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

February 3, 2020

PRESENT AT CONVENING.

Mayor Robert C. Willey
Councilmember Donald M. Abbatiello
Acting President of the Council Ronald E. Engle
Councilmember Megan M. Cook

President of the Council John Ford and Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein was excused.

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

CALL TO ORDER.

At 7:00 p.m., Acting President of the Council Mr. Engle called the meeting to order.

OPENING REMARKS BY MR. ABBATIELLO AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 6, 2020 MEETING.

Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, minutes of the January 6, 2020 meeting were approved as written.

RECOGNITION OF BOY SCOUT CALVIN DAVIS IN ATTENDANCE WORKING ON MERIT BADGE - CITIZENSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY.

Acting President of the Council Engle recognized Calvin Davis that was present working towards his Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge.

POLICE BOARD.

Chief David Spencer was present to discuss personnel, the Annual Awards Banquet and upcoming events. Chief Spencer discussed the specialized training officers are scheduled for.

Chief Spencer stated that the Department's Annual Report is in the works.

Mrs. Cook thanked the officers for their assistance at the MLK Basketball tournament.

ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.

Mayor Willey asked for confirmation for the following appointments:

BOARD AND COMMISSION CONFIRMATIONS:

- James Sebastian to the Historic District Commission for the remainder of a three-year term which expires June 28, 2020.
- Jennifer Martello to the Affordable Housing Board for the remainder of a three-year term which expires May 16, 2021.

Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the confirmations were approved.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

UPCOMING PUBLIC ASSEMBLY EVENT – CHESAPEAKE FIRE AND ICE FESTIVAL FEBRUARY 14 – 16.

Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the Public Assembly Event for the Chesapeake Fire and Ice Festival was approved.

53 **REQUESTED STREET LIGHT ON POWELL’S ALLEY.**

54
55 Mr. Richardson, Town Manager stated that the Town Engineer’s office has received a request for
56 an additional street light to be installed in Powell’s Alley on the electric pole (P-21-158) directly
57 behind 506 Goldsborough Street. Easton Utilities has indicated the light will cost \$196 and the
58 material and labor would be charged to street light maintenance.

59
60 Mrs. Cook asked if they can check to see if the other light should have a bulb replacement as she
61 thinks it may be out as well.

62
63 Upon motion by Mrs. Cook seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, the additional
64 street light on Powell’s Alley was approved.

65
66 **REQUESTED ADA PARKING ON S. HANSON STREET.**

67 The Town Engineer’s office has received a request for two ADA Parking spaces to be located on
68 S. Hanson Street directly in front of the Bethel AME Church (110 Hanson Street). The
69 Engineering Department supports this request. Public Works will install the signs and add the
70 ADA markings to the pavement.

71 Rev. Wendell Gary discussed the need for the ADA Parking spaces. He stated there is also Bible
72 study on Wednesday evenings. He stated that there is a need for ADA spaces not only on Sunday
73 but other days as well.

74 Upon motion by Mrs. Cook seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, approval was
75 granted for the two ADA parking spaces on S. Hanson Street in front of the Bethel AME Church.

76 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

77 The Town Attorney Mrs. VanEmburch asked for a Closed Session after the regularly scheduled
78 Council meeting under Statutory Authority 3-305(b)(8).

79 **RESOLUTION NO. 6110, “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**
80 **AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LICENSE AGREEMENT TO ALLOW AN**
81 **ENCROACHMENT AT 20 S. HARRISON STREET ONTO THE TOWN’S PARKING**
82 **LOT DIRECTLY BEHIND AND ADJACENT THERETO.”**

83 Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, Resolution
84 No. 6110 was approved.

85 **ORDINANCE NO. 744, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**
86 **AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT MUTUAL AID**
87 **AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH MARYLAND ANNOTATED CODE,**
88 **CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ARTICLE, SECTION 2-105.”**

89 Chief Spencer stated the Department has assisted Caroline County two times in the past month.
90 He stated that another MOU is forthcoming for Queen Anne’s County.

91 Acting President of the Council set a Public Hearing to hear comments for February 17, 2020 at
92 7:15 PM.

93 **ORDINANCE NO. 745, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**
94 **AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO SELL 308 SOUTH STREET IN**
95 **EASTON AS PART OF THE TOWN’S AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM.”**

96 Mr. Jim Bent, Chairman of the Affordable Housing Board was present.

97 Mr. Bent stated that the sale of 308 South Street is the first of the Hill Project’s renovated houses
98 completed and ready to be sold. He stated that the prospective buyer works in Easton and is a
99 single mother. Mr. Bent stated that the buyer has completed required housing counseling which
100 makes her eligible for a \$5,000 grant towards closing costs. He stated that there are two more
101 homes under construction which will be sold.

102 Acting President of the Council brought Ordinance No. 745 to the floor for a first reading.

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

104 Mrs. Cook thanked everyone who attended the MLK tournament. She thanked the officers who
105 planned and participated. Mrs. Cook wished a speedy recovery to Mr. Silverstein and Mr. Ford.

106

107 **CLOSED SESSION.**

108

109 At 7:26 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously,
110 Acting President Engle moved into Closed Session under Statutory Authority General Provisions
111 Article § 10-508(a)(8): to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or
112 potential litigation.

113

114 At 7:49 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously,
115 Acting President Engle adjourned the Closed Session and moved into Open Session.

116

117 **ADJOURNMENT.**

118 At 7:50 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously,
119 Acting President Engle adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk (approved 2/17/2020)