

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

5 April 20, 2020
6

7 **PRESENT AT CONVENING.**
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9 Mayor Robert C. Willey
10 Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein
11 Councilmember Donald M. Abbatiello
12 Acting President of the Council Ronald E. Engle
13 Councilmember Megan M. Cook
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15 Also present was the Town Manager Mr. Don Richardson, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon
16 VanEmburch and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.
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18 **CALL TO ORDER.**

19 At 7:00 p.m., Acting President Engle called the meeting to order.

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

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

22 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 6, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING AND APRIL 7 AND**
23 **APRIL 8 BUDGET WORKSHOPS.**

24 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, minutes of
25 the April 6, April 7 and April 8 meetings were approved.

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

27 Mr. Silverstein thanked everyone working on our behalf who provides groceries and necessary
28 items. He stated he feels very deeply for those not employed and stated that we all need to stick
29 together.
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31 Mr. Engle asked that the community honor the Governor's orders to shelter in place. He stated he
32 is impressed by social distancing and wearing masks. Mr. Engle stated that Talbot County has
33 taken a dramatic increase and this is not over yet.
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35 **ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.**

36 Mayor Willey reminded the council that the May 4 meeting will include the budget public
37 hearing. He suggested the council feel free to contact staff regarding any questions.

38 Mayor Willey stated that the Town office has no public access to meetings in May. He stated that
39 in June, he hopes meeting will return to the regular format.

40 Mayor Willey distributed copies of the 2020-2021 budget to the Council.

41 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

42 Town Manager Mr. Richardson updated on bulk collection. He asked that residents bear with us.
43 Mr. Richardson stated that the town is using equipment not usually used to pick up and dispose of
44 bulk items.

45 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

46 The Town Attorney Mrs. VanEmburch stated that the town is starting the process for Dutchman's
47 Lane annexation with the county. She stated she will have the legislation to the council in May.

48 **COVID-19 UPDATE FROM EASTON POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

49 Chief David Spencer and Sgt. Eric Kellner were present to discuss COVID-19.

50 Chief Spencer thanked First Responders, medical personnel and those supplying food. He stated
51 that everyone is working well together. Chief Spencer stated that citizens are complying with
52 rules set upon them as well as businesses when they are visited. He stated that it is the

53 Department's responsibility to enforce Governor Hogan's orders. Chief Spencer stated that stats
54 are down for March and April although mental evaluations almost doubled and domestic violence
55 complaints are down by 50%. Chief Spencer discussed that some may not have the opportunity to
56 ask for help.

57 Chief Spencer stated that as of March 23, Sgt. Kellner has been appointed the Law Enforcement
58 Liaison. He stated that Sgt. Kellner has been nothing but professional and is doing a great job. He
59 stated that Sgt. Kellner is a great asset to Easton Police Department.

60 Sgt. Kellner thanked Mayor and Chief for allowing him to attend EOC. He stated he appreciates
61 the opportunity.

62 Sgt. Kellner discussed statistics and stated that they are very tied in to mental health departments
63 in Easton. He stated that they will put stickers on some of meals being distributed so recipients
64 can contact them should they feel they are in trouble and need assistance. He stated that they are
65 bringing experts together to come up with solutions such as feeding of students, spiritually aspects
66 and other needs.

67 Mayor Willey asked if the council can assist further. Mayor Willey stated that it seems that
68 everything is pretty much established.

69 Sgt. Kellner stated that Mr. Silverstein and Ms. Vanhooser host a business call twice a week.

70 Sgt. Kellner stated he is there as a law enforcement representative and to do what they need.

71 Chief Spencer stated that the officers are not out actively looking for violators of Governor's
72 orders. If they visit businesses, it is due to a complaint.

73 Chief Spencer stated that the officers are being very visible in the community.

74 Sgt. Kellner stated they are in uncharted waters; breaking up a party or asking children to leave
75 playgrounds.

76 Mr. Silverstein asked if county jails are also releasing prisoners?

77 Chief Spencer stated that they are notified when serious offenders are released into the
78 community.

79 Mr. Engle stated that policies placed on EPD's Facebook are significant to relieve citizens. He
80 suggested citizens use their best judgement, follow Executive Orders and practice humanitarian
81 efforts.

82 Sgt. Kellner stated that they need the Hispanic community to pay attention. He stated that they are
83 looking for them and their family to be safe, make them well and get them back in the workforce.
84 He discussed poultry processing plants and landscapers.

85 **BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING.**

86 Mr. Engle set the Budget Public Hearing for May 4, 7:15 p.m.

87 **ORDINANCE NO. 747, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**
88 **AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO PURCHASE LOT 9A BRYAN DRIVE IN**
89 **THE TOWN OF EASTON."**

90 Upon motion by Mrs. Cook seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, Ordinance No.
91 747 was approved.

92 **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

93 Due to COVID-19, the Council chambers were closed to the public.

94 Mr. Richardson stated that any written comments can be sent in to the Town until the end of
95 business, Friday.

96 **ADJOURNMENT.**

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

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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk (approved May 4, 2020)