



Town Council MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 5, 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
Mr. David Montgomery
Rev. Elmer Davisuty

Also present was the Acting Town Manager Mr. Alan Lowrey, Deputy Chief Greg Wright, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch, and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.

At 05:30 PM, President Gunsallus called the meeting to order.

Opening remarks and Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Curry gave opening remarks and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes.

Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2025.

Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello, seconded by Ms. Curry and carried unanimously, minutes of the April 21, 2025 meeting were approved as written.

Municipal Official Items.

Items by Mayor Cook.

Mayor Cook advised that Harrison Street will be closed due to stormdrain construction work until Thursday. Mayor Cook advised that Governor Moore was in town last week. Secretary Day was also in town for a town tour. Easton Utilities was presented with funding for their Broadband. The Easton Main Street Conference will be held in Easton on October 7 and EEDC will be looking for volunteers.

Appointment of Town Manager.

Mayor Cook thanked Chief Lowrey for filling the role as Interim Town Manager. Mayor Cook stated she was pleased with the process for the selection of Town Manager. She discussed the process and stated that there were four final candidates. Mayor Cook stated she was proud to recommend Mr. Andrew Kitzrow. Mayor Cook discussed his previous experience.

Upon motion by Mr. Montgomery, seconded by Ms. Curry and carried unanimously following a roll call vote, Mr. Andrew Kitzrow's appointment as Town Manager was approved.

Items by Town Manager

Public Assembly Request: EHS Class of 2025 Senior Parade, May 27

Public Assembly Request: Outdoor Summer Concert Series, June 14 - August 30

Public Assembly Request: Carols by Candlelight, November 29 (Appeal by Applicant)

Public Assembly for EHS Senior Parade: Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello, seconded by Ms. Curry and carried unanimously, the Public Assembly was approved.

Outdoor Summer Concert Series: Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello, seconded by Ms. Curry and carried unanimously, the Public Assembly was approved.

Carols by Candlelight, 40th Anniversary, Ms. Courage was not present.

Upon motion by Mr. Montgomery, seconded by Ms. Curry and carried unanimously, the

appeal was turned down.
Rev. Davis voiced concerns regarding safety and liability for the proposed location.

Chief Lowrey stated that in response to the question regarding security, the amount allocated for security downstairs is \$3,897.00.

Items by Town Attorney.

The Town Attorney stated that the council needs to approve the contract for the Town Manager.

Upon motion by Rev. Davis, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously following a roll call vote, the contract for Andrew Kitzrown was approved.

Fire Board.

President Richard Williams was present to give updates on the Fire Department. Pres. Williams welcomed the new Town Manager.

Easton Beer Fest is scheduled for August 16 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Capt. Justin Jones discussed statistics: 337 personnel hours, 8 drills, 880 personal hours, 1081 for work details and other details of the 4970 who gave up their time in the past 4 months.

Public Hearing.

5:40 PM Public Hearing to consider the fiscal year 2025-2026 Budget.

President Gunsallus asked for Council comments.

Mayor Cook stated she appreciated the council for their work on the budget and asked for their consideration.

Ms. Curry thanked everyone for making this budget work this year.

Dr. Montgomery congratulated the Mayor on a balanced budget.

President Gunsallus asked for public comments. There were none.

Upon motion by Rev. Davis, seconded by Mr. Abbatiello, President Gunsallus closed the Public Hearing.

Legislation.

Ord. 839, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON ESTABLISHING THE TOWN BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026."

Upon motion by Mr. Montgomery, seconded by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously, Ord. 839 was approved.

Ord. 841, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE RAISING BY TAXATION THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO PAY THE ORDINARY EXPENSES OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON THE VARIOUS BOND ISSUES AND THE REDUCTION OF CERTAIN BONDS AND NOTES FOR THE PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS AND SETTING THE INTEREST AND PENALTY FOR DELINQUENT BILLS COMMENCING ON JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026."

Upon motion by Dr. Montgomery, seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, Ord. 841 was approved.

Ord. 842, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING CHAPTER 28 OF THE TOWN CODE (ZONING) TO REVISE THE SUPPLEMENTAL STANDARDS PERTAINING TO THE SEAFOOD PROCESSING USE."

Ord. 842 was referred to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a recommendation. The Town Attorney stated that a Public Hearing could be scheduled as soon as June 2.

Res. 6206, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON REVISING THE TOWNS LICENSE, APPLICATION, PERMITS, INSPECTION, CERTIFICATE AND OTHER FEES."

Mr. Lowrey stated that recycling fees are being increased as well as some permit fees.

Upon motion by Dr. Montgomery seconded Ms. Curry and carried unanimously, Res. 6206 was approved.

Public Participation/Comments.

Mr. Peter Maloney, 301 S Aurora Street, discussed odors from a seafood business. He asked the council to uphold the ordinance regarding the seafood industry. Mr. Maloney stated that the seafood processing facility should never have been able to operate from that location.

Mr. Philip Bernot, 303 S Aurora discussed property values that may be affected due to the odor.
Ms. Melissa Corley, 211 Corley St., stated the seafood processor needs to control the odor.
Mr. Jim Carr, Brookletts Ave questioned what the town council can do.
Ms. Carla Howell asked why this had been brought up again.
Ms. Emily Stone, 417 S Aurora stated that this business is not worth sacrificing their homes.
Ms. Jessica Amber Kiehl, 211 E Earle Ave, stated she supports the original ordinance. She stated that the smell is thoroughly offensive.
Mr. Shawn Nuthall, 310 S Aurora St urged the council to abide by the passed legislation.
Mr. Lance Simon, 35 Mt Pleasant Ave, wishes to applaud Mayor Cook for clarifying the misinformation. He discussed partisanship.
Ms. Shari Wilcoxon thanked Frank Gunsallus for his leadership. She stated she is proud of the work he has accomplished. She wished him the best of luck and thanked everyone that is running.
At 6:27 p.m., President Gunsallus closed the public comments.

Items by Members of the Council:

Ms. Curry stated she is excited about the Main Street Maryland Conference coming to Easton. She stated the polls open at 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. She asked the listening audience to go out and vote.
Mr. Abbatiello thanked Chief Lowrey for his service as the Interim Town Manager.
Dr. Montgomery thanked Chief Lowrey for his accomplishments as Interim Town Manager. He stated he had set a high standard for his replacement. Dr. Montgomery discussed revisions to the town's website.
Rev. Davis thanked Chief Lowrey for filling in and thanked the individuals for their unwavering commitment.
Pres. Gunsallus thanked Chief Lowrey for his time as Interim Town Manager. He thanked everyone that had attended this evening. He stated it has been an honor to serve as President of the Council.
Pres. Gunsallus thanked the community to allowing him to serve them.

Review of Invoices.

Invoices from 4/2/25 thru 4/30/25 totaling \$2,349,927.67.

Upon motion by Ms. Curry, seconded by Dr. Montgomery and carried unanimously, invoices totaling \$2,349,927.67 were approved.

Adjournment.

At 6:38 p.m., upon motion by Rev. Davis, seconded by Dr. Montgomery and carried unanimously, President Gunsallus adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk