

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

5 **May 20, 2019**
6

7 **PRESENT AT CONVENING.**

8 Mayor Robert C. Willey
9 President of the Council John Ford
10 Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein
11 Councilmember Ron E. Engle
12 Councilmember Megan M. Cook
13

14 Also present was the Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch, Town Manager Mr. Donald
15 Richardson and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.
16

17 **CALL TO ORDER.**

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

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

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

21 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2019 MEETING.**

22 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes of the May
23 6, 2019 meeting were approved.

24 **ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.**

25 Mayor Willey stated that a candidate is still needed for the Affordable Housing Board.

26 Mayor Willey stated that in honor of Harold Baines' induction into the Hall of Fame, the Town of
27 Easton is awarding scholarships to seniors in local schools. Brandon Latham from Easton High
28 School is present to receive the \$1,500 scholarship. Mayor Willey presented Brandon with the
29 scholarship and stated that the scholarship awards for St. Michaels High School are being presented at
30 the school during their awards program.

31 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

32 Approval of Public Assembly Events:

- 33 ○ Avalon Foundation Outdoor Concert Series 06/01/19 – 08/24/19.
34 ○ Frederick Douglass Day Celebration 09/28/19.
35 ○ Character Counts Mid Shore 5K Run/Walk 10/19/19.
36 ○ Festival of Trees Christmas Caroling 11/30/19.

37 Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the Public Assembly
38 Events as recommended by staff were approved.

39 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

40 Nothing at this time.

41 **FIRE BOARD.**

42 Chief Sonny Jones was present for the Fire Board meeting

43 Chief Jones asked permission to take Town owned apparatus to the June 19, Ocean City Parade
44 during the Fireman's Convention.

45 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, permission was
46 granted to take the Town owned apparatus to the Ocean City Parade during the Firemen's Convention.

47 Chief Jones stated that the new rescue truck will have the final inspection shortly.

48 Chief Jones discussed the ISO review which is currently underway with an anticipated completion
49 sometime in July. He stated that the current rate for the Fire Department is currently Class 4. Chief
50 Jones stated that the lower class you have in rating, the less fire insurance you pay as a consumer. He
51 stated that he does not anticipate any issues.

52 Chief Jones stated that EVFD participated in the Got Big Water Drill which is a drill to determine
53 how to supply water for larger volumes. He stated that Easton ranked third in North America and
54 supplied 1800 gallons per minute.

55 Easton Volunteer Fire Department recently accepted nine new numbers but one has moved away due
56 to a family emergency.

57 Chief Jones stated that thru a private donation, the Department purchased a washer and dryer for the
58 members' turnout gear.

59 Statistics, drills and personnel training from 1/1 to 4/30/19 were discussed.

60 Chief Jones stated that he is a certified CPR instructor and will try to schedule AED training for town
61 employees.

62 EVFD recently traveled to Dagsboro to standby for their department while they attended a member's
63 funeral.

64 **RESOLUTION NO. 6103, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON REVISING THE**
65 **TOWN'S LICENSE, APPLICATION, PERMITS, INSPECTION, CERTIFICATE AND**
66 **OTHER FEES."**

67 President Ford asked that the proposed Schedule of Fees be posted on the Town's website for action
68 at the next meeting.

69 Mrs. Cook questioned right-of-way fee.

70 Mrs. VanEmburch discussed the small cell facility fees.

71 **RESOLUTION NO. 6104, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO CARRY**
72 **FORWARD CERTAIN CAPITAL FUND EXPENDITURES INTO FISCAL YEAR 2020."**

73 The Town Manager, Mr. Richardson stated that last year's budget was ambitious and included
74 numerous projects in the capital plan which were not accomplished. He stated that this resolution
75 would carry those projects' funds forward into the next fiscal year.

76 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, Resolution No.
77 6104 was approved.

78 **RESOLUTION NO. 6106, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING**
79 **THE TOWN OF EASTON, MD EMPLOYEES 457 PLAN."**

80 Mr. Richardson discussed the change from John Hancock to Securian and the Roth contribution for
81 the employee's retirement funds. He stated that this Resolution is consistent with Easton Utilities and
82 current contributions.

83 Upon motion by Mr. Engle, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6106
84 was approved.

85 **CONT'D. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 BUDGET.**

86 President Ford opened the scheduled public hearing at 7:16 p.m.

87 President Ford stated that the public hearing is open for public comments. He invited anyone present
88 to come forward with comments. There were none.

89 President Ford closed the public hearing at 7:17 p.m. He stated that he would leave the record open
90 for written public comments until end of business Friday. President Ford stated that the Council will
91 act on the proposed budget June 6.

92 **ORDINANCE NO. 733, THE BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR FY2019/2020.**

93 No action taken.

94 **7:15 PM PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX RATE.**

95 At 7:18 p.m., President Ford opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 734.

96 **ORDINANCE No. 734, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE RAISING BY**
97 **TAXATION THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO PAY THE ORDINARY EXPENSES OF THE**
98 **TOWN OF EASTON AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON THE**
99 **VARIOUS BOND ISSUES AND THE REDUCTION OF CERTAIN BONDS AND NOTES**
100 **FOR THE PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS AND SETTING THE INTEREST AND**
101 **PENALTY FOR DELINQUENT BILLS, COMMENCING ON JULY 1, 2019 AND ENDING**
102 **JUNE 30, 2020."**
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104 Mr. Richardson stated that the proposed Constant Yield Tax Rate remains the same at \$.52/\$100 of
105 assessed value.

106 President Ford stated that this is a public hearing and invited comments. There were none.

107 At 7:21 p.m., President Ford closed the scheduled public hearing. He stated that public comments
108 would be received until close of business Friday and disseminated to the council.

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REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$1,110,334.68.

Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, invoices totaling \$1,110,334.68 were approved.

ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

Mr. Silverstein stated he had the opportunity to attend the BAM Fest and the organizers did a great job.

Mr. Engle stated that he was disappointed that the Star Democrat did not announce the election voting day or the results although the local radio station made announcements.

President Ford congratulated Mayor Willey, Mr. Engle and Mr. Silverstein on the successful run. He stated that Mr. Abbatiello will be sworn in next meeting. President Ford congratulated Talbot Bone on a great run campaign.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 7:24 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk