

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  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67

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

**August 3, 2020**

**PRESENT AT CONVENING.**

Mayor Robert C. Willey  
Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein  
Councilmember Ron E. Engle  
Councilmember Rev. Elmer N. Davis, Jr.  
Council President Megan M. Cook

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

Mr. Abbatiello was excused.

**CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT COOK.**

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

**OPENING REMARKS BY MR. ENGLE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Mr. Engle asked for a moment of silence and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2020 MEETING.**

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes of the July 20, 2020 meeting were approved.

Mr. Silverstein stated that on July 20, 2020; meeting minutes of the July 8, 2020 workshop were approved unanimously. With further review and comments received, these minutes included an error that should be corrected regarding the vote. The actual vote was 3-0 with the meeting minutes showing a 3-1 vote. Mr. Silverstein made a motion to correct minutes of the July 8, 2020 meeting to reflect the correct vote and have the meeting minutes of July 8, 2020 presented to the Council at the next meeting August 17, 2020 for approval, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried.

**ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.**

Mayor Willey stated he has asked the Town Engineer to discuss the RK&K study regarding the undersized storm drain over three blocks in downtown Easton that has to be replaced. Mayor Willey stated that a recommendation will be forthcoming from the Town Engineer.

Mayor Willey stated that Mr. Thomas, Town Planner is getting group together to submit a rough draft plan for the inner courtyard plan.

Mayor Willey advised that the USDA awarded a grant to Easton Utilities for 13.1 million dollars to connect broadband in underserved area.

**ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

Mr. Richardson, Town Manager stated that the tropical storm Isaias is upon us and recommends residents and property owners watch for flooding and tropical winds this evening and tomorrow morning.

**ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

The Town Attorney, Mrs. VanEmburch discussed a technicality regarding Rev. Davis' appointment. She stated when he moved, the voter registration did not get changed and he has subsequently corrected that issue. She stated that the cleanest thing would be to appoint Rev. Davis again.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, Rev. Davis was appointed to Ward 4 for the remainder of the four-year term.

68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107  
108  
109  
110  
111  
112  
113  
114  
115  
116  
117  
118  
119  
120  
121  
122  
123  
124  
125  
126  
127  
128  
129  
130  
131  
132

**POLICE BOARD.**

Deputy Chief Wright discussed personnel and upcoming events. He stated that June yielded three graduates for the department: Andrea L. Kendall, Nicholas W. Everngam, and Andras Bauer. He stated that the recruits are finishing their final hours of field training before they are released on their own. Lt. Wright stated that the department currently has one recruit in the police academy.

Deputy Chief Wright stated that Jordan Newton, a forensic major at WVU is interning with the Department for 30 days.

Deputy Chief Wright stated that Lt. Bobbick retired after 22 years of service. He discussed promotions and stated that the promotion process is starting this week for a lieutenant to take Lt. Bobbick’s spot. Deputy Chief Wright stated that six officers are eligible to retire in February.

Deputy Chief Wright stated that the town has had no employees at Easton Police Department contract COVID 19. Lt. Wright informed the council that National Night Out has been postponed until October. He stated that there are no approved public assembly permits and Dr. Wadley will be consulted should the Department be presented with a request. Preparations have begun for the tropical storm Isaias.

**CONT’D. PUBLIC HEARING “FOR ANNEXATION AND ZONING FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON DUTCHMANS LANE AND INCLUDING THE ROADBED OF DUTCHMANS LANE AND CONSISTING OF 7.714 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS AND FOR CLOSING AND DETACHMENT OF A PORTION OF THIRD STREET CONSISTING OF 0.579 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PORTION OF DUTCHMANS LANE FROM TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND.”**

At 5:46 p.m., President Cook opened the public hearing.

President Cook asked for public comments. There were none.

At 5:47 p.m., President Cook closed the public hearing.

**RESOLUTION NO. 6119, “A RESOLUTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN LANDS OWNED BY TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND, AND MR. HARRY R. COVINGTON, II, LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE INTERSECTION OF U.S. ROUTE 50 AND DUTCHMANS LANE, CONSISTING OF 7.714 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, INTO THE TOWN OF EASTON AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ANNEXATION.”**

Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6119 was approved.

**ORDINANCE NO. 751, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO APPLY THE R-10A RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICT TO CERTAIN LOTS OR PARCELS OF LAND ANNEXED TO THE TOWN OF EASTON BY RESOLUTION NO. 6119 LOCATED ALONG DUTCHMANS LANE AND CONSISTING COLLECTIVELY, OF 7.681 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS.”**

Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 751 was approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 6120, “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO DETACH CERTAIN TERRITORY LOCATED TO THE EAST OF ROUTE 50 AND KNOWN AS THIRD STREET AND CONSISTING OF 0.579 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS.”**

Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6120 was approved.

133  
134 **ORDINANCE NO. 750, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**  
135 **AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO ACCEPT A PORTION OF**  
136 **DUTCHMANS LANE FROM TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND.”**  
137

138 Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously,  
139 Ordinance No. 750 was approved.  
140

141 **ORDINANCE NO. 753, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**  
142 **TERMINATING THE TOWN’S RIGHT TO IMPROVE THIRD STREET, A**  
143 **PARTIALLY UNIMPROVED STREET CURRENTLY IN THE TOWN OF**  
144 **EASTON BUT IN THE PROCESS OF BEING DETACHED FROM THE TOWN**  
145 **OF EASTON BUT RETAINING AN ACCESS AND UTILITY EASEMENT OVER**  
146 **THIRD STREET, AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF**  
147 **QUITCLAIM DEEDS OR OTHER INSTRUMENTS OF CONVEYANCE BY THE**  
148 **TOWN TO NEIGHBORING PROPERTY OWNERS.”**  
149

150 Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously,  
151 Ordinance No. 753 was approved.  
152

153 **5:45 PM PUBLIC HEARING TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE PROGRESS**  
154 **OF CRITCHLOW ADKINS CHILDREN’S CENTER (ALSO KNOWN AS EASTON**  
155 **DAY CARE CENTER) WITHIN THE NEW EASTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL;**  
156 **WHICH WAS FUNDED UNDER THE MARYLAND COMMUNITY**  
157 **DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.**  
158

159 At 5:50 p.m., President Cook opened the public hearing for the Critchlow Adkins  
160 Children’s Center.  
161

162 Mr. Kevin Schaeffer, Talbot County Public Schools was present as well as Christy Morrell,  
163 Executive Director, Crithlow Adkins Children’s Center.  
164

165 Mr. Logan Street, Whiting Turner discussed the project and stated the new construction is  
166 130,000 sq. ft right behind the existing campus. He stated that the construction is 100%  
167 complete with the building and they intend to turn it over to the county at the end of the  
168 month.  
169

170 Ms. Christy Morrell thanked Town of Easton for their support.  
171

172 President Cook asked for public comments. There were none.  
173

174 At 6:02 p.m., President Cook closed public hearing  
175

176 **ORD. 754, “AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AND EMPOWER THE TOWN OF**  
177 **EASTON (THE “TOWN”) TO ISSUE AND SELL, UPON ITS FULL FAITH AND**  
178 **CREDIT, EIGHT MILLION SIX HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLAR**  
179 **(\$8,650,000) MAXIMUM AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF ITS SERIAL**  
180 **OR TERM MATURITY, GENERAL OBLIGATION, FULLY REGISTERED**  
181 **BONDS PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF SECTIONS 19-301 TO 19-309,**  
182 **INCLUSIVE, AND SECTION 19-207 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE**  
183 **OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND (2013 REPLACEMENT VOLUME**  
184 **AND 2019 SUPPLEMENT) AND SECTION 19 OF ARTICLE VI OF THE**  
185 **CHARTER OF THE TOWN, THE BONDS, TO BE DESIGNATED “TOWN OF**  
186 **EASTON PUBLIC FACILITIES BONDS OF 2020”, THE NET PROCEEDS OF**  
187 **THE SALE THEREOF TO BE USED AND APPLIED FOR THE PUBLIC**  
188 **PURPOSES OF: (A) FINANCING OR REFINANCING ALL OR A PORTION OF**  
189 **THE ITEMS DESCRIBED ON EXHIBIT A TO THIS ORDINANCE, AND ALL**  
190 **RELATED ARCHITECTURAL, FINANCIAL, LEGAL, PLANNING AND**  
191 **ENGINEERING EXPENSES, AND (B) PAYING ALL EXPENSES INCURRED IN**  
192 **THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS, WHICH EXPENSES MAY INCLUDE COSTS**  
193 **OF DOCUMENT PRODUCTION AND REPRODUCTION, AND FINANCIAL**  
194 **ADVISORY AND COUNSEL FEES AND EXPENSES; PRESCRIBING THE FORM**  
195 **AND TENOR OF THE BONDS AND THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE**  
196 **ISSUANCE AND SALE OF THE BONDS AT PUBLIC SALE, INCLUDING THE**  
197 **FORM OF THE NOTICE OF SALE; PRESCRIBING THE TERMS AND**  
198 **CONDITIONS OF THE BONDS AND ALL OTHER DETAILS INCIDENT TO THE**  
199 **ISSUANCE, SALE AND DELIVERY OF THE BONDS; PROVIDING THAT THE**

200 **PROCEEDS OF SUCH BONDS, OR ANY MONEYS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED**  
201 **TO BE PROCEEDS, WILL NOT BE USED IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD**  
202 **CAUSE SAID BONDS TO BE ARBITRAGE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE**  
203 **APPOINTMENT OF A PAYING AGENT AND REGISTRAR FOR THE BONDS;**  
204 **COVENANTING TO LEVY AND COLLECT TAXES SUFFICIENT FOR THE**  
205 **PROMPT PAYMENT OF THE MATURING PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON**  
206 **THE BONDS AND PLEDGING THE TOWN'S FULL FAITH AND CREDIT AND**  
207 **UNLIMITED TAXING POWER TO THE PROMPT PAYMENT OF SUCH**  
208 **PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST; AND GENERALLY RELATING TO THE**  
209 **ISSUANCE, SALE, DELIVERY AND PAYMENT OF THE BONDS.**"  
210

211 Mr. Richardson explained the bond details. He discussed the schedule for the bond  
212 issuance.

213  
214 President Cook brought Ordinance No. 754 to the floor for a first reading.

215  
216 The Town Attorney stated that a public hearing could be scheduled for public comments.  
217

218 President Cook set the public hearing for August 17 at 5:45 p.m.  
219

220 **REPORT FROM EASTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
221 **REGARDING MEETING WITH EASTON BUSINESSES.**  
222

223 Mayor Willey discussed the report submitted from Easton Economic Development  
224 Corporation regarding downtown outdoor dining. He stated that there were 70 in  
225 attendance with some attendance virtual.  
226

227 Mayor Willey discussed the findings and stated that most were not in favor of closing  
228 Washington Street. He stated that there was an underlying theme on how to get people to  
229 visit out of the city.  
230

231 Mayor Willey stated that there will be a more formal report forthcoming. He stated that  
232 there was discussion on how to help all downtown businesses; not just restaurants. Mayor  
233 Willey stated that favorable comments have been received by some downtown restaurants  
234 regarding outdoor dining.  
235

236 President Cook stated that Ms. Ward had done a good job moderating the meeting.  
237

238 **DISCUSSION OF WASHINGTON STREET OUTDOOR DINING EXPERIMENT.**  
239

240 President Cook asked the Council their pleasure and asked if they are interested in  
241 continuing with the outdoor dining experiment.  
242

243 Mr. Engle stated most liked the parklet with modifications. Mr. Engle suggests continuing  
244 what is in place while working on a plan. Mr. Engle stated that everyone is in favor of  
245 beautification.  
246

247 Mayor Willey stated that Mr. Thomas is working on a plan that entails the courtyard.  
248

249 Mr. Silverstein made a motion to extend the downtown experiment for 30 days; until the  
250 first meeting in September (8) to get reports back and talk to the businesses, seconded by  
251 Mr. Engle and carried unanimously.  
252

253 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$2,177,002.63.**  
254

255 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, invoices  
256 totaling \$2,177,002.63 were approved.  
257

258 **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**  
259

260 There were no public comments.  
261

262 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:**  
263

264 Mr. Silverstein stated he recently attended two retirement luncheons; one at town hall one  
265 at EPD. He thanked the employees for their service.

266  
267  
268  
269  
270  
271  
272  
273  
274  
275  
276  
277  
278  
279  
280  
281  
282  
283  
284  
285  
286

Mr. Engle stated he has been with working with Mr. Abbatiello on some pertinent goals for the town. He distributed copies of the list.

Rev. Davis stated he had the opportunity to attend the retirement at EPD and it was a good opportunity to be there. Rev. Davis stated he is learning his way around the town and it is exciting.

President Cook stated that our thoughts go out to Easton Fire Department and Mr. Rieck's family due to the passing of Life Member Leonard Rieck, the longest serving member who volunteered for 77 years.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

At 6:18 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, President Cook adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

---

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk (approved August 17, 2020)