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

6 **August 17, 2020**  
7

8 **PRESENT AT CONVENING.**  
9

10 Mayor Robert C. Willey  
11 Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein  
12 Councilmember Donald M. Abbatiello  
13 Councilmember Ron E. Engle  
14 Councilmember Rev. Elmer N. Davis, Jr.  
15 Council President Megan M. Cook  
16

17 Also present was the Town Manager Mr. Don Richardson, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon  
18 VanEmburch, and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.  
19

20 **CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT COOK.**  
21

22 At 5:30 p.m., President Cook called the meeting to order.  
23

24 **OPENING REMARKS BY REV. DAVIS AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**  
25

26 Rev. Davis gave opening remarks and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
27

28 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 8 AND AUGUST 3, 2020 MEETING.**  
29

30 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes  
31 of the amended July 8 meeting and August 3, 2020 meeting were approved.  
32

33 **ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.**  
34

35 **RECOMMENDATION FROM TOWN ENGINEER FOR REPLACEMENT OF**  
36 **STORM DRAIN.**  
37

38 Mayor Willey discussed the storm drain recommendation from the Town Engineer, Mr.  
39 VanEmburch and the report from RK&K. Mayor Willey stated that this would be  
40 completed in phases. He stated that the cost would be approximately \$200,000 with  
41 resources in the storm drain replacement fund. Mayor Willey stated that the work would be  
42 completed by the Town's Public Work's Department. Mayor Willey discussed the stages  
43 for the pipe replacement. He suggested getting the project started before there is a major  
44 problem.  
45

46 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the  
47 replacement of the storm sewer pipe was approved.  
48

49 Mayor Willey explained that the Talbot Boys statue is on county property and the Town of  
50 Easton has no jurisdiction on its outcome. He said that once the decision has been made,  
51 the Historic District may provide some direction.  
52

53 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**  
54

55 Mr. Richardson, Town Manager stated that he has nothing specific for tonight's meeting  
56 but reminded residents and business owners that the Town is continuing cleanup from  
57 Tropical Storm Iasias.  
58

59 Mr. Richardson stated that the Planning Commission has a light agenda this Thursday at  
60 1:00 p.m. and will be looking at the Zoning Ordinance especially in regards to the  
61 Affordable Housing.  
62

63 Mr. Richardson stated that they are working on the audit in the Finance Department.  
64

65 Mr. Abbatiello stated he feels it is important for the citizens to know how hard Public  
66 Works has worked to clean up the community. He discussed improving the Town's social  
67 media and internet presence for the Town of Easton.

68 Mr. Richardson stated that the IT job has been drafted and that position is ready to be  
69 advertised.  
70

71  
72 Rev. Davis discussed acknowledging town employees for their work. Mr. Richardson  
73 stated he is open for suggestions. Mr. Silverstein stated he commended the department  
74 heads and asked that acknowledgment be forwarded to employees.  
75

76 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**  
77

78 Mrs. VanEmburch stated that the Dutchman's Lane Annexation from Talbot County has  
79 been approved and will be effective September 17. She stated that the county has approved  
80 the annexation and de-annexation of property.  
81

82 **FIRE BOARD.**  
83

84 Chief Sonny Jones stated that the Fire Department responded to 18 emergencies during the  
85 recent tropical storm. He stated that there were no significant injuries to citizens or service  
86 personnel.  
87

88 Chief Jones stated that their call volume has picked up and they are averaging 100  
89 emergencies around Easton per month.  
90

91 Chief Jones stated that the repairs to EVFD's garage bay doors at their substation have  
92 been completed.  
93

94 Chief Jones stated that the funeral for Leonard Rieck recently took place. He was the  
95 longest serving member; 102 years old with 77 years of service. He thanked all those that  
96 had the opportunity to attend.  
97

98 **LETTER FROM PARK BOARD REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR GARDEN**  
99 **CLUB OF THE EASTERN SHORE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THEIR 50<sup>TH</sup>**  
100 **ANNIVERSARY PROJECT OF LIGHTING THOMPSON PARK DURING THE**  
101 **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY.**  
102

103 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously,  
104 permission was granted for the Eastern Shore Garden Club to move forward with their 50<sup>th</sup>  
105 Anniversary project of lighting of Thompson Park during the Christmas Holiday.  
106

107 **PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ORDINANCE NO. 754:**  
108

109 At 5:46 p.m., President Cook opened the public hearing to hear comments on Ordinance  
110 No. 754.  
111

112 **ORD. 754, "AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AND EMPOWER THE TOWN OF**  
113 **EASTON (THE "TOWN") TO ISSUE AND SELL, UPON ITS FULL FAITH AND**  
114 **CREDIT, EIGHT MILLION SIX HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLAR**  
115 **(\$8,650,000) MAXIMUM AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF ITS SERIAL**  
116 **OR TERM MATURITY, GENERAL OBLIGATION, FULLY REGISTERED**  
117 **BONDS PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF SECTIONS 19-301 TO 19-309,**  
118 **INCLUSIVE, AND SECTION 19-207 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE**  
119 **OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND (2013 REPLACEMENT VOLUME**  
120 **AND 2019 SUPPLEMENT) AND SECTION 19 OF ARTICLE VI OF THE**  
121 **CHARTER OF THE TOWN, THE BONDS, TO BE DESIGNATED "TOWN OF**  
122 **EASTON PUBLIC FACILITIES BONDS OF 2020", THE NET PROCEEDS OF**  
123 **THE SALE THEREOF TO BE USED AND APPLIED FOR THE PUBLIC**  
124 **PURPOSES OF: (A) FINANCING OR REFINANCING ALL OR A PORTION OF**  
125 **THE ITEMS DESCRIBED ON EXHIBIT A TO THIS ORDINANCE, AND ALL**  
126 **RELATED ARCHITECTURAL, FINANCIAL, LEGAL, PLANNING AND**  
127 **ENGINEERING EXPENSES, AND (B) PAYING ALL EXPENSES INCURRED IN**  
128 **THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS, WHICH EXPENSES MAY INCLUDE COSTS**  
129 **OF DOCUMENT PRODUCTION AND REPRODUCTION, AND FINANCIAL**  
130 **ADVISORY AND COUNSEL FEES AND EXPENSES; PRESCRIBING THE FORM**  
131 **AND TENOR OF THE BONDS AND THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE**  
132 **ISSUANCE AND SALE OF THE BONDS AT PUBLIC SALE, INCLUDING THE**  
133 **FORM OF THE NOTICE OF SALE; PRESCRIBING THE TERMS AND**  
134 **CONDITIONS OF THE BONDS AND ALL OTHER DETAILS INCIDENT TO THE**

135 **ISSUANCE, SALE AND DELIVERY OF THE BONDS; PROVIDING THAT THE**  
136 **PROCEEDS OF SUCH BONDS, OR ANY MONEYS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED**  
137 **TO BE PROCEEDS, WILL NOT BE USED IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD**  
138 **CAUSE SAID BONDS TO BE ARBITRAGE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE**  
139 **APPOINTMENT OF A PAYING AGENT AND REGISTRAR FOR THE BONDS;**  
140 **COVENANTING TO LEVY AND COLLECT TAXES SUFFICIENT FOR THE**  
141 **PROMPT PAYMENT OF THE MATURING PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON**  
142 **THE BONDS AND PLEDGING THE TOWN'S FULL FAITH AND CREDIT AND**  
143 **UNLIMITED TAXING POWER TO THE PROMPT PAYMENT OF SUCH**  
144 **PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST; AND GENERALLY RELATING TO THE**  
145 **ISSUANCE, SALE, DELIVERY AND PAYMENT OF THE BONDS."**

146  
147 President Cook asked if there are any questions. There was no public comment or written  
148 comments.

149  
150 At 5:49 p.m., President Cook closed the public hearing.

151  
152 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously,  
153 Ordinance No. 754 was approved.

154  
155 **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

156  
157 There were no comments from the audience.

158  
159 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:**

160  
161 Mr. Silverstein reminded citizens that while cutting grass, please make sure clippings do  
162 not go in the streets.

163  
164 Mr. Abbatiello discussed business opportunities for Economic Dev. He stated that there is  
165 an opportunity for a Salmon Farm to be established in Easton as well as a brewery; Bird  
166 Nickel Brewery.

167  
168 Mr. Abbatiello discussed parklets and stated that he is in favor of them being continued  
169 through the next meeting. He stated that he would like to see parklets on a semi-permanent  
170 basis but something more permanent and more aesthetic. He stated that businesses could  
171 help with costs. He stated that the Avalon may be consider smaller scale music events or  
172 sidewalk sales for increased attraction. Mr. Abbatiello discussed an Inclusive Easton  
173 Committee, which is comprised of several community leaders which may make Easton  
174 more accessible to a population that is older or has language barriers.

175  
176 Mayor Willey stated that some of these concerns are already being considered.

177  
178 Mr. Engle discussed the downtown experiment. He stated it may be appropriate for  
179 businesses to come in and discuss their experiences and discuss if this should be continued.  
180 Mr. Engle stated he would like to provide kudos to Public Works for their cleanup efforts.

181  
182 Rev. Davis would like to have other retailers; just not food industries' input to see how they  
183 are making out during the pandemic. He asked that everyone consider that setting up and  
184 taking down is at the cost to the Town of Easton. Rev. Davis thanked Public Works for  
185 their work during the recent storm.

186  
187 President Cook thanked Public Works, Easton Utilities and Easton Volunteer Fire  
188 Department. She stated that she was the recipient of a tree on top of car. President Cook  
189 stated that she attended the two rallies regarding the Talbot Boys statue.

190  
191 **ADJOURNMENT.**

192  
193 At 6:00 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried  
194 unanimously, President Cook adjourned the regularly scheduled Council meeting.

195  
196  
197  
198 \_\_\_\_\_  
199 Respectfully submitted,  
200 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk (approved September 8, 2020)