



Town Council MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 20, 2023 - 5:30 PM
Council Chambers, Easton Town Office
14 S Harrison Street

5:30 PM: Call to Order by President Cook.

Mayor Robert C. Willey
Mr. Al Silverstein
Mr. Don Abbatiello
Mr. Ron Engle
Rev. Elmer Davis
President Megan Cook

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

President Cook called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Opening remarks and Pledge of Allegiance by Councilmember Abbatiello.

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

Approval of Minutes.

Minutes of the March 6, 2023 meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, the minutes of the March 6, 2023 meeting were approved as written with Mrs. Cook abstaining due to her absence at the March 6 meeting.

Municipal Official Items.

Items by Mayor Willey.

Approval for the 2020 Bond Projects.

Mr. Engle suggested considering an additional location for another dog park or splitting the funding and making two dog parks.

President Cook agreed that Easton needs a larger dog park.

Mr. Silverstein suggested doing one park and doing it right. He stated he wants to keep the money in the budget to get a dog park built.

Mr. Silverstein discussed \$105,000 for consideration of design for an indoor sports complex. He asked that it be removed and move the money for improvements on rails-to-trail.

President Cook stated one has already been designed and this ties in to it. She stated this is the next step. She stated we have been collecting impact fees for it. President Cook stated repairs to the rails-to-trails is maintenance.

Mr. Richardson stated that what Mr. Silverstein is looking for is accomplished by this expenditure.

Mr. Richardson stated that repairs to the rails-to-trails is in the budget.

Mr. Silverstein stated he would like to see it for both sections; not for the next three to four years.

Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello, seconded by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously, the 2020 Bond Projects as outlined were approved.

Mayor Willey stated that we still need a volunteer for the Board of Zoning Appeals. He stated he will be forwarding a candidate for the Historic District Commission.

Easton Volunteer Fire Department to give update on Day Room.

Rick Stacey, President of Easton Volunteer Fire Department was present to discuss the dayroom expansion and two pieces that are in the build stage.

Rich Williamson, discussed the bids, Josh Startt with Christine Dayton Architect was present to discuss the bids. He stated that Harper and Son came in at \$139,379; Willow Construction came in at \$139,810. He discussed the asbestos abatement of floor tiles which is included in the bid due to the age of the building. With the add-ons, Harper is \$154,279 and Willow is \$158,390. He discussed the fire rated door which is included.

Josh Startt discussed the project being ADA compliant and stated the day-room will be for long-term growth.

Mr. Williamson recommended awarding the bid to the lower bid received from Harper & Son in the amount of \$154,279.

Mr. Silverstein made a motion to accept the bid from Harper & Son in the amount of \$154,279 for the fire department day room; seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously.

Construction will start end of April or May.

Discussion occurred regarding the two pieces of equipment in the build stage.

Jeff Meintzer, Chair of the Apparatus Committee, updated on the engine build. Currently, completion is expected around the end of May.

Mr. Meintzer stated there could be approximately \$10,000 over budget for secondary items.

Items by the Town Manager.

Approval for North Easton Park Storage, Concession and Accessible Restroom Buildings.

Program Open Space Grant Funding:

Mr. Richardson started by giving good news that the Board of Public Works approved Program Open Space through DNR to award a grant in the amount of \$5 million to acquire Woodland Park, 197 acres of land. Mr. Richardson thanked all those associated with the purchase. Mr. Richardson discussed a proposal that will be executed for a local engineering firm that is under the amount for professional services.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the North Easton Park Storage and Concession buildings bid from Gordian and Vigil Contracting in the amount of \$268,597.59 was approved.

Approval to award the Design/Build Pump Track project to Spohn Ranch.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Pres. Cook and carried unanimously, the council approved the award of the Design/Build Pump Track project to Spohn Ranch in the amount of \$200,000

Approval to award bid for Republic Services for a 3-year term for recycling.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the bid in the amount of \$1,653.762 from Republic Services for a three-year term was approved.

Approval of recommendation from Park Advisory Board for field use fees for travel and out-of-town organizations.

Mr. Richardson outlined the Park Advisory Board's recommendation. He discussed organizations that will be exempt from the fees.

Mr. Silverstein asked for a policy that outlines how the exemption is determined. He asked that criteria be outlined for clarification.

Mr. Michael Weise, Park Board, stated that a written criteria has not been established. He stated it can be put in writing.

Rev. Davis suggested establishing a policy.

President Cook discussed a letter received from Dark Horse.

Mr. Weise asked if this could be tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Abbatiello asked if any additional costs regarding Easton Woodland Park could be passed on to the council.

Items by the Town Attorney.

Mrs. VanEmburch discussed the Charter Resolution No. 6162 related to elections. She stated the public hearing could be scheduled for April 17. President Cook set the Public Hearing for 5:40 p.m., April 17.

Mrs. VanEmburch stated that Easton Point Park public hearing is scheduled for April 17 at 5:35 p.m.

Legislation.

Resolution No. 6162, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO ALLOW AN ELECTION TO BE CANCELLED IF ALL OFFICES FOR ELECTION ARE UNCONTESTED."

Resolution No. 6162 was introduced for a first reading.

President Cook set a public hearing for comments for 5:40 p.m. on April 17.

Public Participation/Comments.

There were no comments from the audience.

Items by Members of the Council:

Mr. Al Silverstein stated that he has been listening to the Eastern Shore Delegation meetings. He stated he is concerned about funding for the supplemental budget. He stated that the regional hospital is needed now. He asked Easton that Easton think about committing 1 million dollars and ask the state to commit to \$100 million.

Mr. Don Abbatiello thanked the EEDC for a great St. Patty's Day parade.

Mr. Abbatiello reminded everyone that the Plastic Bag Ordinance goes into effect April 2.

Mr. Ron Engle thanked EEDC for a first rate job.

Rev. Elmer Davis stated that the parade was as good as it gets and a great opportunity for the community to come together. He reminded everyone about the plastic bag ordinance effective April 2.

Rev. Davis stated there are a lot of projects going on in Easton and it is very important that the work product is the best. He stated he is committed to Easton as it is the best place to live.

President Megan Cook thanked EEDC for a great parade and gave a shout out to Starch Your Engines (Easton Town office) for bringing home the Potato Race trophy.

Adjournment.

At 6:15 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, President Cook adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk