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

October 5, 2020

PRESENT AT CONVENING.

Mayor Robert C. Willey
Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein
Councilmember Donald M. Abbatiello
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. From Easton Utilities were Mr. Hugh E. Grunden, P.E., President and CEO and Mr. John J. Horner, Senior Vice President of Operations & COO.

CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT COOK.

At 5:00 p.m., President Cook called the meeting to order.

President Cook entertained a motion from Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously to go into Closed Session.

CLOSED SESSION: GENERAL PROVISIONS ARTICLE § 3-305(B)(4) TO CONSIDER A MATTER THAT CONCERNS THE PROPOSAL FOR A BUSINESS OR INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION TO LOCATE, EXPAND OR REMAIN IN THE STATE.

The Town Attorney Mrs. VanEmburch discussed a business proposal in Talbot County.

Mr. Grunden was present to give background information.

At 5:28 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the Closed Meeting was adjourned back into the regularly scheduled meeting.

CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT COOK.

At 5:30 p.m., President Cook called the regularly scheduled meeting to order.

President Cook read a statement regarding the Closed Session.

OPENING REMARKS BY MR. SILVERSTEIN AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 MEETING.

Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously, minutes of the September 21, 2020 meeting were approved as written.

ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.

Mayor Willey stated that the Town of Easton is taking no official position on Halloween. He asked parents to adhere to the CDC guidelines.

Mayor Willey stated he has received a telephone call from a concerned citizen regarding the cost of parking permits. He stated that the council needs to review the costs and discuss prorating the cost.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

PUBLIC ASSEMBLY EVENT REQUEST: AVALON FOUNDATION - "ART FOR THE OUTDOORS" NOVEMBER 14-15.

Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the Public Assembly was approved with two provisions: 1) the Avalon fund officers that are needed in the crosswalks, and; 2) Earle Avenue have officers for the crossings.

70 Mr. Silverstein stated that Avalon has already put out the advertisement prior to this evening's approval.

71
72 Rev. Davis asked why go thru the exercise of approval if already advertised.

73
74 The approval was unanimous but Rev. Davis stated he would like to speak with Mr. Bond.

75
76 **RECOMMENDATION FOR WEBSITE AND INTEGRATED COMPONENTS.**

77
78 Mr. Richardson stated that the IT Department has recommended Civic Plus for the best solution for the Town
79 of Easton due to their meeting and agenda management software. This would allow the Town of Easton to
80 provide uniform and accurate agendas and minutes for a number of boards and commissions, providing a
81 level of transparency not currently available. The initial expenditure for the entire suite of tools to meet the
82 website and meeting and agenda management software component would be \$36,243 which would be
83 allocated to all departments equally under the communications line item 30-41. Mr. Richardson stated that
84 the proposal had been sent to local vendors but they could not meet the meeting and agenda component.

85
86 Mr. Silverstein stated the Town needs a more vibrant website for our citizens.

87
88 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the proposal from Civic
89 Plus was approved.

90
91 Mr. Scott Messick, IT Director was present and stated that the meeting will be live. He stated that the website
92 will be up by the end of the year with the meetings and agenda component a little longer.

93
94 Mr. Abbatiello thanked Mr. Messick.

95
96 Mr. Messick stated that there is no contract. When services are no longer wanted, the Town discontinues the
97 affiliation.

98
99 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

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101 The Town Attorney stated she would like to update the Rules of the Council and asked that a workshop be
102 scheduled after the November 2 meeting.

103
104 **JUDGE ADVOCATE WALTER BLACK AND COMMANDER GEORGE JENKINS TO UPDATE**
105 **ON THE REDEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION CAPITAL PROJECT OF THE**
106 **AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 77.**

107
108 Mr. Black introduced the officers of the American Legion Post No. 77 and their consultant, Ms. Joan
109 McNamara. He stated that the Post recently celebrated their 100-year anniversary and in 2018, they
110 embarked on redevelopment. Mr. Black stated that the Post is their primary meeting place. In 2019, they
111 received \$250,000 for the redevelopment and this is the request for the second round of funding from
112 Community Legacy for an additional \$250,000. He stated they intend to renovate, expand and modernize to
113 help the veterans and the community.

114
115 Mr. George Jenkins, Commander portrayed a rendering of the proposed addition and discussed the phased
116 project.

117
118 Rev. Davis stated he supports the project 102%.

119
120 **RESOLUTION NO. 6125, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON APPROVING THE**
121 **APPLICATION AND RECEIPT OF FINANCING FOR A COMMUNITY LEGACY PROJECT**
122 **FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE COMMUNITY LEGACY APPLICATION ("THE**
123 **APPLICATION") TO BE FINANCED EITHER DIRECTLY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF**
124 **HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (THE "DEPARTMENT") OF THE STATE OF**
125 **MARYLAND OR THROUGH OTHER DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES OF THE STATE OF**
126 **MARYLAND."**

127
128 Upon motion by Rev. Davis, seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6125 was
129 approved.

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131 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$2,177,656.89.**

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133 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the invoices totaling
134 \$2,177,656.89 were approved.

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136 **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

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138 Mr. Steve Mangasarian, 520 S. Aurora Street, discussed the proposal for downtown revitalization. He
139 discussed the report from the EEDC meeting.

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President Cook discussed the proposal for beautification of downtown. She stated that the Council has taken no action on what was proposed in the business meeting with EEDC.

ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

Mr. Silverstein stated that in the future, he intends to vote no on applicants that don't come before the council.

Mr. Engle stated that it is sad there have been fake bombs planted around town. He stated that this needs to stop immediately.

Rev. Davis stated that everyone wants to be safe in our community.

President Cook stated that Talbot County Public Schools missed inviting the Council for the ribbon cutting. She stated that she will forward a date for a tour of the new elementary school.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 6:19 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, President Cook adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk