Town Council
MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 16, 2021 - 5:30 PM
Council Chambers, Easton Town Office
14 S Harrison Street

5:00 PM Workshop regarding PILOT overview and update.

President Cook opened the workshop at 5:02 p.m.
Mr. Hugh E. Grunden, P.E. President & CEO, Steven J. Ochse, Senior Vice President of Finance & CFO, John J. Horner, Senior Vice President of Operations & COO were present for the workshop regarding Payment in Lieu of Taxes. Mr. Grunden discussed the structure of Easton Utilities which is outlined in the Charter under Article IV. He stated that the commissioners are appointed by Mayor Willey and the electric and gas entities are fully regulated by the Public Service Commission. Mr. Grunden stated that the PILOT is calculated from the electric and cable June 30 balances and paid monthly. He stated if the PILOT had been calcuated on the CPI, it would have been considerably less. President Cook asked how the 4.5 and 4.0 percent was derived. Mr. Grunden explained that it was done some time ago. Mr. Silverstein asked if gas, water and sewer could be included in the calculation. Mr. Grunden explained that the IT services are figured with the cable department. Mr. Richardson discussed the less related debts.

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

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

Opening remarks by Councilmember Silverstein and Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Approval of Minutes of August 2, 2021 meetings.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously, minutes of the August 2, 2021 meetings were approved as written.

Items by the Mayor.

Mayor Willey advised that he has been notified that Governor Hogan will be visiting Easton Thursday.

Items by the Town Manager.

Mr. Richardson stated that he has a request from Easton Police Department to amend the previously approved Avalon Outdoor Concert Series. He stated that the concert previously scheduled for last Saturday has been re-schjeduled to August 28.
Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the change of date was approved.

Items by the Town Attorney.

The Town Attorney, Mrs. VanEmburgh stated she has nothing at this time.

Fire Board.

President Rick Stacey discussed fundraising. He stated the Fire Department is reinstituting bingo, and the beerfest is scheduled for October 2. He stated that the golf tournament is also scheduled for September. President Stacey stated they are looking for hole sponsors for the golf tournament. He stated that the 5K will be held later this year. He stated that the Department is looking at county allotments and COVID funding. Chris Hash is working on Fire & Ice.
Chief CR Chance re-emphasized that on Tuesday September 7, they will have a truck out of service for a month. He discussed the new ambulance delivery which should occur next week.
Discussion occurred regarding the 9/11 ceremony at Dogwood Harbour in Tilghman.
Applications for new members was discussed.
Lt. Daryl Caldwell discussed working on the proposed training ground facility. He stated that they are working with Rauch Engineering The address for the training facility will be 9095 Mistletoe Drive, Lot 8. Lt. Caldwell displayed the fire training building as well as a pole barn (additional educational building). He stated that nothing toxic will be used for training. There will be very little smoke and the materials burn up then is washed away. He stated that some of the trees will be maintained. There will also be a fenced area with lights.
Jeff Meintzer was present for the discussion regarding engine replacement. The Department would like approval for the truck purchase the first meeting in September. He stated that they have 45 days to accept bids. There are three manufacturers deemed appropriate. Mr. Meintzer stated that E-One was not included. He stated that they are specking truck which can maneuver in tight streets which is appropriate for new neighborhoods. The bids received were as follows:
Seagrave fire apparatus: $769,790 (entire truck stainless)
Sutphein: $688,633.66
E-One did not complete the bid as they could not provide two trucks. Both of the other bids submitted

have a 45-day acceptance for the proposal with a 13 to 15 month build time, subject to availability of materials. Mr.Meintzer stated that the Department is still trying to accomplish a 25 year replacement for trucks.

Resolution No. 6139, Abate Real Property Taxes.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6139, Abate Real Property Taxes. was approved following a roll call vote.

5:35 PM: PUBLIC HEARING to discuss Ordinance Number 765, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 10 OF THE TOWN OF EASTON CODE REGARDING SIDEWALK CAFES."

At 5:58 p.m., President Cook opened the public hearing to receive comment on Ordinance No. 765. There were no comments.
At 5:59 p.m., President Cook closed the public hearing.

Ordinance No. 765, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 10 OF THE TOWN OF EASTON CODE REGARDING SIDEWALK CAFES."

President Cook brought Ordinance No. 765 to the floor for a vote.Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 765, was approved following a roll call vote.

Public Comments.

There were no public comments at this time.

Items by Members of the Council:

There were no comments at this time.

Workshop to discuss American Rescue Act Plan.

At 6:01 p.m., President Cook convened a workshop to discuss the ARPA funds.
Mayor Willey discussed receiving a check for 8.2 million dollars. He stated that some of the funding will be used to address stormwater drainage problems. He discussed a tour of The Hill Neighborhood looking at their drainage issues and the East Avenue drainage problem. Mayor Willey stated that there are non-profits that need funding. He stated that there is an application that will be available on the Town's website. Mayor Willey stated that the council will need to approve requested projects. He stated that Easton Point Park may qualify for some funds. Mayor Willey discussed working with a committee then bringing an budget modification ordinance for council consideration.
Rev. Davis asked how the not-for-profit would know apply.
Mayor stated the application will be on the town's web.
Mr. Richardson stated that the funding must meet the categories then also fit within the subcategories.

CLOSED SESSION: General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(4) To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand or remain in the State.

At 6:08 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously, President Cook convened into Closed Session to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate or remain in the state.
Discussion occurred regarding a business that would like to purchase property.
Discussion occurred regarding property recently purchased by the Town of Easton.
At 6:18 p.m., President Cook, upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, reconvened into Open Session.

Adjournment

At 6:19 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, President Cook adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk