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2  
3 **TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND**  
4 **EASTON TOWN HALL**  
5 **14 S HARRISON STREET**  
6

7 August 19, 2019  
8

9 **PRESENT AT CONVENING.**

10 Mayor Robert C. Willey  
11 President of the Council John Ford  
12 Councilmember Donald M. Abbatiello  
13 Councilmember Ron E. Engle  
14 Councilmember Megan M. Cook  
15

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

19 Also in attendance from Easton Police Department were: Chief David Spencer, Captain Greg  
20 Wright, Lt. Brandon Bobbick, Lt. Mark Hrobar, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Brad Hughes.

21 **5:30 PM WORKSHOP WITH EASTON POLICE DEPARTMENT.**  
22

23 At 5:28 p.m., Mayor Willey gave opening remarks. He said there have been questions  
24 regarding police squads and how they are set up as well as budget requests.  
25

26 President Ford discussed the recent pay increases and recruiting efforts.  
27

28 Captain Greg Wright discussed the Town's hiring package and the necessity to compete  
29 against agencies for qualified candidates. He stated that since the conversation and changes,  
30 the hiring process has attracted 11 applicants with 7 being considered for the 5 vacancies.  
31

32 Chief Spencer discussed the EPD organizational chart and officers eligible for retirement.  
33

34 Mr. Silverstein questioned the necessity for overtime for special events. 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Hughes  
35 discussed posting requests for overtime.  
36

37 Mr. Engle discussed entities contributing for special events that is draining manpower and  
38 accruing overtime for officers.  
39

40 Chief Spencer discussed staffing concerns. He stated that the recent meeting with insurance  
41 representatives was informative.  
42

43 Mr. Silverstein discussed a flow chart for different scenarios for officers.  
44

45 President Ford stated that there is a significant amount of experience in the officers eligible for  
46 retirement.  
47

48 Chief Spencer stated that the department is in competition with the state medical retirement,  
49 plan and the DROP plan.  
50

51 Chief Spencer discussed the lack of crossing guards for the upcoming school year. He  
52 suggested Talbot County look to fill the vacant positions.  
53

54 At 6:17 p.m., Chief Spencer, Lt. Wright, Lt. Bobbick and 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Hughes departed the  
55 workshop.  
56

57 **6:15 PM WORKSHOP WITH AVALON THEATRE.**  
58

59 At 6:19 p.m., Mr. Al Bond, Mr. Ross Benincasa and Board member Ms. Denise Bodie joined  
60 the meeting for the scheduled workshop.  
61

62 Mayor Willey discussed the working relationship between the Avalon and the Town Council.  
63 He discussed the recent construction at the Avalon. Mayor Willey asked that Mr. Bond  
64 consider coming before the Council on a quarterly basis for an update.  
65

66 Mr. Bond discussed the Avalon's mission which he stated is all about a stronger community.

67 Mr. Silverstein discussed vendors at special events and the need for council approval.

68  
69  
70 Mr. Bond discussed Easton's July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration and Carnival. He stated that due to weather  
71 conditions, there was less people which resulted in less income. He discussed planning for the  
72 future and the risks that accompany the event.

73  
74 Mayor Willey asked about a laser show and the costs. Mr. Bond stated that he thinks the cost  
75 would be comparable.

76  
77 Mr. Bond discussed the town's support and the stable funding previously received. He stated  
78 that without the Town of Easton, they may have to lay off employees.

79  
80 Ms. Bodie thanked the Mayor and Council for support and the contribution to the community  
81 She discussed having the Theater in first class shape. The necessity to update the council was  
82 discussed. Mr. Engle encouraged involvement with the board and the council.

83  
84 Mr. Bond discussed Plein Air and the related costs and strategies to attract artists. Mr. Bond  
85 discussed marketing the event to increase foot traffic and engaging those not usually involved  
86 with art.

87  
88 Mr. Bond and Ms. Bodie departed the workshop at 6:58 p.m.

89  
90 **7:00 PM OPENING REMARKS BY MR. ABBATIELLO AND PLEDGE OF**  
91 **ALLEGIANCE.**

92  
93 Mr. Abbatiello gave opening remarks and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

94  
95 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 5, 2019 MEETING.**

96  
97 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the minutes  
98 were approved as written.

99  
100 **FIRE BOARD.**

101  
102 Present from the Easton Fire Department was Chief Sonny Jones.

