



Town Council MEETING MINUTES

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

5:30 PM: Call to Order by Acting President Abbatiello.

Mr. Don Abbatiello
Ms. Maureen Curry
Mr. David Montgomery
Rev. Elmer Davis

Mayor Megan JM Cook was excused.

Also present was the Town Manager, Mr. Don Richardson, Assistant Town Attorney Mr. Will Chapman, and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.

Opening remarks and Pledge of Allegiance by Councilmember Curry.

Ms. Curry gave opening remarks and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes.

Minutes of the June 12, 2023 Council Meeting and Workshop.

Upon motion by Rev. Davis seconded by Ms. Curry and carried unanimously, minutes of the June 12, 2023 meeting were approved as written.

Municipal Official Items.

Items by Town Manager

Public Assembly Event: Annual Elk's Parade, June 25, 2023 3pm

Upon motion by Ms. Curry, seconded by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously, the Public Assembly Event: Annual Elk's Parade scheduled for June 25 was approved. Mr. Richardson stated that the approximate cost to provide traffic control and security during the parade is \$2,600.

Approval for North Easton Park Field Lights.

Upon motion by Ms. Curry seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously, approval for North Easton Park Field Lights from Musco Lighting in the amount of \$541,652 was approved. The amount includes Field 3 and Field 4 in the amount \$521,652 with an additional allowance for unsuitable soils in the amount of \$20,000. Mr. Richardson stated the funding for the project will be from the 2020 Bond.

Approval for Hunters Mill Playground Equipment from Gametime.

Upon motion by Rev. Davis seconded by Ms. Curry and carried unanimously, approval for Hunters Mill Playground Equipment in the amount of \$218,763.73 from Gametime was approved. Mr. Richardson stated the funding will be from the 2020 Bond. Kody Cario confirmed that the bid also includes fencing.

Acting President Abbatiello asked for a periodic update on the 2020 Bond and ARPA expenditures. He also asked for a list of ARPA funding destinations.

Items by Town Attorney.

The Town Attorney, Ms. VanEmburch was excused.
Mr. Chapman had no items this evening.

Legislation.

Res. 6166, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON APPROVING THE

APPLICATION OF BUILDING AFRICAN AMERICAN MINDS, INC., FOR A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$600,000 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MARYLAND COMMUNITY LEGACY PROGRAM."

Upon motion by Rev. Davis seconded by Ms. Curry and carried unanimously, Res. 6166, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON APPROVING THE APPLICATION OF BUILDING AFRICAN AMERICAN MINDS, INC. FOR A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$600,000 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MARYLAND COMMUNITY LEGACY PROGRAM" was approved.

Ms. Dina Daily was present and stated this is their third application. She expressed her gratitude for the Town's support.

Res. No. 6167, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON APPROVING THE APPLICATION OF ARC CENTRAL CHESAPEAKE REGION FOR A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MARYLAND COMMUNITY LEGACY PROGRAM STATE REVITALIZATION PROGRAM."

Upon motion by Ms. Curry seconded by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously, Res. No. 6167, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON APPROVING THE APPLICATION OF ARC CENTRAL CHESAPEAKE REGION FOR A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MARYLAND COMMUNITY LEGACY PROGRAM STATE REVITALIZATION PROGRAM" was approved.

Mr. Ross Benincasa was present on behalf of The Arc. He expressed gratitude for the Council's support.

He stated that this is one piece of the puzzle for The Arc.

Public Participation/Comments.

Michael Feely, The Woods at Stoney Ridge, stated he has been a town resident for 22 years. He discussed a recent visit to Easton's hospital. Mr. Feely stated he has the greatest praise for all those he encountered while at the hospital as they did a marvelous job. He stated her was one of 22 other people that were being treated in the hallway. He stated he thought he would die or be discharged before he got in a room. Mr. Feely stated that in this town, there is a need for growth. He suggests a vo-tech center for students. Mr. Feely stated the council is responsible for his public safety. He stated that actuary tables should be reviewed. He suggests the council consider growth and facts related to additional developments. Mr. Feely asked the council to pause until all things are in place.

Items by Members of the Council:

Ms. Curry stated she recently had an opportunity to meet with Mr. Praeger. She stated he employes 160 people in downtown Easton with full benefits. Ms. Curry stated Mr. Praeger has more projects in the works and she is grateful for the work they have done. Ms. Curry stated she looks forward to working with them in the future.

Mr. Montgomery discussed attending the graduation of the two new police officers in Ocean City. He discussed the impressive level of discipline and enthusiasm. Mr. Montgomery stated he is very pleased with the new employees. Mr. Montgomery advised that one Easton's recruits, graduated at the top of the class.

Mr. Montgomery stated he also attended St. Peter & Paul Church for a marvelous community event, the feast of Corpus Christi Spanish Mass which was quite an event with several hundred in attendance.

Rev. Davis asked to make sure every driver, biker and walker be safe. He stated there are more people walking in the community. Rev. Davis wished the Fire Department good luck at the Fireman's Parade and stated they will come back from Ocean City with awards.

Acting President Abbatiello discussed infrastructure and the state making improvements to Rt. 328. He stated there is a survey for the community to reach out and get on there and tell the state what needs to be fixed. Mr. Abbatiello stated this is a step in the right direction.

Adjournment.

At 6:00 p.m., upon motion by Rev. Davis seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously, Acting President Abbatiello adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk

