



Town Council MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 6, 2021 - 5:30 PM
Council Chambers, Easton Town Office
14 S Harrison Street

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

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

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

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

Opening remarks by Councilmember Donald M. Abbatiello and Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Approval of Minutes of June 7, 2021 meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes of the June 7, 2021 meeting was approved.

Items by the Mayor.

Mayor Willey discussed MD Department of Transportation working on the intersection of RT 322 and Glenwood Avenue and constructing a left turn lane.

Mayor Willey asked for approval for Councilmember Ron Engle's re-appointment as the Town's representative to the County's Tourism Board for an additional three year term.

Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried, the re-appointment was approved.

Mayor Willey stated he is in receipt of a request from Talbot County Library for a donation of \$15,000 from the American Rescue Funds.

Mayor Willey introduced Ms. Holly DeKarske, Director of Downtown Development. He stated that Holly is joining EEDC from Lititz, Pennsylvania.

Ms. DeKarske stated she is working on communication to the public, merchants and council. She stated she has visited the eastern shore numerous times.

Mayor Willey stated he had gone to MML as the Town's representative where the Town of Easton was awarded an Achievement Award for the stream restoration project.

Items by the Town Manager.

Public Assembly Permits:

1. Plein Air - Easton 7/14 - 7/17/21
2. BAMM Inc. 8/8/21
3. Talbot Historical Society Fundraising Gala 9/24/21

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, the Public Assembly Permits were approved with the caveat that the Talbot Historical Society Fundraising Gala would not have road closures but would employ a crossing guard at their own expense.

Approval for the purchase of Tractor from Atlantic Tractor of Queen Anne, MD

The Town Manager stated that the tractor is vital for the construction of the rails to trails.

Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the purchase of the tractor from Atlantic Tractor was approved.

Approval for the purchase of Box Scraper from Burke Equipment of Felton, DE

Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello and seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the purchase of the box scrape from Burke Equipment was approved.

Items by the Town Attorney.

The Town Attorney, Mrs. VanEmburch stated that throughout Covid pandemic, there were several Executive Ordinances for consideration. She stated that there will be legislation forthcoming for introduction at the next meeting.

Chief David Spencer to introduce new Easton Police Department recruits

Chief Spencer introduced recent graduates of the 86th Police Academy Class which graduated June 17; Officer Christopher Adam Doyle, Officer Catelin Helen Clopein, Officer Nicholas Carey-Comp Lange.

5:35PM PUBLIC HEARING regarding the Proposed New Zoning Code and Map.

At 5:50 p.m., President Cook opened the scheduled Public Hearing.

Mr. Lynn Thomas, Town Planner was present to discuss the history of the update for the new Zoning Code and map.

Mr. Rick Covell, Matthewstown discussed R-10A. He discussed a resident in Matthewstown that has six to seven vehicles and a couple jetskis. Mr. Covell suggested verbiage that would limit the amount of vehicles allowed in a residential development.

Mr. Glenn Klakring commented on the proposed table of land uses. He discussed the Light Industrial permitted uses. He stated it leaves open a use to come in with no public notice. Mr. Klakring stated it is important to get notice to the community what may be proposed in the generic Light Industrial Zoning.

Mr. Jim Carr, 107 Brookletts Avenue questioned the language for Article VI, Jurisdiction and giving the Commission the ability to make a decision.

Ms. Lynn Mielke, Easton Club discussed the need for concerned citizens to review a PUD as well as principal uses in a proposed PUD.

Mr. Joe Minarick, East End Neighborhood Association summarized concerns developed by East End Neighborhood Association. He discussed sign regulations regarding signs affixed to fences. He stated he does not see a need for short term uses.

There being no further public comment, President Cook stated that the record will remain open. She stated that this is a significant document and continued discussion will be broken down in workshops prior to the regularly scheduled council meetings on July 19 and August 2.

Mr. Silverstein stated he has concerns and encouraged those with comments to share them with the council and staff.

Ord. 766, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO PURCHASE TWO PARCELS OF LAND LOCATED OFF OF PORT STREET AT EASTON POINT WHICH ARE PARCELS 215 AND 158 ON TALBOT COUNTY TAX MAP 34."

Mr. Richardson stated that creating a waterfront park has been in the works since 2019. He stated that this purchase is a major milestone for the town. He discussed funding resources from a grant and the obligation to bind our 2020 Bond dollars. Mr. Richardson stated that the funding for this acquisition is in place.

Mr. Engle concurred that this is something that the Town has been working on for some time. Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously following a roll call vote, Ordinance No. 766 was approved.

Res. No. 6137, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LICENSE AGREEMENT TO ALLOW AN ENCROACHMENT INTO A UTILITY EASEMENT AT 28305 AYERS SQUARE IN THE TOWN OF EASTON."

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein second by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, Res. No. 6137 was approved.

Review of invoices totaling \$1,766,180.78

Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, invoices totaling \$1,766,180.78 were approved.

Public Comments.

There were no public comments.

Items by Members of the Council:

Mr. Silverstein discussed the rails-to-trails and reminded everyone to be safe.

Mr. Abbatiello stated that those interested in the Planning and Zoning meeting and the Elk's development project, it can be viewed on Zoom. He stated that Mr. Richardson is working with Easton Utilities to understand the cell towers. He thanked Kirk Burris for his service with the town at the EVFD for 27 years and wished him the best. He wished his wife a Happy Anniversary.

Mr. Engle reminded everyone that the Plein Air Festival is starting next weekend. He stated that exhibits will be at the Art Museum. He stated that he is pleased that the Planning and Zoning Commission has incorporated affordable housing in the community.

Rev. Davis stated that the zoning changes need more clarity and constituents need to know what we are doing up front. Rev. Davis wished fellow councilperson Don Abbatiello a Happy Anniversary and stated that everyone needs to be aware of the cell towers.

Adjournment

At 6:35 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