, Muir and Race Sts, Muse and Gay Sts, High and Glasgow Sts, High and Locust Sts, Gay/Poplar and Race Sts. The lights will be

replaced with stop signs and new street markings. The cost of this effort is \$4,000.

In the Public Comment section, John Hanson, President of the Long Boat Civic Association asked the Council to look into several issues, as follows:

1. Trees, planted in the median strip between the sidewalk and the street when the subdivision was built, are now buckling the sidewalk. The trees were supposed to be planted in the middle of the yard by the developers but a change in plan, approved by the City inspectors moved the trees to the median strip. Now the City Code enforcement inspectors are citing homeowners for uneven sidewalks. The subdivision thinks it's the City's fault, and that they should fix the problem. The Council said they would look into the facts before making any decisions.
2. The sewer system in the development does not work with major overflows during storms which go directly into Jenkins Creek. The subdivision wants the City to fix the problem and begin testing Jenkins Creek regularly for water quality.
3. Jenkins Creek is losing a lot of shoreline due to rising water levels. The Subdivision wants to be included in the Shoreline Resilience Project now going on along the Choptank River.
4. There was a final concern about cars racing though the subdivision. They asked for more police activity and stronger fines since the subdivision has a lot of children playing on the sidewalks and open areas.

David Deutsch, the Acting City Manager, made a presentation on the \$125,000 Maryland Energy Administration Grant the City received. The grant will fund a study of the electrical systems in the City and make recommendations for improvements.

The Mayor read a finding from Maryland's Open Meeting Commission that the Council had violated the Open Meetings Act in January when it went into a closed session on property classifications. The Mayor was not in agreement with the findings but went ahead with the reading and all Council members signed the document which will be returned to the State.

The open meeting ended at 6:50 and the Council went into closed session.

Charles McFadden, President, Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods, (CAN)