

# REVISED CAN Unofficial Notes on City Council Work Session

Monday, November 4, 2024

Commission Chambers - 305 Gay Street

Cambridge, MD 21613

2:00 PM

All ward commissioners are present

Mayor Rideout is present

## **Cambridge Waterfront Ordinance amendments discussed.**

## **Closed session with City Attorney then open for discussion.**

Discussion of amendments to CWDI Articles of incorporation

- Tom Hutchinson, state delegate and Frank Narr, CWDI present.
- Mayor Rideout, City Attorney, Patrick Thomas, asst manager, Brandon Hesson, County manager, Jerry Jones and State Delegate, Tom Hutchinson met in September to talk about amendments to CWD Articles. Out of that came a working draft. Mike Lemere, CWDI attorney discussed with city attorney, Patrick Thomas addressed the membership component.
- 4E article allows for amendments; Powers and duties of the board and the members.
- It was given more wording clarity.
- 6A article was amended from a 6 member board to a 9 member board. The city manager and the county manager (serving ex officio non voting capacities), but must attend all meetings. This includes closed sessions.
- Article 6 C & D are new sections regarding removal of Director. Section C is taken directly from Bylaws. Section D provides verbiage if the board declined to remove the director, the appointed authorities would have the ability to remove the director if violating the bylaws – if the city director then the city can do it; if the county director, then the county can do it.
- Removal would be because of not attending meetings, unethical or unlawful behavior or unresolved conflict of interest.
- Last measure is a housekeeping measure moving council to Miles and Stockbridge law firm from Cambridge city attorney's office.
- Membership now includes city, county and state with each entity having one vote. If any member wants to make amendments to the articles, it can be done at a city council meeting or a county council meeting. It does not require everyone being at the table.

## **Comments**

- Sputty Cephas, Ward 4 – The city's voting procedures control? Answer: yes
- Laurel Atkiss, Ward 1 - appreciative of all the work done to create a level playing field going forward.
- Tom Hutchinson, State Delegate for Dorchester County - from the state's point of view, this is exactly what was needed. The state actually has a delegation consisting of 4 people: Senator Mautz, Del. Hutchinson, Del. Adams, Del. Sample-Hughes.
- Lajan Cephas, Ward 2 – How would the state delegation work? Answer: If decisions need to be made, the delegates would meet by zoom call or something similar to decide.

- City attorney – So there would be 4 people, not one? Answer: That is the state recommendation. The Secretary of Housing and Community Development, appointed by the governor, would be the tie breaker vote if a tie.
- City Attorney – that means Article 3B would have to be revised to include the 4 members of the state delegation. The secretary would be included in the delegation so 5 members. The governor appoints the members of the state board and the secretary.
- Mayor Rideout: Next step: Recommendation will be made to CWDI board to make changes. Answer: Yes. CWDI board must adopt the amendments then will file with the state.
- Frank Narr, CWDI – Things have been made very clear. Looking forward to moving forward in a true partnership with the city, county and state.

Adjourn 2:52 PM

Notes taken by Alison Kennedy, CAN member