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

December 17, 2018

PRESENT AT CONVENING.

Mayor Robert C. Willey
President of the Council John Ford
Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein
Councilmember Ron E. Engle
Councilmember Megan M. Cook

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

MEETING.

President Ford called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He stated that the meeting this evening had been scheduled for 6:00 p.m. for a public workshop with State Highway Administration to discuss proposed changes.

6:00 PM SHA PRESENTATION REGARDING THE ROUTE 50 MEDIANS.

Town Engineer Rick VanEmburch introduced the State Highway Administration team that is working on the median treatment design alternatives.

Mr. Tom Revelle, Assistant District Engineer District 2, Chestertown, discussed paving projects and safety projects which have been fully funded for design. He stated that the advertising for the project will start next summer around July with construction to take place in the fall.

The overall project goal was discussed which SHA stated is intended to improve vehicular traffic and pedestrian safety along US 50 from Dutchman's Lane to Lomax Street. The intention is to direct the traffic to signal openings and install sidewalks along Route 50 from MD 331 to MD 328. The project proposed will include resurfacing from Dutchman's Lane to Lomax Street. The total estimated cost of the project is approximately four million dollars with the main objective to eliminate two median openings; Arcadia Street and Lomax Street. There will also be the addition of sidewalks from Dover Road to Goldsborough Street. The plans is to provide stormwater management facilities for additional impervious areas. The plans include repaving existing US 50 pavement as well as new striping.

Safety measures such as median treatments and fencing were discussed as well as trees and shrubs by the landscape architect.

Chief Spencer stated that he is in favor of closing the opening at Lomax Street due to accidents in that vicinity.

Discussion occurred regarding the next steps which will include the permitting process for Capron and sidewalks.

Mrs. Cook asked if there had been any outreach to the affected property owners. SHA stated that there has been no formal outreach to the business owners although surveyors have been out on the projects. Another public meeting was discussed. It was suggested to have another open meeting after the holidays and invite businesses.

Accident statistics were also discussed. In a three year period there have been 13 accidents at Lomax Street and 10 accidents at Arcadia.

President Ford thanked everyone for coming.

President Ford recessed the workshop meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Mrs. Reedy and SHA participants departed the meeting.

7:00 PM OPENING REMARKS BY MR. ENGLE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2018 MEETING.

Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, the minutes of the December 3, 2018 meeting were approved.

ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.

56 **APPROVAL OF ELECTION OF MORRIS E. JONES, JR. TO THE OFFICE OF CHIEF OF**
57 **EASTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR 2019.**

58 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the election of Morris
59 (Sonny) E. Jones, Jr. to the office of EVFD Chief for 2019 was approved.

60 **PRESENTATION OF SERVICE AWARD.**

61 Mayor Willey presented a Service Award to Councilmember Pete Leshar for his service to the Town of
62 Easton as Ward 2 Councilmember from May 5, 2009 to December 3, 2018.

63 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

64 **PUBLIC ASSEMBLY EVENT – FIRST NIGHT TALBOT 12/31/18.**

65 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the Public Assembly
66 Event for First Night Talbot on December 31, 2018 was approved as recommended by staff.

67 **APPROVAL FOR PROPOSED REPAIR OF DAMAGED CONCRETE AND BOX CULVERT**
68 **ON S WASHINGTON ST.**

69 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the repair including
70 the installation of the Spray Wall Polyurethane Structure for the damaged concrete and box culvert was
71 approved as recommended by staff from Abel Recon in the amount of \$71,300.

72 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

73 The Town Attorney discussed an Election Memo that had been drafted with important dates. She stated
74 that the Election will occur May 7, 2019 for the office for Mayor, Ward 1, Ward 2 and Ward 3.

75 She stated that petitions for elections are due at the Easton Town office by April 1 and may be obtained
76 by contacting the Town Clerk.

77 **STEVE J. OCHSE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER & VICE PRESIDENT FINANCE TO**
78 **ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING PROPOSED LOAN FOR THE NODE +0 PROJECT.**

79 Mr. Steve Ochse, Chief Financial Officer & Vice President was present to discuss the Node +0 project.
80 He discussed the replacement of cable for TV service and internet services for much of the infrastructure
81 in place. He stated that they had sent letters to banks for borrowing information regarding terms for a
82 fixed rate loan. After receiving proposed rates, PNC was the bank with the most favorable rates which
83 were 2.98% for 7 years. Mr. Ochse stated that the total project cost would be approximately 10 to 12
84 million dollars.

85 **ORDINANCE NO. 728, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**
86 **AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A PROMISSORY NOTE IN**
87 **THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$6,500,000 PAYABLE TO PNC BANK, NATIONAL**
88 **ASSOCIATION FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FINANCING AND**
89 **ASSOCIATED LOAN DOCUMENTS TO THE EASTON UTILITIES COMMISSION**
90 **FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE COAX CABLING OF EASTON VELOCITY**
91 **PLANT INFRASTRUCTURE WITH FIBER AND SUPPORTING EQUIPMENT AND**
92 **PLEDGING THE FULL FAITH AND CREDIT AND TAXING AUTHORITY OF THE**
93 **TOWN OF EASTON FOR THE REPAYMENT OF SAME.”**

94
95 President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 728 and set a Public Hearing for January 7, 2019 at 7:15 p.m.
96 for additional comments.

97 **ORDINANCE NO. 729, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE**
98 **PURCHASING POLICY OF THE TOWN CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF**
99 **THE TOWN OF EASTON.”**

100 Mrs. VanEmburch, Town Attorney discussed the town’s procurement policy which has been outdated
101 for some time now. She stated that the proposed legislation has language included that will better clarify
102 the policy.

103 Mr. Silverstein stated that the entire purchasing system is antiquated. He thanked the town staff for the
104 update.

105 President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 729 and set a Public Hearing for January 7, 2019 at 7:20 p.m.
106 for additional comments.

107 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$922,709.92.**

108 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the invoices totaling
109 \$922,709.92 were approved.

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

111 Mr. Silverstein thanked the community for toys that enable children to have a Merry Christmas. He

112 stated that he is looking forward to the New Year.

113
114 Mr. Engle stated that Easton Club Homeowner's Association has filed suit and is now in litigation with
115 the owner of the development. He stated that there are homeowners that are absolutely opposed to the
116 lawsuit.

117
118 Mrs. Cook wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

119
120 President Ford stated that the Christmas Play at the Avalon had great reviews for their first weekend
121 performance with ticket sales thru the roof. He stated that it is an outstanding presentation.

122 President Ford stated that the Council approved the Public Assembly Permit for First Night Talbot this
123 evening. He stated that he hopeful for a great turnout for their 25th First Night Talbot Anniversary.

124 President Ford asked if there is anyone present to bring anything before the council.

125 There being no other public business, President Ford asked for a motion to move into Closed Session.

126 At 7:28 p.m., upon motion from Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously,
127 President Ford moved into Closed Session to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business
128 or industrial organization to locate, expand or remain in the State (General Provisions Article § 3-305(B)
129 (4).

130 At 8:08 p.m., upon motion from Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously,
131 President Ford moved out of Closed Session.

132 **ADJOURNMENT.**

133 At 8:09 p.m., upon motion by Mrs. Cook seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously,
134 President adjourned the regularly scheduled Council meeting.

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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk