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

6 October 21, 2019  
7

8 **PRESENT AT CONVENING.**

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

15 Also present was the Town Manager Mr. Don Richardson and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M.  
16 Ruf.  
17

18 Mr. Silverstein was excused.  
19

20 **WORKSHOP AT EASTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

21 The Council met at the Easton Volunteer Fire Department at 6:00 p.m. Numerous members  
22 of the EVFD were present.

23 Chief Sonny Jones displayed Rescue Truck No. 61 and explained that there is no unused  
24 space. He demonstrated many accessories including a big tool box, jacks as well as an on-  
25 board refrigerator.

26 Second Assistant Chief Engineer Adam Mayock showed jacks and described their uses.

27 President Tim Knotts discussed fundraising and what the dollars are used for.

28 The Mayor and Council viewed the two-stage washing system for blood borne pathogens and  
29 carcinogens.

30 Trustee Soloman James discussed the gym at the EVFD. He stated that members save money  
31 and are nearby in case of an alarm. Benefits of being a fit fire fighter were discussed.

32 Secretary Becky Caldwell discussed testing to train for employment opportunities.

33 At 6:48 p.m., members of the council departed the Easton Firehouse for the regularly  
34 scheduled council meeting.

35 **OPENING REMARKS BY MR. ABBATIELLO AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

36 Mr. Abbatiello led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

37 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7, 2019 MEETINGS.**

38 Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, minutes of the  
39 October 7, 2019 meetings were approved.

40 **ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.**

41 Mayor Willey stated he is in receipt of a letter from MDOT regarding the intersection at Rt.  
42 322 and Glenwood Avenue. He stated that the letter discussed turn lanes but no signal as  
43 requested.

44 Mayor Willey stated that the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for Friday October 25 at  
45 the Tidewater Inn.

46 Mayor Willey encouraged everyone to attend the Veterans' Ceremony at the Easton  
47 Auditorium November 12 sponsored by the ROTC.

48 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

49 **ACCEPTANCE OF BID FROM HERTRICH FOR THREE DODGE CHARGERS**  
50 **FOR EASTON POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

51 Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, the bid  
52 from Hertrich for three Dodge Chargers was approved as recommended by staff. Mr.  
53 Richardson stated that one of the vehicles will be replacing the K-9 and there is currently  
54 \$106,000 in the budget. Mr. Richardson stated that Hertrich's bid was \$21,692 for each  
55 vehicle; \$65,076 for three vehicles without equipment.

56 **PUBLIC ASSEMBLY EVENTS:**

- 57 ○ 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Waterfowl Festival 11/07 – 11/10.
- 58 ○ Bluepoint Hospitality Live Music 11/9.

59 Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the Public  
60 Assembly Event Permits as recommended by staff were approved with the caveat that the  
61 live music requested by Bluepoint Hospitality not block the sidewalk.

62 **APPROVAL OF FOOD VENDOR PERMITS FOR WATERFOWL FESTIVAL.**

63 Ms. Margaret Enloe, Waterfowl Chesapeake Executive Director introduced Mr. Carl Treat,  
64 Transportation Chair.

65 Ms. Enloe stated that there are no real changes to the food vendors.

66 Upon motion by Mrs. Cook seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, the Food  
67 Vendor Permits for the Waterfowl Festival were approved.

68 Mrs. Cook stated that she appreciates the attention to the residents for residential parking in  
69 certain areas in town.

70 **APPROVAL OF TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR WATERFOWL FESTIVAL.**

71 Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the Waterfowl  
72 Festival Transportation Plan as recommended by staff was approved.

73 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

74 Mrs. Vanemburgh, Town Attorney stated that she has nothing at this time.

75 **JOHN HORNER, VP OPERATIONS REQUESTING CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT**  
76 **ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION AT BREWER'S LANE.**

77 Mr. John Horner was present to discuss the electric vehicle charging station at Brewer's  
78 Lane.

79 Mr. Horner stated information was distributed prior to the council meeting regarding the  
80 vehicle charging station. He stated that he is present to ask for approval to utilize four  
81 parking spaces at the bottom of Brewer's Lane to install electric vehicle (EV) charging  
82 stations in partnership with the Town of Easton. He stated that they intend to use Level 2  
83 chargers at an approximate cost of \$5,000 for a pair. Mr. Horner stated that the chargers will  
84 be donated and Easton Utilities will pursue grant funding for additional costs. Mr. Horner  
85 stated that there is the possibility of future expansion. He discussed economic benefits. Mr.  
86 Horner stated that it will cost \$5 or \$6 to charge a vehicle. There will be the consideration of  
87 installation of solar panels. Maintenance will be handled by Easton Utilities; site  
88 maintenance by the Town.

89 Upon motion by Mr. Engle, seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously,  
90 permission was granted for Easton Utilities to utilize four parking spaces at the bottom of  
91 Brewer's Lane to install electric vehicle charging stations.

92 **7:15 PM PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF AN AMENDMENT**  
93 **TO THE TOWN OF EASTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.**

94 At 7:17 p.m., President Ford opened the 7:15 p.m. scheduled public hearing on an  
95 amendment to the Comprehensive Plan.

96 Mr. Thomas discussed the request for an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. Mr.  
97 Thomas discussed the original request from Gannon Family LLC.

98 Mr. Thomas stated that the request is to amend the growth areas map of the Comprehensive  
99 Plan and to reclassify this area from Priority 2 and 3 to Priority 1. He stated that the Planning  
100 Commission added two additional parcels for consideration. They thought it appropriate to  
101 evaluate all the Priority 2 and 3 areas for possible 3 upgrade.

102 Ultimately, the Planning Commission decided to make no changes to growth areas planned  
103 for residential growth but decided they were ok with the portion of Mr. Greg Gannon's  
104 request involving commercially designated land as indicated on the proposed revised Growth  
105 Area Map.

106 Mr. Thomas stated that the revised Comprehensive Plan will need to be adopted again in  
107 2023.

108 Mr. Thomas discussed four choices.

109 President Ford stated that this is a Public hearing and any comments on this proposal can  
110 come forward.

111 Mr. Greg Gannon, 28656 Goldsborough Neck Road, Easton discussed the original letter  
112 dated 11/5/2018 and his request to amend his property to Priority 1. He stated that The  
113 Transportation Plan shows Alicia Drive extending to Chapel Road

114 JL Gannon, owner of Brooks Property stated that the family is looking at what they want to  
115 bring to the Planning Commission and to the Town. He stated he has 100 acres and he is  
116 looking for developers. Mr. Gannon stated he prefers that the property be looked at as a  
117 whole. Mr. Gannon stated that a portion was previously Priority 1. Mr. Gannon stated that his  
118 property is not the subject tonight but could be remanded back to the Planning and Zoning  
119 Commission.

120 President Ford stated that he is not prepared to consider this tonight.

121 President Ford stated that JL Gannon's request should go back to the Planning Commission  
122 for their application.

123 President Ford asked for any additional comments. There were none.

124 At 7:45 p.m., President Ford closed the public hearing. He stated that written comments  
125 would be received and disseminated to the council until close of business Friday.

126 **RESOLUTION NO. 6109, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**  
127 **APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE GROWTH AREAS MAP OF THE**  
128 **TOWN'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN."**

129 President Ford stated that Resolution No. 6109 would be acted on at the following meeting.

130 **REPUBLIC SERVICES RECYCLING PRESENTATION.**

131 Mr. Dominic Fulginiti, Municipal Sales Manager for Republic Services was present to  
132 discuss recycling in the Town of Easton.

133 Mr. VanEmburch stated that Republic just started year three of a three-year contract with the  
134 Town of Easton.

135 Mr. Fulginiti stated that everything is measured in weight. He stated that markets are  
136 saturated with recycling materials and they are starting to take a stand against the world's  
137 plastic waste and garbage.

138 Republic continues to partner with media to help educate the public about the role they play  
139 in fixing recycling.

140 Mr. Fulginiti stated that Republic will continue to recycle and process.

141 Mr. VanEmburch stated that it is costing the town to recycle.

142 **ORDINANCE NO. 743, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**  
143 **AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO PURCHASE 8670 COMMERCE**  
144 **DRIVE IN THE TOWN OF EASTON."**

145 Mr. Horner, VP of Operations for Easton Utilities stated that they have outgrown their  
146 warehousing space. He discussed aging warehouses on the property.

147 Mr. Horner stated that their warehouse needs have increased and they have been exploring  
148 options for building additional warehouses. Negotiating the purchase of the Coca-Cola  
149 Warehouse provides the best value for customers as it has 24,000 indoor square feet of  
150 warehouse space with a large fenced parking lot. This opportunity enables Easton Utilities to  
151 discontinue leasing and borrowing space at other locations as well as eliminating the need to  
152 construct a new warehouse elsewhere in the near future.

153 President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 743 for a first reading.

154 Mr. Horner stated that they would like to pursue the purchase with intentions to settle by end  
155 of the financial calendar year.

156 President Ford stated he would like to hold public hearing at 7:15 p.m. November 4 then vote  
157 on Ordinance No. 743 that evening.

158 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$1,561,983.14.**

159 Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, invoices  
160 totaling \$1,561,983.14 were approved.

161 **AUDIENCE COMMENTS.**

162 Ms. Helen Knight-Griffin, 415 South Street, stated she is present regarding trash pickup. Ms.  
163 Knight-Griffin requested the Town modify the waste collection program to have Town  
164 employees go onto private property and retrieve trash cans, dump the cans and return them to  
165 private property.

166 Ms. Knight-Griffin stated she has spoken to the Town Engineer. She discussed the Town  
167 instituting the Back-Door Service Program. She stated that a Dr.'s certificate would be  
168 required and the resident/property owner would have to sign a waiver for the town. Ms.  
169 Knight-Griffin stated it could also be a source of revenue if the service was requested by  
170 other residents.

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

172 Mr. Abbatiello stated he has had the opportunity to attend the banquet for Pastor Nancy  
173 Dennis, St. Stephens AME Church. Mr. Abbatiello stated he will be participating in the 911  
174 climb this weekend.

175  
176 Mrs. Cook thanked those that attended the ribbon cutting for Play in Color at Idlewild Park.  
177

178 President Ford stated that tonight's meeting began with a tour of EVFD and the opportunity  
179 to see their new vehicle recently put in service. President Ford recommended citizens of  
180 Easton go by the station and see their new truck.

181  
182 **ADJOURNMENT.**

183 At 8:29 p.m., upon motion by Mrs. Cook seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously,  
184 President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled council meeting.

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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk