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

November 19, 2018

PRESENT AT CONVENING.

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

Present was the Town Manager Mr. Don Richardson, Assistant Town Attorney Mr. Will Chapman, and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.

OPENING REMARKS BY MRS. COOK AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2018 MEETINGS.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes of the November 5, 2018 meetings were approved.

FIRE BOARD.

Present from the Easton Volunteer Fire Department were Fire Captain Morris (Sonny) Jones, Jr. and President Don Abbatiello.

Mr. Jones updated on the activities this year and stated that it has been the busiest year ever with over 1000 calls. He encouraged the listening audience to check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and if not available, to please come to the EVFD to receive detectors free of charge. Mr. Jones stated that the Department has applied for and received a grant for firefighter equipment for brush and field fires. He extended best wishes for the holidays.

President Don Abbatiello offered congratulations to Councilman Leshner for his recent election to the Talbot County Council.

Mr. Abbatiello stated that the Holiday Train Garden would be on display starting Friday, November 23 and run thru Christmas.

Mr. Abbatiello discussed the Beer Festival and EVFD Golf Tournament fundraisers which were major successes with over \$30,000 received from the Golf Tournament and \$18,000 received from the Beer Festival.

Mr. Abbatiello thanked the Town of Easton for the light upgrades at EVFD making the building more energy efficient. He stated that this is his last meeting as President of the Department and thanked Mayor Willey and the Town Council for their help and support during the last two years.

ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.

Mayor Willey discussed a letter from the Talbot County Council requesting parking along the side of the Courthouse on Federal Street to improve security.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, approval was granted to make the area No Parking.

Mayor Willey wished everyone a happy turkey day. He discussed upcoming important dates, the Flags for Heroes initiative and the recent Veterans' program at the Easton Auditorium.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

APPROVAL OF BID FOR 31 SOUTH LOCUST STREET.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the bid for 31 South Locust Street from Shore Real Estate Investments LLC for the construction and lifting of the structure and foundation in the amount of \$63,500 was approved. Mr. Richardson stated that the bid as submitted has been cleared through the State of Maryland Department of Housing.

EQUIPMENT FIT OUT FOR POLICE VEHICLES.

Mr. Richardson stated that the Easton Police Department received four bids for patrol vehicle equipment from Blue Tech in the amount of \$41,902.89; Global Public Safety, LLC in the amount of

56 \$41,861.97; Front Line Mobile Tech in the amount of \$41,061 and Delmarva Public Safety
57 Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$39,145.88. Mr. Richardson stated that the current capital budget
58 has \$51,468 for the equipment. He stated that the Department is recommending the bid be awarded
59 to Front Line Mobile Tech based on the best interest of the Department.

60 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the bid in the
61 amount of \$41,061 from Front Line Mobile Tech for the equipment fit out for police vehicles was
62 approved.

63 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

64 **MEMO REGARDING ELECTION CHANGES.**

65 Assistant Town Attorney Will Chapman discussed a memo from Town Attorney Sharon
66 VanEmburch, regarding legislation which would allow for cancellation of an election if only one
67 candidate is running. Mr. Chapman stated that the proposed legislation would prevent a write-in
68 from being eligible for election. Mr. Chapman stated that the Town Attorney's office seeks direction
69 from the Mayor and Council.

70 Mr. Leshar stated that he supports the cancellation of an election if there are no opposing candidates.

71 President Ford asked do review draft legislation and suggested scheduling a public hearing for
72 public input.

73 Mr. Chapman also discussed the process should there be a tie in an election and questioned if the
74 council thought a coin flip could be incorporated in the process.

75 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$1,680,388.77.**

76 Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Leshar and carried unanimously, invoices totaling
77 \$1,680,388.77 were approved.

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

79 Mr. Leshar stated he handed a letter to President of Council tendering his resignation from the Town
80 Council effective December 3.

81 Mr. Silverstein stated that it has truly been a pleasure working with Mr. Leshar. He stated that Mr.
82 Leshar is an excellent example of a councilmember.

83 Mr. Engle echoed congratulations and stated that Mr. Leshar always offered a viewpoint he had not
84 considered.

85 Mrs. Cook stated that she looks forward to working with Mr. Leshar as a County Councilmember and
86 congratulated him in his new capacity.

87 President Ford stated that the next Town Council meeting would be scheduled at 6:00 p.m. to allow
88 the Town Council to attend the Mr. Leshar's swearing in as a member of the Talbot County Council.
89 President Ford stated working with Mr. Leshar had been a great experience and he had been
90 consistent, always prepared, and exhibited open-mindedness and thoroughness. President Ford stated
91 that Easton will benefit from his leadership. President Ford stated that it is vitally important to have a
92 good respectful working relationship with Talbot County and Mr. Leshar's position on the County
93 Council will only enhance that. He stated that he looks forward to working with Mr. Leshar and his
94 position as an elected member of Talbot County Council is a position well earned.

95 **ADJOURNMENT.**

96 At 7:30 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshar, seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously,
97 President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk