



Town Council MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025 - 5:30 PM
Council Chambers, Easton Town Office
14 S Harrison Street

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

Mayor Megan JM Cook
Council President Frank Gunsallus
Ms. Maureen Curry
Mr. Don Abbatiello
Dr. David Montgomery
Rev. Elmer Davis

Also present was the Interim Town Manager, Mr. Alan Lowrey, Assistant Town Attorney Mr. Will Chapman, Deputy Chief Greg Wright and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.

Opening remarks and Pledge of Allegiance from Councilmember Abbatiello.

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

Approval of Minutes.

Minutes from the March 3, 2025 meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello, seconded by Ms Curry and carried unanimously, the minutes of the March 3, 2025 meeting were approved as written.

Municipal Official Items.

Items by Mayor Cook.

Mayor Cook stated that at the last meeting she recommended the appointment of Mr. Leshner to the Easton Utilities Commission. She stated Mr. Leshner did pull his application, so the process is starting over again. She stated she has received a couple of emails with new applications and, hopefully, there will be someone filling that position by the end of May. Mayor Cook stated that the South Aurora sidewalk is coming along and hopefully will be done by the end of next week. Mayor Cook thanked Public Works for all their hard work. The Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with the YMCA and Talbot Thrive for a walk around town.

Mayor Cook offered congratulations to the potato race teams. She congratulated the Town of Easton team for winning first place.

Items by Interim Town Manager

Approval of Property Maintenance Services Bid to enforce Town Codes as recommended by staff.

Mr. Diem discussed the reason for the bid award and the services required. He stated he is asking for approval of two contractors in case one contractor is not responsive.

Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello, seconded by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously, approval of the Property Maintenance Services Bid to enforce Town Codes was approved.

Approval for Upcoming Public Assembly Events:

- Academy Art Museum Bugatti on Wheels, 3/29/25

Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello, seconded by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously, approval was granted.

- 2025 Farmer's Market, 4/12 - 12/27/25

Upon motion by Mr. Montgomery, seconded by Ms. Curry and carried unanimously, approval was granted.

- Bluepoint Hospitality Group First Responder's Month Kickoff, 6/12/25 11:30am - 1pm

Upon motion by Ms. Curry, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously, approval was granted.

- 2025 Plein Air, 7/12 - 7/19/25

Upon motion by Rev. Davis, seconded by Ms. Curry and carried unanimously, approval was granted.

- Hispanic Heritage Month Event, 9/13/25 11am - 6pm

Upon motion by Rev. Davis, seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, approval was granted.

Mayor Cook was asked about the EV chargers on Brewer's Lane. Mayor Cook stated that they are slow charging. She stated that John Hines has not been able to find a vendor for that number of charging stations and he has made a recommendation to take the chargers down and convert the space to parking spaces.

Items by Town Attorney.

The Town Attorney, Ms. VanEmburch stated she has nothing at this time.

Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING to solicit public comment on Ordinance Number 837, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO ACCEPT A PARK AND VARIOUS ROADS WHICH ARE PART OF EASTON VILLAGE ON THE TRED AVON RIVER FROM EASTON VILLAGE, LLC."

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

Jeff Champion, President of HOA read a statement. He stated the punch list should be completed to protect the community as well as the town.

Mark Ebersberger, 8243 Easton Village Drive, 8237 Easton Village Drive, have a shared driveway. He asked the Town to incorporate into an alley.

James Brennan, Village Lake Way, thanked the Town of Easton while Easton Village was being built. discussed conservation easement and respect for properties. He discussed Vicker's Park.

Mr. Ebersberger discussed his shared driveway.

Rev. Davis asked if the concerns should be addressed before legislation is enacted.

Ms. Curry stated she has questions regarding the bond.

Ryan Showalter discussed improvements and stated that as work is completed, the bond is reduced. He discussed the conservation easement and stated Vicker's Park is encumbered by the conservation easement.

Ms. Curry stated she would like to table the legislation until the next meeting.

Legislation.

Ord. No. 837, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO ACCEPT PARK AND VARIOUS ROADS WHICH ARE PART OF EASTON VILLAGE ON THE TRED AVON RIVER FROM EASTON VILLAGE, LLC."

Ordinance No. 837 was tabled until the next meeting.

Public Participation/Comments.

Owners of Legal Assets to address Council regarding Public Assembly Permit Process.

Valerie Clark discussed closing of the street on Valentine's Day. She questioned the policy and procedure for obtaining a Public Assembly Event. She questioned what to do as a merchant.

Ms. Curry stated the public assembly permit may be able to be streamlined as well as the approval process. She stated she would like to see more coordination. She stated she would be happy to take on the approval process.

Dr. Montgomery stated he would like a procedure to have businesses have input.

Ms. Curry stated the public assembly permit process needs to be tightened.

Rev. Davis stated he has an issue with communication with businesses.

Discussion occurred on the timetable to submit Public Assembly Events.

Ms. Clark discussed accessibility and the ability to be able to get notice to businesses.

Mayor Cook asked that the staff be given an opportunity to work on a process.

Erin Saunter, 2956 Brant Court discussed walk-able communities.

Mr. Steve Mangassarian, S. Aurora Street, discussed the theme of good neighbors. He stated that during the Farmer's Market, access to the parking lot is blocked, food is dumped into their dumpster, and children use the bathroom outside.

Review of Invoices.

Invoices from 2/5/2025 thru 2/26/2025 totaling \$1,163,767.50.

Upon motion by Ms. Curry, seconded by President Gunsallus and carried unanimously, the invoices were approved.

Items by Members of the Council:

Ms. Curry thanked Discover Easton for an outstanding St. Patrick's Day Parade. She encouraged community input.

Mr. Abbatiello thanked Discover Easton for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. He reminded everyone of the parade scheduled for March 30 to commemorate the Vietnam War.

Dr. Montgomery thanked everyone for coming to the council. He discussed events the council is approving and stated he is looking forward to what Mayor Cook is bringing back to the council. He stated he was considering Chatham Village inspections.

Rev. Davis thanked everyone for the St. Patrick's Day parade. He stated he hopes on March 30, people will come out for the Vietnam Veterans' parade.

President Gunsallus echoed the sentiments for the Vietnam War Veterans. He thanked the police and Discover Easton for a great St. Patrick's Day parade.

Adjournment.

At 6:57 p.m., upon motion by President Gunsallus, seconded by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously, President Gunsallus adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk