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

June 15, 2020

PRESENT AT CONVENING.

Mayor Robert C. Willey
Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein
Councilmember Donald M. Abbatiello
Councilmember Ron E. Engle
Councilmember Megan M. Cook

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

CALL TO ORDER BY THE TOWN CLERK.

At 5:30 p.m., Town Clerk Mrs. Ruf called the meeting to order.

**MAYOR WILLEY TO ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO COUNCIL
PRESIDENT ELECT MEGAN M. COOK.**

Mayor Willey administered the Oath of Office to Council President elect Megan M. Cook for the remainder of a four-year term expiring May 2021.

OPENING REMARKS BY MR. ENGLE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 1, 2020 MEETING.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, minutes of the June 1, 2020 meeting were approved with corrections submitted by Mr. Abbatiello.

ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.

RE-APPOINTMENTS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING BOARD.

Mayor Willey asked for approval for the following re-appointments to the Affordable Housing Board for a three-year term expiring May 16, 2023:

- Roy Cowdrey
- Otis Sampson
- Sindy Reyes

Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, the re-appointments were confirmed.

Mayor Willey stated that Mr. Wieland has recently resigned from the Historic District Commission due to moving to Florida part time. Mayor Willey stated applications are being accepted for the remainder of Mr. Wieland's term which expires March 18, 2021.

Mayor Willey stated that the July 4 fireworks are scheduled for dusk in Easton and St. Michaels.

**DISCUSSION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING BOARD INCOME LIMITS FOR
PURCHASE AND RENOVATION PROGRAMS.**

Town Attorney Mrs. VanEmburch discussed the HUD Talbot County income number.

63
64 It was the council consensus to have Mr. Bent, Chairman of the Affordable Housing report
65 on the new HUD income limits at the upcoming council meeting.

66
67 Mayor Willey discussed the process to fill the Ward IV council vacancy.

68
69 Mr. Silverstein stated he would appreciate the opportunity to meet the candidates.

70
71 Mayor Willey stated he would collect resumes for possible candidates and arrange an
72 interview.

73
74 Mayor Willey discussed the meeting at the Jewish Temple last week regarding issues in
75 Easton and concerns of citizens. Discussion occurred on quality jobs, as well as recreational
76 activities.

77
78 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

79
80 **APPROVAL OF BID FOR ANNUAL MILL AND OVERLAY.**

81
82 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the
83 recommendation by staff for the annual mill and overlay bid from Myers in the amount of
84 \$295,724 was accepted. Mr. Richardson stated that it is the intent to be complete by August
85 15.

86
87 **RECOMMENDATION FROM TOWN ENGINEER FOR GALLOWAY MEADOWS**
88 **STREET NAMES.**

89
90 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, the
91 recommendation from the Town Engineer to name three interior streets at Galloway
92 Meadows was approved. The street names proposed by the developer will be Winesap Lane,
93 Baldwin Lane and Cortland Way.

94
95 **RECYCLING CONTRACT EXTENSION**

96
97 Town Manager Mr. Richardson asked for a one-month extension on the current recycling
98 contract. Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously,
99 the contract with Republic was extended.

100
101 **BAM PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PERMIT.**

102
103 Chief Spencer congratulated Mrs. Cook.

104
105 Chief Spencer stated that the Public Assembly on June 19 has been changed from a parade
106 to a march. He discussed the route through town. Chief Spencer stated that the march is to
107 begin at 5:00 p.m. with approximately 100 – 200 participants and they anticipate no issues.

108
109 **FIREWORKS PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PERMIT.**

110
111 Chief Spencer discussed the fireworks scheduled for July 4. He stated they will commence
112 at approximately 9:15 – 9:30 p.m. but there will be no carnival. He stated that social
113 distancing and masks will be encouraged. Chief Spencer stated that EPD will have 13
114 officers performing traffic control from 9 to 11:00 p.m.

115
116 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, the
117 Fireworks Public Assembly Permit was approved as recommended.

118
119 Mr. Richardson stated that bulk collection still remains a challenge throughout town.

120
121 Mr. Richardson stated that the 2020 Census has been extended until October 1.

122
123 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

124

125 Nothing at this time.

126

127 **RESOLUTION NO. 6122, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**
128 **EXTENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-04 PREVIOUSLY ISSUED BY THE**
129 **MAYOR ADOPTING ADDITIONAL MEASURES RELATED TO OUTDOOR**
130 **DINING DURING PREVIOUS STATE OF EMERGENCYT DECLARATION FOR**
131 **THE TOWN OF EASTON FOR COVID-19."**

132

133 Mr. Ross Benincasa discussed a solution to enable increased traffic for many restaurants and
134 businesses in the downtown. He discussed an option for a Washington Street Promenade
135 between Washington and Federal Streets.

136

137 Mr. Abbatiello asked how the plan would work.

138

139 Mr. Benincasa discussed barriers. He stated that so many other cities are doing this.
140 He stated that in many downtowns, pedestrian malls were not successful and they are re-
141 opening streets.

142

143 Mr. Benincasa discussed insurance and stated that restaurants have primary coverage then
144 EBA would take on the insurance as an umbrella coverage. Mr. Benincasa stated that there
145 is a business owner which has offered to pay for aesthetically pleasing barriers such as
146 planters.

147

148 Mr. Engle asked if it has been resolved to serve liquor on streets.

149

150 Mrs. VanEmburch stated that restaurants must have or will get a sidewalk café permit.

151

152 Mr. Engle stated that if the weather is good enough, he supports the proposal but feels like
153 it's a moving target.

154

155 Mr. Abbatiello questioned what happens if the pandemic continues in the fall. He aside if
156 there is enough lighting for pedestrians to move around.

157

158 President Cook questioned how long is the time frame to see if this experiment works. Mr.
159 Benincasa stated that several months; until the end of October. He stated that restaurants
160 have asked for time to prep.

161

162 The Town Attorney stated that the council should make a motion to approve.

163

164 Mr. Richardson stated that ADA requirements need to be incorporated in the promenade
165 proposal. He suggested making three spaces handicapped and pull back the location of the
166 promenade.

167

168 Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, the
169 promenade concept was approved.

170

171 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously,
172 Resolution No. 6122 was approved.

173

174 Mayor Willey stated that the Executive Order would be extended until the end of this month
175 and the Council meetings would be open to the public starting in July.

176

177 Mr. Richardson stated that the town needs to keep tabs on traffic patterns.

178

179 Mr. Silverstein asked for updates at council meetings.

180

181 **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

182

183 Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, there is no public access to the Council meetings.

184

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

186

187 Mr. Silverstein stated he had an opportunity to participate in the Mistletoe Hall Commerce
188 Park ground breaking. He complimented the staff.

189
190 Mr. Abbatiello thanked Mayor Willey for setting up the meeting on Tuesday. He stated it
191 was very informative. Mr. Abbatiello extended congratulations to Mrs. Cook and thanked
192 Mr. Engle for leading us thru a tough time.

193
194 **ADJOURNMENT.**

195
196 At 6:25 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried
197 unanimously, President Cook adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

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201

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk (approved 7/6/2020)