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

June 1, 2020

PRESENT AT CONVENING.

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

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 5:30 p.m., Acting President 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 MAY 18, 2020 MEETING.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously; minutes of the May 18, 2020 meeting were approved as written.

ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

Mr. Abbatiello stated that Ms. Prettyman, EVFD Administrator is recovering at home.

Mrs. Cook stated that she visited the Neighborhood Service Center and presented a Community Action Proclamation.

Mrs. Cook thanked EVFD for leading the graduation parade. Mrs. Cook stated she recently participated in a local rally.

Mr. Engle reminded everyone that tomorrow is the primary election. The Town's Special Election will occur Tuesday, June 9 at EVFD; 7am to 8pm.

ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.

Mayor Willey asked for confirmation for the following re-appointments to the Boards and Commissions.

- Jennifer Williams Housing Authority 5-year term
- Grant Mayhew Historic District 3-year term
- James Sebastian Historic District 3-year term

Upon motion by Mrs. Cook seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, the appointments were approved.

Mayor Willey discussed the recommendation for a crosswalk in front of library.

Mrs. Cook discussed her concern for a mid-road crosswalk and commented that the area is in need of the improvement.

63 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the
64 crosswalk as recommended by staff was approved.

65
66 Mayor Willey stated that the Board of Public Works approved a grant for \$55,000 for
67 North Easton Park lights which will be installed sometime later this year.

68
69 Mayor Willey stated that the Town is waiting for notice of award for a grant to refurbish
70 the equipment at North Easton Park.

71
72 Mayor Willey stated a letter has been forwarded to State Highway from the County
73 Council in support of the Town's request for sidewalks on Rt. 328.

74
75 Mayor Willey discussed the Executive Order on the current agenda which has been sent
76 to the newspaper. He stated he will request to extend the Declaration to next month.

77
78 Mayor Willey stated what is happening in Minneapolis is a tragedy and not justified. He
79 stated that there are new jobs, new houses and we need to show everyone we can work
80 together.

81
82 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

83
84 Mr. Richardson stated that he has nothing for the agenda but reminded all residents that
85 the 2020 Census is occurring town wide. He encouraged everyone to submit their
86 responses.

87
88 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

89
90 The Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch reminded the listening audience that the
91 Town of Easton's Special Election is next Tuesday, June 9. She stated that the deadline
92 for requesting absentee ballots is Tuesday June 2. She encouraged everyone to get them
93 in timely as they will be counted by the Board of Canvassers June 10 at 4 pm. She stated
94 that there will be in-person voting at Easton Firehouse with social distancing precautions.

95
96 **KEN KOZEL, PRESIDENT AND CEO, UMMS, TO UPDATE ON HOSPITAL**
97 **PROJECT.**

98
99 Mr. Kozel was present to discuss the hospital project. Mr. Kozel thanked the Mayor and
100 Council for the opportunity. Mr. Kozel thanked the Town of Easton and Talbot County
101 for their support during the pandemic. He stated that the hospital is under stress and their
102 staff are truly healthcare heroes. Mr. Kozel thanked the council for sharing Mayor Willey
103 during this critical time for our nation. He stated he was present this evening to update on
104 what is going on at Shore Regional Health. He discussed the Strategic Plan as a part of
105 UMMS.

106
107 Mr. Kozel discussed the five major goals at the hospital:

- 108
109 1) Ensuring that the patient's needs are met first. He discussed the national and state
110 indicators. He discussed the Leapfrog rating and stated that the Easton Hospital is
111 currently a B; striving for an A. They are also striving for 0 harm events.
112 2) Innovation and clinical integration. Mr. Kozel discussed telemedicine and stated that
113 some offices have adjusted to the new technology.
114 3) Access to care.
115 a. Mr. Kozel discussed plans for the Cambridge facility for Dorchester County. He
116 stated it is a two-story medical center with plans for opening late summer early
117 fall. He discussed the relocation of services to Dorchester Square. The in-bed
118 patients will be moved to Easton Hospital.
119 b. Mr. Kozel stated that the Chestertown facility will need to be resized but needs to
120 remain open as it is a necessary need for Kent County. Mr. Kozel stated that they
121 are working with the state helping them to right size the current facility. They are

- 122 also working with the community and state for a July 2021 opening which would
123 be about the same time as Cambridge comes to fruition.
- 124 c. Once COVID hit, the new Easton replacement hospital was put on the back
125 burner. He stated that they are working to make sure it's adaptable. The virus has
126 put a significant burden on UMMS and at this time, they need to fully understand
127 the COVID implications.
- 128 4) Team strength. At this time, UMMS in Easton has over 400 providers of medical
129 staff.
- 130 5) Financial Stability. They need to keep team members employed and whole.

131
132 In terms of Access to Care, Mr. Kozel stated that they have to manage all resources for
133 five counties.

