

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49

**TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND
EASTON TOWN HALL
14 S HARRISON STREET**

December 2, 2019

PRESENT AT CONVENING.

Mayor Robert C. Willey
Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein
Councilmember Donald Abbatiello
Councilmember Ron E. Engle
Councilmember Megan M. Cook

President of the Council John Ford was excused.

Also present was the Town Manager Mr. Don Richardson, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.

**6:50 PM CLOSED SESSION GENERAL PROVISIONS ARTICLE § 3-305(B)(1)
... PERSONNEL MATTER THAT AFFECTS ONE OR MORE SPECIFIC
INDIVIDUALS.**

At 6:50 p.m., due to the absence of the President of the Council, Town Clerk Kathy Ruf called the meeting to order.

Upon unanimous consensus of the Council, the meeting convened into Closed Session to discuss a personnel matter.

At 6:58 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the Closed Meeting was adjourned and the meeting was reconvened into Regular Session.

7:00 PM CALL TO ORDER BY TOWN CLERK.

At 7:00 p.m., Town Clerk Kathy Ruf called the regularly scheduled meeting to order.

MOTION FOR NOMINATION FOR ACTING PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL.

Pursuant to a motion from Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, Mr. Engle was elected as the Acting President of the Council.

Acting President Engle took the President of the Council's seat.

Acting President Engle stated that a Closed Session had been held prior to the regular meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

OPENING REMARKS BY MR. SILVERSTEIN AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mr. Silverstein gave opening remarks and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2019 MEETING.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes of the November 18, 2019 meeting were approved as written.

ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.

Mayor Willey discussed open volunteer vacancies on the Boards and Commissions as well as needing an Alternate for the Board of Zoning Appeals.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

Mr. Richardson stated that he has two department updates.

The Easton Police Department Toy Drive has commenced until mid-December.

50 Mr. Richardson stated that the Public Works Department is actively collecting leaves. He
51 reminded residents to place leaves in their yards and not in the street to avoid clogging
52 the storm drains.

53 Councilmember Don Abbatiello asked where the construction renovation process is at the
54 Town office building.

55 Mr. Richardson replied that the Town is very close to the finish line and applying final
56 touches.

57 Mr. Richardson stated that the IT Department parking solution is ready to go live. He
58 stated that they don't intend to issue violations or turn the kiosk system on until the end
59 of the year.

60 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

61 The Town Attorney stated that the Planning Commission is working to update the entire
62 Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map. Mrs. VanEmburch stated that the Planning
63 Commission is accepting requests for zoning changes. She suggested submitting requests
64 to Mr. Lynn Thomas, Town Planner for Planning & Zoning Commission consideration.

65 The Town Attorney Mrs. VanEmburch discussed the process related to zoning changes.

66 **TOWN ENGINEER UPDATE ON SANITATION FOR DISABLED RESIDENTS.**

67 The Town Engineer Mr. VanEmburch discussed his findings for trash pickup for disabled
68 residents. He discussed other municipalities and their procedures.

69 Acting President Ron Engle asked the Town Attorney if there is anything to add.

70 The estimated cost in Easton was discussed. The Town Engineer discussed the possibility
71 of having to hire additional staff or hire a contractor for services.

72 Mr. Silverstein stated that what is being discussed is a one-individual pickup service. He
73 stated that he sees it as the responsibility of the homeowner to get their trash out as well
74 as grass cutting and snow removal. Mr. Silverstein stated that he is not in favor of
75 changing the policy.

76 Mrs. Cook stated that Easton can't move to an entire town automated pickup. She stated
77 that it is an option to contract that service.

78 Mr. Engle asked for staff recommendations.

79 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried, it was the
80 consensus of the council to continue with the current sanitation policy with Mrs. Cook
81 voting no.

82 **MR. ROSS BENINCASA, DIRECTOR, DISCOVER EASTON TO DISCUSS**
83 **PLANS FOR INAUGURAL CHESAPEAKE FIRE & ICE FESTIVAL.**

84 Mr. Benincasa was present to discuss the Chesapeake Fire & Ice Festival.

85 Mr. Benincasa also stated that he is collecting cards for President Ford from business
86 owners.

87 Mr. Benincasa stated that they are anticipating 5,000 visitors for the Festival scheduled
88 for Valentine's weekend. There will be live carvings, a large ice rink and live music with
89 some street closures during the weekend. Mr. Benincasa stated that they will work with
90 Public Works after "Morning Smashdown" to remove broken sculptures. Most sculptures
91 will be in the immediate downtown. This will be a family friendly, unique event and free.

92 Mrs. Cook asked if any ice sculptures can bleed out into the east end.

93 Mr. Benincasa stated they will have 75 ices skates for the event.

94 Mayor stated he would like to see the Town of Easton seal on any advertisement if asked
95 to help with sponsorship.

96
97 Mr. Abbatiello asked if a shuttle has been considered to transport patrons to and from the
98 Brew Festival at EVFD to downtown.

99
100 Mr. Benincasa stated that Fairfield Inn is also a sponsor and does have a shuttle.

101 Mr. Benincasa stated that there will be information on EBA's website.

102 Mr. Engle asked that Mr. Benincasa keep the council updated on the event.

103 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:**

104 Mr. Silverstein stated that the Talbot Young Professionals are also accepting Toys for
105 Tots. He suggested that if you are able, you should support the efforts of all the
106 organizations as there are many individuals in need.

107
108 Mr. Abbatiello stated he enjoyed Christmas caroling downtown this weekend.

109
110 Mrs. Cook reminded everyone that the tree lighting and parade would occur this Saturday
111 in Easton.

112
113 **ADJOURNMENT.**

114 At 7:46 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried
115 unanimously, Acting President of the Council Engle adjourned the regularly scheduled
116 Council meeting.

117

118

119 _____
Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk