

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

5 May 21, 2018
6

7 **PRESENT AT CONVENING.**
8

9 Mayor Robert C. Willey
10 President of Council John Ford
11 Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein
12 Councilmember Pete Leshner
13 Councilmember Ron E. Engle
14 Councilmember Megan M. Cook
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 **MEETING.**

20 At 7:00 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order.

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

22 Mrs. Cook gave opening remarks and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

23 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 7, 2018 MEETING.**

24 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, minutes of the
25 May 7, 2018 meeting were approved.

26 **FIRE BOARD.**

27 Mr. Sonny Jones, Fire Captain and Easton Volunteer Fire Department President Don Abbatiello
28 were present to address the Council.

29 Mr. Jones stated that the Maryland State Fire Convention will take place June 16 – 22 and they
30 would like to take Easton's apparatus.

31 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, permission
32 was granted to take apparatus to the Fire Convention as long as the remaining equipment leaves
33 the Town adequately covered.

34 Mr. Jones gave a brief review of emergency statistics for April. He stated that fire alarm calls are
35 still an issue. Discussion occurred regarding members working hard on training. Mr. Jones stated
36 that 30-40% of the emergency calls are outside of the Town of Easton.

37 Mr. Abbatiello updated on the administrative side of the department and stated that they are
38 building a new rescue truck and are financing with 1880 Bank. He stated that the truck is being
39 built in Colorado. Mr. Abbatiello stated that they are actively recruiting with 15-16 new members
40 going through training. He discussed the time commitment with hours and training. He stated that
41 they currently have 120 members on the roster with 50-60 active members that respond to calls.

42 **MR. TED BOOK, EASTON UTILITIES DIRECTOR OF CABLE AND**
43 **COMMUNICATIONS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL REQUESTING APPROVAL TO SPEND**
44 **IN EXCESS OF \$2,000,000 FOR THE CABLE REBUILD PROJECT.**

45 Mr. Book was present to discuss Easton Utilities' cable rebuild project.

46 Mr. Silverstein asked if there is additional costs to the customers. Mr. Book stated not at this time.
47 He stated that new tiers will be established.

48 President Ford asked what the time frame is. Mr. Book stated that the time frame is two years
49 with the design phase occurring in house. Mr. Book stated that this is a multiyear project but they
50 intend to have shovels in the ground by August 2018 with part of the system accomplished by
51 2019. Mr. Book stated that there will be very minimal disruptions with the only interruption of
52 service the day the customers are turned on.

53 Mr. Book stated that fiber could be constructed to homes on a one-on-one basis.

54 Mr. Silverstein made a motion to allow Easton Utilities to spend the necessary funds for the cable
55 rebuild project; seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously.

56 **ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.**

57 Mayor Willey stated that the council is receiving updates from Planning and Zoning and the

58 Engineering Department for ongoing projects.

59 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

60 **APPROVAL OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY EVENTS.**

61 Mr. Richardson asked for approval for the following Public Assembly Permits:

- 62 ○ Academy of the Arts Studio Art Sale (6/9/18).
- 63 ○ Elk’s Organizational Day Parade (6/24/18).
- 64 ○ Frederick Douglas Celebration and Parade (9/22/18).-

65 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the Public Assembly
66 Event Permits were approved.

67 Mr. Richardson asked for approval for the following purchases:

- 68 ○ Approval for the purchase of RTV/gator for Parks & Recreation department. 15,548.48
- 69 ○ Approval for the purchase of a sand pro groomer for parks and recreation department.
70 \$19,939.20
- 71 ○ Approval for items to make necessary repairs at Matthewstown Run Park. \$1,085.71

72 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the purchases for
73 the Parks and Recreation Department were approved.

74 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

75 Mrs. VanEmburch stated that the Elected and Appointed Officials as well as the Town employees’
76 Ethics Forms were due April 30.

77 **7:15 PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE FY2019 BUDGET AS PROPOSED.**

78 At 7:18 p.m., President Ford opened the 7:15 p.m. scheduled FY2019 Budget Public Hearing.
79 Mayor Willey gave an overview of the proposed budget.

80 President Ford stated that the Capital Project list is very objective.

81 Mayor Willey stated that the tax rate has remained the same since 2008 and it is hard to keep in
82 place with so many necessary projects.

83 President Ford asked for public comments. There were none.

84 At 7:31 p.m., President Ford closed the public hearing and left the record open for written
85 comments until close of business Friday.

86 **ORD. 720, THE BUDGET FOR FY2019.**

87 President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 720 for a first reading.

88 **ORD. 721, SETTING THE CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE FY2019.**

89 President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 721 for a first reading.

90 **RES. 6094, REVISED SCHEDULE OF FEES.**

91 President Ford introduced Resolution No. 6094.

92 **RES. 6095, “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO CARRY FORWARD
93 CERTAIN CAPITAL FUND EXPENDITURES INTO FISCAL YEAR 2019.”**

94 President Ford introduced Resolution No. 6095.

95 **7:30 PM PUBLIC HEARING TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE PROGRESS OF
96 CHANNEL MARKER WHICH WAS FUNDED UNDER THE MD COMMUNITY
97 DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG).**

98 At 7:33 p.m., President Ford opened the 7:30 p.m. scheduled CDBG Public Hearing to discuss the
99 progress of the Channel Marker project.

100 Mr. Richardson discussed the process for the Channel Marker Grant.

101 Mr. Rick George, Finance Director thanked the council for sponsoring Channel Marker. He
102 discussed the renovated Glebe Park Drive property and how they now have the ability to serve 300
103 plus clients.

104 At 7:39 p.m., President Ford closed the scheduled Public Hearing.

105 **7:35 PM PUBLIC HEARING TO OBTAIN VIEWS OF CITIZENS ON COMMUNITY,
106 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR
107 SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR CRITCHLOW ADKINS CHILDREN’S**

108 **CENTER TO THE MD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**
109 **(CDBG).**

110 At 7:40 p.m., President Ford opened the 7:35 p.m. scheduled CDBG Application for Critchlow
111 Adkins Children's Center Public Hearing.

112 Ms. Sandy Kaufman and Ms. Cristy Morrel, Executive Director were present to discuss the
113 application.

114 Ms. Kaufman stated that the request is for an \$800,000 grant, a total of a 1.4 million dollar project.
115 She stated that they have raised \$125,000 per year for tuition assistance. Ms. Kaufman stated that
116 the facility will handle 82 children during the school year and 82 children in the summer.

117 Ms. Kaufman stated that the facility is a certified site by the Maryland Department of Education
118 and accredited which entails many more requirements.

119 Ms. Cristy Morrell thanked the Council for the support and stated that they are part of the school
120 build.

121 **RESOLUTION NO. 6096 AUTHORIZING MAYOR, TOWN MANAGER, TOWN**
122 **ATTORNEY, TOWN CLERK AND FINANCE OFFICER TO FILE NECESSARY**
123 **DOCUMENTATION WITH DHCD FOR AN ANTICIPATED PROJECT IN THE**
124 **AMOUNT OF \$800,000 FOR THE RELOCATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF**
125 **CRITCHLOW ADKINS CHILDREN'S CENTER WITHIN THE PLANNED NEW**
126 **EASTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT.**

127 President Ford brought Resolution No. 6096 to the floor. There were no audience comments.

128 Ms. Kaufman and Ms. Morrell stated that the grant application will be at the Easton Town Hall
129 and available for review and additional comments.

130 There were no additional comments.

131 At 7:46 p.m., President Ford closed the scheduled public hearing.

132 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, Resolution No.
133 6096 was approved.

134 **7:40 PM PUBLIC HEARING TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE PROGRESS OF**
135 **SIX HOUSES LOCATED IN THE HILL COMMUNITY, HOUSING ON THE HILL**
136 **PROJECT, EASTON WHICH WAS FUNDED UNDER THE MD COMMUNITY**
137 **DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM; A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROGRAM**
138 **DESIGNED TO ASSIST GOVERNMENTS WITH ACTIVITIES DIRECTED TOWARD**
139 **NEIGHBORHOOD AND HOUSING REVITALIZATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
140 **AND IMPROVED COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES.**

141 At 7:47 p.m., President Ford opened the 7:40 p.m. scheduled public hearing to receive comments
142 on the progress of six houses located in the Hill Community which were funded under the MD
143 Community Development Block Grant Program.

144 Mr. Trevor Newcomb discussed the progress of the houses on the Hill Community. He stated that
145 the project is under review by the MD Historical Trust. Mr. Newcomb stated that the intention is to
146 move forward on renovations to 34 S Locust Street. He discussed the renovations which are
147 occurring on 308 South Street.

148 Mr. Newcomb stated that 308 South Street could be sold as soon as late summer.

149 Mr. Newcomb stated that the intention is to complement the existing structure. He stated that this
150 has been an opportunity to look at the existing structure and make changes where necessary.

151 Mr. Leshar stated that it is encouraging to see progress.

152 At 7:55 p.m., President Ford closed the 7:40 p.m. scheduled public hearing.

153 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$2,024,083.51.**

154 Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Leshar and carried unanimously, invoices totaling
155 \$2,024,083.51 were approved.

156 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.**

157 Mr. Engle conveyed compliments to Code Enforcement for handling Easton Club Golf Course
158 grass cutting.

160 Mrs. Cook thanked Mayor for handing the Mayor's trophy to Easton Middle School boys.

162 **ADJOURNMENT.**

163 At 7:57 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously,
164 President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

165
166 _____
167 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk
168