134
135 Mr. Kozel advised that all surgeries emergent or elective are now being allowed at Shore
136 Health.

137
138 Mr. Silverstein stated that he recently used services in the Easton hospital and was quite
139 impressed with the care.

140
141 Mr. Kozel advised the listening audience to utilize the services and not delay necessary
142 care.

143
144 Mr. Engle asked if the Easton facility would remain.

145
146 Mr. Kozel stated that modular facilities have been erected and they are storing PPE to
147 make sure they are properly prepared.

148
149 Mrs. Cook questioned how successful telemedicine has been.

150
151 Mr. Kozel stated he has used telemedicine on a limited basis. He stated that he has not
152 heard of a lot of concerns with broadband issues. Mr. Kozel stated that the community
153 has accepted telecommunications with providers.

154
155 Mr. Kozel discussed behavioral health services. He stated that all beds in Cambridge are
156 moving to Easton; even behavioral health. There are approximately 10-12 that need
157 in care; and there are five locations for outpatient care.

158
159 Mr. Abbatiello asked if there will be new staff.

160
161 Mr. Kozel stated that when new beds come from Cambridge to Easton, new staff will be
162 added to support those patients. He stated that the surge of patients will follow ratios to
163 staff.

164
165 **RESOLUTION NO. 6121, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**
166 **EXTENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-03 PREVIOUSLY ISSUED BY THE**
167 **MAYOR ADOPTING ADDITIONAL MEASURES RELATED TO PREVIOUS**
168 **STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION FOR THE TOWN OF EASTON**
169 **FOR COVID-19."**

170
171 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously,
172 Resolution No. 6121 was approved.

173
174 **ACCEPT PETITION FOR ANNEXATION.**

175
176 Mrs. VanEmburch stated that the steps are to annex first then accept from the County.

177
178 Acting President Mr. Engle set the Public Hearing for July 6, 5:45 p.m.

179

180 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the
181 Petition for Annexation was accepted.

182
183 **RESOLUTION NO. 6119, “A RESOLUTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN LANDS**
184 **OWNED BY TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND, AND MR. HARRY R.**
185 **COVINGTON, II, LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE INTERSECTION**
186 **OF U.S. ROUTE 50 AND DUTCHMANS LANE, CONSISTING OF 7.714 ACRES**
187 **OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, INTO THE TOWN OF EASTON AND TO**
188 **PROVIDE FOR THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ANNEXATION.”**

189
190 Acting President of the Council Mr. Engle brought Resolution No. 6119 to the floor for a
191 first reading.

192
193 **ORDINANCE NO. 751, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**
194 **AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO**
195 **APPLY THE R-10A RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICT TO CERTAIN LOTS**
196 **OR PARCELS OF LAND ANNEXED TO THE TOWN OF EASTON BY**
197 **RESOLUTION NO. 6119 LOCATED ALONG DUTCHMANS LANE AND**
198 **CONSISTING COLLECTIVELY, OF 7.681 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR**
199 **LESS.”**

200
201 Acting President of the Council Mr. Engle brought Ordinance No. 751 to the floor for a
202 first reading.

203
204 **RESOLUTION NO. 6120, “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**
205 **AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO DETACH**
206 **CERTAIN TERRITORY LOCATED TO THE EAST OF ROUTE 50 AND**
207 **KNOWN AS THIRD STREET AND CONSISTING OF 0.579 ACRES OF LAND,**
208 **MORE OR LESS.”**

209
210 Acting President of the Council Mr. Engle brought Resolution No. 6120 to the floor for a
211 first reading.

212
213 **ORDINANCE NO. 750, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**
214 **AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO ACCEPT A PORTION OF**
215 **DUTCHMANS LANE FROM TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND.”**

216
217 Acting President of the Council Mr. Engle brought Ordinance No. 750 to the floor for a
218 first reading.

219
220 **ORDINANCE NO. 753, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**
221 **TERMINATING THE TOWN’S RIGHT TO IMPROVE THIRD STREET, A**
222 **PARTIALLY UNIMPROVED STREET CURRENTLY IN THE TOWN OF**
223 **EASTON BUT IN THE PROCESS OF BEING DETACHED FROM THE TOWN**
224 **OF EASTON BUT RETAINING AN ACCESS AND UTILITY EASEMENT OVER**
225 **THIRD STREET, AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF**
226 **QUITCLAIM DEEDS OR OTHER INSTRUMENTS OF CONVEYANCE BY THE**
227 **TOWN TO NEIGHBORING PROPERTY OWNERS.”**

228
229 Acting President of the Council brought Ordinance No. 753 to the floor for a first
230 reading.

231
232 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$913,768.10.**

233
234 Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously,
235 invoices totaling \$913,768.10 were approved.

236
237 **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

238
239 Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, there is no public access to the Council
240 meetings.

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ADJOURNMENT.

At 6:34 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, Acting President of the Council adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk (approved 6/15/2020)