103  
104 Chief Jones stated that Easton Volunteer Fire Department will host an open house in efforts to  
105 help bridge relationships within the community. He stated that there will be a Heroes in the  
106 House event Sunday, August 25 to educate the community on how they respond to scenes and  
107 take care of sick and injured people. It is an event to get the community out to meet the first  
108 responders and to understand what their job entails.

109  
110 Chief Jones stated that their major fundraiser this year is the golf tournament which will be the  
111 27<sup>th</sup> year. There are four team spots left and interested players may contact the fire department  
112 to register a team.

113  
114 Chief Jones stated that the department has taken delivery of the new rescue truck earlier in the  
115 summer and it is currently being upfitted in Pennsylvania with the expectation to be in full  
116 service in September.

117  
118 Chief Jones departed the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

119  
120 **ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.**

121  
122 Mayor Willey reminded the council that we still need an applicant for Board of Zoning  
123 Appeals (alternate).

124  
125 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

126  
127 **RECOMMENDATION FROM TOWN ENGINEER REGARDING EASTON**  
128 **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – CROSSWALK & PARKING.**

129  
130 Mrs. Cook asked that parents be alerted to traffic changes due to construction.

131  
132 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the  
133 recommendation from the Town Engineer regarding Easton Elementary School crosswalk and  
134 parking was approved with the caveat that the information regarding changes be distributed to  
135 the local residents.

136 **RECOMMENDATION FROM TOWN ENGINEER FOR PAVEMENT INSPECTION.**  
137 **REQUEST FROM TOWN ENGINEER FOR STORM DRAIN ANALYSIS –**  
138 **TANYARD BRANCH.**

140 The Town Manager Mr. Richardson asked for approval for the bid from IMS for a pavement  
141 inspection in the amount of \$56,450. He stated that there is \$60,000 in the FY2020 budget for  
142 the entire town and this will provide a more substantial data base for future fiscal years.  
143

144  
145 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the bid  
146 from IMS in the amount of \$56,450 was approved.  
147

148 The Town Manager Mr. Richardson asked for approval for a storm drain analysis starting with  
149 the Tanyard Branch watershed to see which pipes are not large enough to handle the  
150 stormwater runoff and show bottlenecks in the system to help prioritize future upgrades. The  
151 work which will be performed by Rummel, Klepper & Kahl (RK&K) in the amount of  
152 \$103,326.05.  
153

154 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the  
155 proposal from RK&K was approved.  
156

157 **REQUEST TO PURCHASE NEW PROJECT MANAGER VEHICLE.**

158  
159 Upon motion by Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, the  
160 purchase of a new pickup from Frederick Ford for Project Manager Kody Cario in the amount  
161 of \$29,852 was approved.  
162

163 Town Manager Mr. Richardson asked for permission to purchase a patrol vehicle for Easton  
164 Police Department on the Howard County Contract. He stated there is a lead time of several  
165 weeks for a Crown Vic K-9 unit. He stated the 2020 Ford Police Interceptor will be \$33,844  
166 with a budgeted amount of \$35,000.  
167

168 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the  
169 purchase of the Ford Explorer was approved.  
170

171 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

172  
173 Nothing at this time.  
174

175 **UPDATE FROM EASTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.**

176  
177 Tracy Ward, Executive Director, Easton Economic Development Corporation discussed the  
178 Board of Directors and the goals for EEDC. She discussed promotion initiatives and recent  
179 designations as well as accomplishments in place. Ms. Ward discussed the expansion of  
180 Chesapeake Harvest.  
181

182 Ms. Ward stated that they have formed collaborations and partnerships, and are working with  
183 Affordable Housing.  
184

185 Ms. Ward stated that on October 25, Urban Land Institute Developers will be touring Easton  
186 for redevelopment opportunities. MEDA is holding their conference in Easton earlier that  
187 week.  
188

189 Ms. Ward Acknowledged Ted Bautz, EEDC Chairman and Cassandra Vanhooser, Talbot  
190 County Economic Development Coordinator.  
191

192 Ms. Ward suggested request for proposals for organizations that have an interest in  
193 redevelopment of the hospital should the new build come to fruition. Ms. Ward stated that she  
194 is aware that the council will like to be at that table but the hospital is waiting for the state's  
195 decision regarding UMMS Certificate of Need. Ms. Ward stated that Washington College has  
196 expressed interest in having a presence in Easton as well as Food Lab interest.  
197

198 President Ford asked for questions for Ms. Ward. There were none.  
199

200 **7:15 PM PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION REGARDING 2019**  
201 **CODE ADOPTIONS.**

202  
203 At 7:37 p.m., President Ford opened the scheduled public hearing to discuss changes in the  
204 Town Code.

205 Mr. Tom Diem, Building Code Official discussed aligning this jurisdiction with the State of  
206 Maryland. He stated that the changes are not drastic and the local modifications are minor and  
207 few. Mr. Diem stated that they incorporated and outlined the changes in the permits and  
208 review that goes out. He stated that the bulk of the changes are mandated and the local  
209 jurisdictions have six months to adopt.  
210

211  
212 President Ford asked for any questions from the Council. There were none.  
213

214 President Ford stated that the public hearing would not be closed tonight but would remain  
215 open until the next council meeting due to the Building Department gathering on August 29.  
216 He stated that the public would have an opportunity to speak September 3 then the public  
217 hearing would be closed at the meeting and would follow with a vote.  
218

219 President Ford stated that there are no changes to the Property Maintenance at this time.  
220

221 President Ford asked for audience comments. There was no public comment.  
222

223 **ORDINANCE NO. 735 “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING**  
224 **CHAPTER 6 BUILDING CODES OF THE TOWN OF EASTON CODE TO ADOPT**  
225 **THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE 2018 AND AMENDMENTS THERETO.”**  
226

227 Introduced at previous meeting. Not acted on.  
228

229 **ORDINANCE NO. 736, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**  
230 **AMENDING CHAPTER 6 BUILDING CODES OF THE TOWN OF EASTON CODE**  
231 **TO ADOPT THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE 2018 AND**  
232 **AMENDMENTS THERETO.”**  
233

234 Introduced at previous meeting. Not acted on.  
235

236 **ORDINANCE NO. 737, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**  
237 **AMENDING CHAPTER 6 BUILDING CODES OF THE TOWN OF EASTON CODE**  
238 **TO ADOPT THE NFPA 70 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE 2017 AND**  
239 **AMENDMENTS THERETO.”**  
240

241 Introduced at previous meeting. Not acted on.  
242

243 **ORDINANCE 738, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING**  
244 **CHAPTER 6 BUILDING CODES OF THE TOWN OF EASTON CODE TO ADOPT**  
245 **THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE 2018 AND**  
246 **AMENDMENTS THERETO.”**  
247

248 Introduced at previous meeting. Not acted on.  
249

250 **ORDINANCE NO. 739, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**  
251 **AMENDING CHAPTER 6 BUILDING CODES OF THE TOWN OF EASTON CODE**  
252 **TO ADOPT THE INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE 2018 AND**  
253 **AMENDMENTS THERETO.”**  
254

255 Introduced at previous meeting. Not acted on.  
256

257 **ORDINANCE NO. 740, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**  
258 **AMENDING CHAPTER 6 BUILDING CODES OF THE TOWN OF EASTON CODE**  
259 **TO ADOPT THE INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE 2018 AND AMENDMENTS**  
260 **THERETO.”**  
261

262 Introduced at previous meeting. Not acted on.  
263

264 **ORDINANCE NO. 742, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**  
265 **AMENDING CHAPTER 13 HOUSING OF THE TOWN OF EASTON CODE TO**  
266 **INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE EASTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING**  
267 **BOARD FROM SEVEN MEMBERS TO EIGHT MEMBERS.”**  
268

269 President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 742. He stated that discussion and vote on proposed  
270 legislation would occur at next meeting.  
271

272 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$1,360,168.62.**  
273

274 Upon motion by Mrs. Cook seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, invoices  
275 totaling \$1,360,168.62 were approved for payment.

276  
277 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:**

278 Mr. Abbatiello thanked Mr. VanEmburch for advocating for sidewalks for east side of Route  
279 50. He stated that the sidewalks would be a benefit to the Town. Mr. Abbatiello reminded  
280 everyone about the Heroes in the House at EVFD from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
281

282  
283 Mrs. Cook stated that the Play in Color project at Idlewild Park is finished with Moton Park's  
284 court to finish soon. Mrs. Cook encouraged everyone to stop by.  
285

286 **MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION.**

287  
288 At 7:49 p.m., President Ford entertained a motion to move into Closed Session.  
289

290 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously following a  
291 roll call vote, President Ford moved into Closed Session.  
292

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

297  
298 Discussion occurred regarding the possibility of a replacement facility for a business in the  
299 town of Easton as well as a mixed-use opportunity for their current property.  
300

301 At 8:03 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Engle, seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried  
302 unanimously, President Ford adjourned the Closed Session and reconvened into Open Session.  
303

304 **ADJOURNMENT.**

305  
306 At 8:04 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried  
307 unanimously, President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.  
308

309  
310 \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk