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

March 16, 2020

PRESENT AT CONVENING.

Mayor Robert C. Willey
Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein
Councilmember Donald M. Abbatiello
Acting President of the Council Ronald E. Engle
Councilmember Megan M. Cook

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

CALL TO ORDER.

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

OPENING REMARKS BY MRS. COOK AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mrs. Cook asked for a moment of silence and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CLOSED SESSION STATEMENT.

Mr. Engle read a statement regarding the Closed Sessions that occurred at the March 2, 2020 meeting.

The purpose of the closed session was:

1. To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose pursuant to General Provisions Article §3-305(b)(3);
2. To consider a matter that concerns a business expansion pursuant to General Provisions Article §3-305(b)(4);
3. To discuss potential litigation with staff and consultants pursuant to General Provisions Article §3-305(b)(8).

The four Council members present voted to close the meeting.

The following individuals were present: Mayor Robert C. Willey, Town Manager Donald Richardson, Acting Council President Ron Engle, Council Members Donald Abbatiello, Al Silverstein, and Megan Cook, Lorraine Gould (acting for the Town Clerk), and Town Attorney Sharon VanEmburch

The Town Council discussed acquisition of a piece of property. No action was taken.

The Town Council discussed the expansion of a local business. The consensus was to move forward with an incentive package for the business expansion.

The Town Council discussed potential litigation and negotiations with a potential litigant.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2020 MEETINGS.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, minutes of the March 2, 2020 meetings were approved as written.

ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.

Mayor Willey discussed what the Town is doing to abide by CDC Guidelines and Governor Hogan's directives.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

50 Town Manager Mr. Richardson asked for consideration regarding parking in the downtown. He
51 stated with the closure of bars, and restaurants; establishments are modifying their service and
52 offering carryout. Mr. Richardson asked for permission to authorize the Town Engineer to review
53 and implement parking alterations in the downtown area.

54 Mr. Silverstein suggested 15-20-minute parking to get to-go orders.

55 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously,
56 permission was given for the Town Engineer to review and implement parking alterations in the
57 downtown area.

58 Mrs. Cook clarified that this was for carry out only.

59 Mr. Richardson stated that the intent is for fast turnaround.

60 **APPROVAL TO PURCHASE ZERO TURN DIESEL POWERED TURF MOWER FROM**
61 **SOURCEWELL.**

62
63 Upon motion by Mrs. Cook seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, the zero-turn
64 diesel powered turf mower in the amount of \$13,719.22 from Burke Equipment Company and
65 recommended by staff for purchase was approved.

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67 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

68 Nothing at this time.

69 **MR. ALEXANDER M. BOND TO UPDATE COUNCIL ON AVALON FOUNDATION,**
70 **INC.**

71 Mr. Bond was present to update on the state of the Avalon Theatre.

72 Mr. Bond welcomed Mr. Silverstein back.

73 Mr. Bond stated that he had planned to talk about the Avalon's outdoor venue but as of Thursday,
74 they are now closed until at least April 24. He stated that they plan to re-assess April 10 but they
75 could be closed until likely sometime into the summer. At this time, they are realizing a \$27,000
76 impact which could end up to be \$100,000. Mr. Bond stated that they will need to find their way
77 thru this.

78 Mr. Bond discussed the Town of Easton's support for the Avalon and the outdoor activities. He
79 stated that they are going to need their sources of income to remain steady. Mr. Bond stated that
80 the Maryland Arts Council contributes based on their operating income. He stated that he hopes
81 their contingency plans will get them thru.

82 Mrs. Cook discussed the ability to re-schedule or push back the Plein Air Festival. Mr. Bond
83 discussed the challenges.

84 Mr. Bond stated that the Avalon employees are working at home and trying to untangle plans.

85 **MR. JAMES M. BENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING AFFORDABLE**
86 **HOUSING RENOVATION PROGRAM.**

87 Mr. Bent was present to discuss the proposed legislation for the Affordable Housing Renovation
88 program. He stated to date, they have funded 14 renovations including a full roof repair. He stated
89 that the renovations are in the amount of \$1,150 - \$12,500. Mr. Bent stated that the Affordable
90 Housing has issues grants or loaned \$102,000 of the \$250,000 allocated for the program with an
91 additional seven applications under consideration. Mr. Bent discussed making a change in the
92 program. He discussed having multiple names on the deeds.

93 Mr. Silverstein discussed recouping the funds if the property is sold.

94 **RESOLUTION NO. 6113, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON APPROVING**
95 **THE AMENDED EASTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING RENOVATION PROGRAM FOR**
96 **OWNER OCCUPIED HOMES."**

97 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, Resolution
98 No. 6113 was approved.

99 **RESOLUTION NO. 6115, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**
100 **AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LICENSE AGREEMENT TO ALLOW AN**

101 **ENCROACHMENT ONTO THE UNIMPROVED ALLEY BEHIND 305 NORTH**
102 **AURORA STREET.**”

103 Mrs. VanEmburch discussed the resolution and license agreement. She stated if the property is
104 sold, the license agreement is revocable.

105 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, Resolution No.
106 6115 was approved.

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

108 Mr. Silverstein discussed information being sent by the community regarding pertinent
109 information.

110 Mr. Engle urged the community to purchase gift cards for restaurants.

111 Mrs. Cook stated that breakfast and lunch is still offered at Easton and St. Michaels Middle
112 schools.

113

114 **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

115 Due to limited audience, there were no public comments at this time.

116 **ADJOURNMENT.**

117 At 7:35 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously,
118 Acting President of the Council adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk