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

October 19, 2020

**PRESENT AT CONVENING.**

Mayor Robert C. Willey  
Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein  
Councilmember Donald M. Abbatiello  
Councilmember Ron E. Engle  
Councilmember Rev. Elmer N. Davis, Jr.  
Council President 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 BY PRESIDENT COOK.**

At 5:30 p.m., President Cook called the regularly scheduled meeting to order.

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

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 5, 2020 MEETINGS.**

Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, minutes of the October 5, 2020 meetings were approved.

**ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.**

Mayor Willey stated that the Council voted for the latest Executive Order currently in effect which will be extended until the end of the year.

Mayor Willey stated that there is an opening on the Planning Commission due to Mr. Cochran resigning and relocating to Annapolis. Mayor Willey stated the Planning Department has recommended moving the alternate Ms. Jennifer Dindinger to a regular appointment and look to fill her alternate position.

Upon motion by Mr. Engle, seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, Ms. Dindinger's regular appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission was approved.

Mayor Willey discussed Halloween and stated that the town is taking no official position as it is not an official town sponsored event. He discussed Trick or treat rules and the necessity to abide by the CDC recommendations.

Mayor Willey stated that there seems to be some concern regarding Economic Development. He stated that no money has been taken away from EBA and no one is being dismissed. Mayor Willey stated that all money is going into one account and is being administered by a joint group. He stated he is looking forward to EEDC handling the economic development functions of the town.

**ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

**RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PARK BOARD REGARDING THE LOCATION OF A PROPOSED DOG PARK.**

Town Manager Mr. Richardson stated there is a recommendation from the Park Board for a dog park at Brewer's Lane on an undeveloped parcel. He stated it is a two-year project with funding from various sources.

Ms. Marilee Ford was present and stated that she is thrilled that the dog park is being considered.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the recommendation from the Park Board for a dog park on Brewer's Lane was remanded to the Planning & Zoning Commission for review and recommendation.

Mr. Richardson stated that the annual leaf pickup is commencing. He asked residents to place their leaves on their property and not on street as it clogs the storm drains.

70  
71 Mr. Richardson stated that the FNH Bond sold at 1.5%.

72  
73 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

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75 The Town Attorney stated that after the next regularly scheduled meeting, a revision to the Rules of the  
76 Council will be discussed.

77  
78 **MR. AL BOND, PRESIDENT & CEO AVALON FOUNDATION, INC. TO UPDATE ON AVALON**  
79 **THEATRE.**

80  
81 Mr. Bond said he is present this evening for informational purposes. He discussed the Avalon Foundation as  
82 a one million-dollar non-profit organization. He stated that their contributed income remains stable and they  
83 should be ok through this fiscal year. He stated they are considering what can be done and realize that not  
84 doing anything is just a reasonable risk. Mr. Bond stated that they did do a Plein Air Festival and a July 4<sup>th</sup>  
85 Celebration.

86  
87 Mr. Bond stated that they plan to open the Theatre with audiences of not more than 20. He discussed the  
88 Stoltz Pavilion Project which will be a 111 x 60 truss tent structure with no poles. It will have clear sightlines  
89 to the stage and be surrounded by a fence. Mr. Bond stated that social distancing with masks 100% of the  
90 time will be required.

91 Mr. Bond stated that the community can use the tent as well for rentals such as Boy Scouts and churches.

92 Parking will be available at Talbottown, with temporary electrical power by Easton Utilities. The condition  
93 of the nearby alley was discussed.

94  
95 Mr. Silverstein asked if they had their permit and would the tent be staffed onsite? Mr. Bond stated that it  
96 will always have staff.

97  
98 Mr. Bond discussed Community Day. He stated that artists are starting to sign up. He stated that the event  
99 should benefit local artists.

100  
101 **MS. TRACY WARD, EASTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION EXECUTIVE**  
102 **DIRECTOR TO UPDATE ON WASHINGTON STREET CLOSURE.**

103  
104 Ms. Ward was present to discuss the lane closure on Washington Street. She stated the restaurants affected  
105 by the Washington Street closure believe it has been successful but they do not think an extension past  
106 November 2 is necessary. She stated there is strong enthusiasm for the courtyard project.

107  
108 Ms. Ward discussed the re-structuring of Easton Business Alliance. She stated she will address the council  
109 again in two weeks for an update. Ms. Ward stated she has had a number of meetings with Public Works to  
110 discuss downtown beautification.

111  
112 Mr. Abbatiello discussed recent suggestions by the beautification committee.

113  
114 Mr. Silverstein stated that any plans need to be run by the Historic District Commission. He stated that the  
115 committees need to be working through the winter to address activities for the downtown and the courtyard.  
116 He discussed the momentum for beautification, added seating such as resting chairs and Adirondack chairs.  
117 He stated that when spring hits, many decisions and hurdles hopefully have been conquered.

118  
119 Rev. Davis asked that the businesses be included to get a well-rounded group.

120  
121 **ORDINANCE NO. 755, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE**  
122 **TOWN OF EASTON TO ACCEPT A PORTION OF GLENWOOD AVENUE FROM TALBOT**  
123 **COUNTY."**

124  
125 President Cook brought Ordinance No. 755 to the floor for a first reading.

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127 **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

128  
129 There were none.

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

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133 Mr. Abbatiello stated that Easton Volunteer Fire Department will hold their 5K Saturday. He stated that  
134 school is back in session.

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President Cook discussed the extension of rails-to-trails. She stated it is very nice.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

At 6:34 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, President Cook adjourned the regularly scheduled Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk