



Town Council MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 19, 2021 - 5:30 PM
Council Chambers, Easton Town Office
14 S Harrison Street

4:30 PM WORKSHOP: Zoning Ordinance and Map, Articles I-V.

Mr. Thomas stated he has forwarded changes as well as comments from the Town Attorney. President Cook asked that Mr. Thomas discuss the changes to the Zoning Ordinance.

Mr. Silverstein stated that consideration should be given for a definition of recreational marijuana. He stated we should be prepared as we move forward.
Article I.

Mrs. Cook discussed adding definitions. She discussed illustrations in the Zoning Ordinance.
Article II.

Permitted Uses were discussed which includes Micro Breweries compared to Brew Pub; manufacturing versus serving food and beverage.
Article III.

R7A Residential - 2nd and 3rd stories downtown was discussed.

Mr. Abbatiello asked why Mr. Gannon's property is zoned A-1 instead of R-10A. Tree heights were discussed.
Article IV.

Mr. Thomas stated it is a stand-alone Article. It is the Town's Critical Area Ordinance and is required to be updated. He stated it incorporates the latest state model with two exceptions which allow the Town of Easton to create new IDA of less than 20 acres.

Mr. Thomas stated that there has been a request of Ryan Showalter to accommodate adding an Emergency Use to the Poplar Hill Farm.

Mr. Thomas stated that when the Zoning Ordinance is approved and signed off, then the Critical Area will approve their Ordinance.
Article V.

Sidewalk provisions have been added where standards exist. "Adequate Open Space" has been removed.

The Zoning Map will be discussed at the upcoming workshop.

Mr. Silverstein thanked the Planning Commission for their work on the revisions.

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

At 05:30 PM, President Cook called the meeting to order.
President Cook stated that the council met at 4:30 p.m. for a workshop regarding Articles 1-5 of the Zoning Ordinance. Additional workshops will be scheduled for further discussion.

Opening remarks by Councilmember Engle and Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Approval of Minutes of July 6, 2021.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes of the July 6 meeting were approved as written.

Items by the Mayor.

Mayor Willey stated there will be a short workshop August 16, at 5:00 p.m. to explain the PILOT from Easton Utilities.

Mayor Willey discussed a short meeting with Trappe Town Council and their Attorney regarding wastewater.

Items by the Town Manager.

Public Assembly Permits:

Frederick Douglas Mural Dedication, 9/4/21@11AM

Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, Frederick Douglas Mural Dedication, 9/4/21@11AM was approved.

Academy Art Museum Craft Show, 10/16-10/17

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, Academy Art Museum Craft Show, 10/16-10/17 was approved.

Santa 5K Fun Run, 12/11 @ 8AM

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously, Santa 5K Fun Run, 12/11 @ 8AM was approved.

Items by the Assistant Town Attorney.

Assistant Town Attorney Mr. Chapman stated he has nothing at this time.

Elect Chairperson for Police Board.

Mr. Silverstein made a motion to elect Rev. Elmer Davis as Chairman to the Police Board.

Mrs. Cook made a motion to table the matter.

Mr. Silverstein read from the Charter regarding the Chairperson position.

Mayor Willey discussed the procedures and stated that revisions are on the Town Attorney's to-do list especially with the new legislation coming in to place.

President Cook stated that it would be beneficial to tap into Rev. Davis' knowledge.

Mr. Engle stated that the Town needs to be aggressive due to the Police Department's climate.

Mr. Silverstein seconded President Cook's motion to table the appointment.

Chesapeake Bay Recreation Area Presentation.

Mr. Reed Perry, external affairs manager for the Chesapeake Conservancy was present to discuss an effort to make the larger Chesapeake Bay area part of the National Park Service.

He discussed a mission to conserve and restore the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Mr. Perry discussed Easton, Maryland as a bay hub. He stated it may be a visitors' center or parkland. A federal working group has been formed to explore the possibility of designating the Chesapeake recreation area. He stated the designation could attract residences and businesses and impact the quality of life.

Mr. Perry stated that Senator VanHollen, and Senator Sarbanes intend to take the proposal to the public and provide input. He stated the Chesapeake National Recreation Area would be part of the National Park Service as a recognized national recognized area.

President Cook asked for a timeline.

Mr. Matt Provost, VP of development was present.

The representatives stated they are very close to seeing a draft bill. Mr. Perry stated that there will be two to three months of regional community meetings.

Mayor Willey asked what the next steps are for the Town of Easton.

Mr. Perry stated that the Conservancy welcomes the Town's input.

President Cook asked that contact information be left with Tracy Ward, EEDC.

Resolution No. 6138, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON APPROVING 25 MILES PER HOUR MAXIMUM SPEED LIMITS AND AUTHORIZING 25 MILES PER HOUR SPEED LIMIT SIGNS TO BE PLACED ON ALL ROADS IN THE EASTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY."

Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6138 was approved.

Public Comments.

There were no public comments.

Adjournment.

At 6:18 PM , upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, President Cook adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk