

1 TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND
2 EASTON TOWN HALL
3 14 S HARRISON STREET
4

5 May 4, 2020
6

7 **PRESENT AT CONVENING.**
8

9 Mayor Robert C. Willey
10 Councilmember Donald M. Abbatiello
11 Acting President of the Council Ronald E. Engle
12 Councilmember Megan M. Cook
13

14 Mr. Silverstein was excused.
15

16 Also present was the Town Manager Mr. Don Richardson, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon
17 VanEmburch and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.
18

19 **CALL TO ORDER.**

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

21 **OPENING REMARKS BY MRS. COOK AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

22 Mrs. Cook led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

23 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2020 MEETING.**

24 Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, minutes of the
25 April 20, 2020 meeting were approved as written.
26

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

28 Mr. Engle asked for Mr. Silverstein's speedy recover. Mr. Engle stated that he hopes citizens
29 persevere to shelter in place. Mr. Engle stated that public comment on the budget will be accepted
30 until May 18. He discussed how to submit comments.

31 Mr. Abbatiello reiterated well wishes for Mr. Silverstein. Mr. Abbatiello thanked Mayor Willey
32 for keeping the tax rate intact. He thanked volunteers that have been supporting groups during the
33 Governor's Stay at Home order.
34

35 Mrs. Cook stated that she has nothing to add.
36

37 **ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.**

38 Mayor Willey clarified that comments will be accepted until May 15 for the budget. He stated that
39 the Declaration of Emergency is still in effect but can be adjusted later.

40 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

41 **APPROVAL OF PROPERTY MAINTENANCE BID FOR FY2020/2021.**

42 Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the bid from
43 Living Ecosystems for the Property Maintenance Bid for the 2020/2021 year was approved as
44 recommended by staff.

45 Mr. Richardson stated that there have been a lot of requests for bulk pick up. He stated that Public
46 Works is using equipment not usually used for pickups. Last month an additional 85 tons was
47 picked up for disposal. Mr. Richardson stated that recycling tonnage is going up as well and we
48 are seeing significant increases. He encouraged residents to be patient.

49 Mr. Richardson stated that the Town is still working on Harrison Street. He stated that Lot 5 has
50 been revamped. Mr. Richardson stated they are working towards Washington Street and
51 Goldsborough Street.

52 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

53 The Town Attorney Mrs. VanEmburch stated that the Dutchman's Lane annexation will be
54 forthcoming in the June 1 council packet.

55 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$778,698.36.**

56 Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, invoices
57 totaling \$778,698.36 were approved.

58 **APHENA PHARMACEUTICAL FIRE.**

59 Mayor Willey discussed the loss of inventory at Aphena Pharmaceutical due to a recent fire. He
60 stated that the Fire departments worked very well together.

61 **7:15 PM PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE FY2020/2021 BUDGET.**

62 At 7:15 p.m., Acting President Engle opened the FY2020/21 Budget Public Hearing.

63

64 **PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATION BY MAYOR WILLEY.**

65

66 Mayor Willey stated that the budget is currently balanced and any additional requests must come
67 with a funding source. He stated that there is no increase in taxes. He discussed the budget
68 including the completion of major projects as well as major incentive upgrades for EPD. He
69 stated that there are similar incentives for the Fire Department volunteers. Included in the
70 upcoming budget is four new positions, one IT, one in the Finance Department, Property
71 Maintenance and Parks and Recreation. Mayor Willey stated that the pension obligations are
72 funded now at 88 % and there is a 3% increase for eligible employees. Mayor Willey stated that
73 the rate increase for health insurance has been negotiated to less than 5%. Mayor Willey stated
74 that there may be a line of credit taken for unforeseen expenditures.

75

76 **ORDINANCE NO. 748," THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE TWELVE-MONTH**
77 **PERIOD FROM JULY 1, 2020."**

78

79 Ordinance No. 748 was brought to the floor for a first reading.

80

81 **ORDINANCE NO. 749, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE RAISING BY**
82 **TAXATION THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO PAY THE ORDINARY EXPENSES OF**
83 **THE TOWN OF EASTON AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON**
84 **THE VARIOUS BOND ISSUES AND THE REDUCTION OF CERTAIN BONDS AND**
85 **NOTES FOR THE PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS AND SETTING THE INTEREST**
86 **AND PENALTY FOR DELINQUENT BILLS, COMMENCING ON JULY 1, 2020 AND**
87 **ENDING JUNE 30, 2021."**

88

89 Ordinance No. 749 was brought to the floor for a first reading.

90

91 **ORDINANCE NO. 752, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO CARRY**
92 **FORWARD CERTAIN CAPITAL FUND EXPENDITURES INTO FISCAL YEAR 2021."**

93

94 Ordinance No. 752 was brought to the floor for a first reading.

95

96 **RESOLUTION NO. 6118, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON REVISING**
97 **THE TOWN'S LICENSE, APPLICATION, PERMITS, INSPECTION, CERTIFICATE**
98 **AND OTHER FEES."**

99 Resolution No. 6118 was brought to the floor for a first reading.

100 **ACCEPT PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

101

102 Mr. Abbatiello thanked Mayor and staff for including the sidewalk on Elliott Road for the citizens
103 in that vicinity.

104

105 Mayor Willey thanked the council for their help with this budget.

106

107 Mr. Engle discussed breaking ground for the Mistletoe Hall project.

108

109 At 7:35 p.m., Acting President Engle closed the Public Hearing. He stated public comment would
110 be accepted until close of business Friday, May 8.

111

112 **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

113 Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, there is no public access to the Council meetings. Public
114 or written comments will be accepted until close of business Friday May 8.

115 **ADJOURNMENT.**

116 At 7:35 p.m., upon motion by Mrs. Cook seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously,
117 Acting President Engle adjourned the regularly scheduled Council meeting.

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121 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk (approved May 18, 2020)