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

May 6, 2019

PRESENT AT CONVENING.

Mayor Robert C. Willey
President of the Council John Ford
Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein
Councilmember Ron E. Engle
Councilmember Megan M. Cook

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

CALL TO ORDER.

At 7:00 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order.

President Ford reminded everyone to vote tomorrow in the Town election. He stated polls are open tomorrow from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Easton Firehouse.

OPENING REMARKS BY MR. ENGLE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2019 MEETING.

Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, minutes of the April 15, 2019 meeting were approved.

ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.

Mayor Willey reminded the listening audience of the Town election tomorrow.

Mayor Willey stated that the Town of Easton has received an Award of Notice for the DNR Grant for the Easton Point Park in the amount of \$200,000.

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF CANVASSERS.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, Ms. Jennifer Williams' appointment to the Board of Canvassers was confirmed.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

Mr. Richardson reminded the community about the Town of Easton Parks and Recreation's summer baseball and soccer camp programs.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.

Nothing at this time.

POLICE BOARD.

Chief Spencer was present and thanked everyone for attending the EPD Awards Program.

Chief Spencer discussed personnel, department activities and the Quarterly Statistical Report.

RENOVATIONS AT TOWN HALL.

Mr. Richardson discussed renovations at the Town Hall's façade which will improve ADA accessibility and the security of Town Hall. He stated that the renovations will allow sidewalks to be re-configured. He stated that inside, customers will enter into a vestibule lobby which will be more contained. The renovations will improve the directional flow of the building. Mr. Richardson discussed a timeline stating that the façade and sidewalk improvements will occur this fiscal year; the inside improvements will be in the upcoming fiscal year.

50 **LETTER FROM JOHN J. HORNER, JR., VP OPERATIONS EASTON UTILITIES**
51 **REQUESTING APPROVAL TO SPEND OVER \$2M FOR UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS.**

52 Mr. Horner was present and requested council permission to spend over \$2 million for utility
53 improvements and to pursue grant funding to push broadband into Talbot County to areas that do not
54 have broadband capability. He stated that the current estimate for the project is \$25 million.

55 **RESOLUTION NO. 6105, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON IN SUPPORT**
56 **OF THE EXTENSION OF BROADBAND SERVICE BY EASTON UTILITIES IN EXCESS**
57 **OF TWO MILLION DOLLARS (\$2,000,000).**

58
59 Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6105
60 was approved.

61
62 **7:15 PM PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 BUDGET.**

63
64 At 7:15 p.m., President Ford opened the Public Hearing for the 2019/2020 Budget.

65 Mayor Willey stated that the budget is balanced and is a 3 ½ increase in last year's budget. He stated
66 the Avalon, Talbot County Library or Neighborhood Service Center's requests were not included but
67 it does include police overtime.

68 Mayor Willey stated that the Joint Insurance Committee has been diligent with health insurance
69 costs.

70 Mayor Willey stated that vacancies the Town has now have gone unfilled which will generate some
71 savings, projects that have come under budget as well as a savings to the Debt Service.

72 Mayor Willey discussed the favorable bond rating for the Town from Moodys and Fitch.

73 Mayor Willey discussed the municipal tax rate in comparison to neighboring communities.

74 The list of projects currently being considered for the upcoming year were discussed.

75 Mayor Willey stated that the installation of lights on another field at North Easton Park are being
76 considered.

77 President Ford asked for council questions.

78 Discussion occurred regarding new accounting software which is included in the budget at a line item
79 of \$750,000.

80 President Ford opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

81 President Ford stated that the Budget Public Hearing would remain open at the next meeting.

82 **ORDINANCE NO. 733, THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR FY2019/2020.**

83
84 President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 733 for a first reading.

85
86 President Ford stated that the Constant Yield Tax Rate Public Hearing would occur at the next
87 Council meeting as well as Resolution No. 6104; the Carry Forwards for 2020.

88
89 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:**

90 Mr. Engle asked all to come out and vote tomorrow.

91
92 Mrs. Cook stated she attended the Habitat Dedication and the EENA Cleanup Day.

93
94 **ADJOURNMENT.**

95
96 At 7:34 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engleand carried unanimously,
97 President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

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100 _____
Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk