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

June 17, 2019

PRESENT AT CONVENING.

Mayor Robert C. Willey
President of the Council John Ford
Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein
Councilmember Donald Abbatiello
Councilmember Ron E. Engle

Also present was the Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch, Town Manager Mr. Donald Richardson, Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf and Chief David Spencer.

Mrs. Cook was excused.

**6:00 PM WORKSHOP WITH MDOT, STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
REGARDING US 50 PROJECT TO IMPROVE SAFETY AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
ALONG US 50 FROM DUTCHMAN'S LANE TO JUST WEST OF LOMAX STREET.**

At 6:00 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order.

President Ford stated that the Town of Easton held a workshop with SHA regarding the Route 50 modification.

President Ford thanked State Highway for their continued cooperation with the community and businesses.

Mr. Tom Revell, Asst. District Engineer, State Highway District 2 was present to discuss the alternatives that have been incorporated. Mr. Revell introduced Ken Pinder and Bob Prager, Community Liaison, and Design Work Engineer Gary Bush.

Mr. Revell discussed meeting here February 4 and presented the project with design updates. He stated that the median landscaping is still proposed with low landscaping as businesses have asked not to block visibility. Mr. Revell stated that there will be no barrier but landscaping to discourage jaywalking.

Mr. Revell updated on concerns as well as accessibility. He discussed initially closing Lomax and Acadia Street due to accidents. Mr. Revell stated he has met with Mayor Willey and staff April 23. He stated that SHA is not proposing to close Lomax and Acadia now but to modify the crossover.

Mr. Revell discussed proposed sidewalks on both sides of RT 50 as well as pedestrian signals.

Mr. Revell stated that the project is fully funded for design and has been recommended for construction although it could be springtime to begin advertising with construction beginning in summer. He stated that all work will be done with temporary lane closures and flaggers; with construction possibly occurring in the evening.

There are no plans to incorporate dry mulch in the median.

Mr. Revell asked for comments.

Chief Spencer stated he appreciated SHA listening to their concerns. He discussed the problem when there is no place to vehicles to get out of the way in order for emergency equipment to respond to emergencies.

Chief Sonny Jones, EVFD discussed fire apparatus responding and vehicles trying to move. He suggested reducing the three lanes and having a right turn lane for ingress and egress.

Clay Stamp, Director of Talbot County Department of Emergency Services attested to emergency equipment having no where to go with emergency equipment; especially when traffic is backed up.

Mr. Hugh Grunden, concerned citizen, 8898 Teal Point Road, discussed going westbound out of McDonalds or Lomax Street. He suggested leaving the crossover as it is.

Chief Jones discussed Chapel Road and

President Ford reiterated the Mayor and Council's appreciation to SHA for the extraordinary work in incorporating concerns.

57 Mr. Mike Meoli stated that he appreciates SHA listening to concerns and balancing the
58 renovations. He suggested a decel lane.

59 Mr. Revell stated that he will get back to everyone and consider their concerns. If they can't be
60 addressed, SHA will substantiate why.

61 **7:00 PM OPENING REMARKS BY MR. ABBATIELLO AND PLEDGE OF**
62 **ALLEGIANCE.**

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

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

65 **WORKSHOP MEETING PRIOR TO COUNCIL MEETING.**

66 President Ford stated that a workshop was held with SHA prior to the regularly scheduled meeting
67 for a RT 50 project update. President Ford stated that he was encouraged with their response.

68 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 3, 2019 MEETING.**

69 Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, minutes of the
70 June 3, 2019 meeting were approved.

71 **ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.**

72 Mayor Willey stated that the Town is still looking for a candidate for the Affordable Housing
73 Board.

74 Mayor Willey stated that he was in attendance this morning for the Eastern Shore Justice Academy
75 Graduation in Salisbury and later administered the Oath of Office for Easton graduate Officer
76 Brian Carroll.

77 **EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS.**

78 Mayor Willey presented the following employees for their years of service awards:

79 **10 Years**

80 Ronald Dixon, Public Works
81 Jennifer Kellner, EPD
82 Harry Murphy, Public Works
83 Heather Hanson, EPD
84 Anthony Reyes, EPD
85 Jon McDougal, Public Works
86 Renee Pierce, Admin
87 Stephen Tindall, EPD

88 **20 Years**

89 Bradley Hughes, EPD
90 Brandon Bobbick, EPD
91 Troy Handy, Public Works
92 Timothy Lyons, Public Works
93 Lisa Phillips, EPD
94 Crystal Huffman, EPD
95 Lenox Trams, EPD

96
97 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

98 **APPROVAL FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE BID.**

99 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the Property
100 Maintenance Bid for the 2019/2020 submitted by Living Ecosystems was approved as
101 recommended by staff.

102 **PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PERMITS.**

- 103 ○ Annual Elks Organizational Weekend Block Party 6/30/19.
- 104 ○ EBA Downtown Shopping 7/4/19.
- 105 ○ EBA Outdoor Music 7/5/19 – 9/6/19.
- 106 ○ 4 All Seasons Block Party 8/18/19.
- 107 ○ Bluepoint Hospitality Live Music 6/29 – 7/27/19.

108
109 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, the Public
110 Assembly Permits were approved.

111
112 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

113 The Town Attorney, Mrs. VanEmburch stated that the Town will be updating all the building and
114 property maintenance codes. She stated that the new legislation should be effective by the end of

115 September. The Town Attorney stated that if the legislation is introduced early July, it should meet
116 the State of Maryland requirements for adoption.

117 Mr. Silverstein suggested a workshop if there are significant changes.

118 President Ford stated a public hearing could be held.

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

120 Mr. Silverstein stated that the Chamber of Commerce held the Paddle Jam Event where there were
121 120 people in the water. He stated that everyone had a great time and that he is looking forward to
122 developing that area. He thanked the town for their assistance.

123
124 Mr. Abbatiello stated he attended his first official event at Teddy Bear Fresh. He stated that it is a
125 business in town with far reaching impacts. Mr. Abbatiello stated that he appreciates that SHA is
126 willing to work with the town with concerns.

127
128 Mr. Engle stated that Mayor Willey and himself went to an Easton Club East Association meeting.
129 He stated that they had some issues that will be addressed.

130
131 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$1,296,808.73.**

132 Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, invoices totaling
133 \$1,296,808.73 were approved.

134 **ADJOURNMENT.**

135 At 7:21 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously,
136 President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

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140 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk