



Town Council MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 7, 2021 - 5:30 PM
Council Chambers, Easton Town Office
14 S Harrison Street

4:30 PM WORKSHOP: Zoning Ordinance and Map, Articles VI-XV.

At 4:30 p.m., President Cook called the workshop to order.

Mr. Thomas stated that this is a continuation of the previously held Zoning Ordinance workshops. He discussed mapping and the rail trail and the possibility of subdividing property.

President Cook asked for clarification regarding the change for rezoning due to the mistake rule.

Discussion occurred regarding density. Clarification was made that there are 32 units in the Shireton. Article VIII: Mr. Thomas stated that there are no substantive changes in the Planned Healthcare District.

Article IX: Mr. Thomas stated that regarding Site Plan Review, there is a minor change to clarify procedural requirements for submission.

Mr. Thomas stated middle housing types are to be added as well as parking standards.

Charging stations in parking lots were discussed.

Residential garages were discussed. It was the decision of the Council to eliminate Article 1007.1.6f. regarding attached garages not extending closer to the street from which it is accessed than the house to which it is attached.

At 5:23 p.m., President Cook adjourned the workshop and stated that the continuation of the Zoning Workshop would occur at the September 20 meeting prior to the regularly scheduled council meeting.

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

Mayor Robert C. Willey (by Zoom)

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 notified the public that the Easton Town Council met in Closed Session on Monday, August 16, 2021 at 6:08 p.m. in the Easton Council Chambers. The purpose of the Closed Session was: to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand or remain in the State pursuant to General Provisions Article Section 3-305(b)(4). It was unanimous of all five council members present to close the meeting. The following individuals were present: Mayor Robert C. Willey, Town Manager Donald Richardson, Town Attorney Shavon VanEmburch, Council President Megan Cook, Council Members Al Silverstein, Donald Abbatiello, Ron Engle, and Rev. Elmer Davis and Town Clerk, Kathy Ruf. The Town Council discussed two matters that involve the expansion of two separate businesses. No action was taken. The Closed Session adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Opening remarks by Councilmember Abbatiello and Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mr. Abbatiello reflected on the 20th Anniversary of the 911 events.

Approval of Minutes of August 16, 2021 meetings.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, minutes of the September 7, 2021 meetings were approved as written.

Items by the Town Manager.

Request to accept bid from Maryland Industrial Trucks, Inc. for 2023 New Way Cobra Rearload Refuse Truck in the amount of \$169,491.

Mr. Silverstein discussed the lead time for delivery of the truck and questioned if there is interest in using a local vendor.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the request to accept the bid from Maryland Industrial Trucks was approved.

Request to award bid to Bramble in the amount of \$328,678 for the Calvert Street Extension.

Mr. Richardson stated that the funding for the Calvert Street extension will be funded through previously issued bonds and impact fees.

President Cook stated that the bid is significantly over budget.

The Town Engineer, Mr. VanEmburch was present and stated that the project can be valued engineered and some cost savings may be realized. He stated he has spoken to Bramble and they are agreeable to discuss items that may be cost effective. The Town Engineer's recommendation is to accept the bid and go over the details with Bramble and look at opportunities to reduce costs. The President of the Council asked to be mindful of the sidewalk.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the request to award the bid to Bramble in the amount of \$328,678 was approved.

Items by the Town Attorney.

The Town Attorney Mrs. VanEmburch discussed the bid that was just approved. She stated that a small portion on Calvert Street is on private property and the owner will donate the land to the town. She stated she will have an ordinance in October for that undertaking.

5:35 PM PUBLIC HEARING to discuss Ordinance No. 768, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE TOWN BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2022 FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT."

At 5:43 p.m., President Cook opened the 5:35 p.m. scheduled public hearing. She stated that the next agenda will have the continuation of the public hearing.

Mr. Richardson discussed the American Rescue Plan Act and the allowable categories for funding.

Mr. Silverstein stated that non-profits can download the application and meet the specifications.

She asked for any comments. There were none.

President Cook stated she would leave the Public Hearing open and continue the hearing at the next scheduled meeting on October 20.

Ordinance No. 768, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE TOWN BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2022 FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT."

President Cook brought Ordinance No. 768 to the floor for a first reading.

Request for Public Hearing regarding Planned Unit Development of Gannon Estates, proposed for 29659 Matthewstown Road .

President Cook set the requested Public Hearing date for October 18, 2021 at 5:35 p.m.

Review of invoices totaling \$1,308,327.37.

Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, invoices totaling \$1,308,327.37 were approved.

Public Comments.

There were none.

Items by Members of the Council:

Mr. Silverstein stated that school is back in session. He reminded everyone to be extremely careful and to stop at crosswalks and be mindful of buses.

President Cook asked that everyone be patient, especially at drop off and pickup at schools.

Mr. Abbatiello thanked Mr. Connelly and town staff for the work on the ARPA federal funds and applications.

Mr. Abbatiello stated he appreciated the unveiling of the mural this past weekend. He said it was amazing.

Mr. Engle stated he had a 90 minute engaging history lesson.

Rev. Davis thanked Mr. Connelly for his hard work. He stated he had received comments regarding access to the application, which has been great.

Rev. Davis stated that the mural was nice and he had a good time.

Rev. Davis advised that traffic is backed up due to school and asked everyone to take their time. He stated he wanted everyone to be safe in the community.

President Cook reminded everyone of the 911 Celebrations in the community.

Adjournment

At 5:56 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