



Town Council MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 21, 2025 - 5:30 PM
Council Chambers, Easton Town Office
14 S Harrison Street

5:00 PM Police Board.

Mayor Megan JM Cook
President Don Abbatiello
Ms. Maureen Curry
Mr. Robert Rankin
Mr. David Montgomery
Rev. Elmer Davis

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

Quarter 2.

Deputy Chief Greg Wright discussed this past quarter. He discussed a recent basketball game played with BMM and suggested a rematch.

Deputy Chief Wright stated that officers had recently attended a Certified Bike Patrol class. He stated it will get them on a regular patrol to put officers on bicycles to gain visibility and engage more. He discussed conversations about scooters and e-bikes. He stated that the officers are doing research to create an ordinance to make the community safer. Community officers on bikes have logged over 200 miles. Deputy Chief Wright stated that Talbot County has had a decline in overdoses but cocaine and crack are coming back into circulation.

EPD is working through the budget. He stated it is slimmer than it ever has been.

Rev. Davis thanked Deputy Wright for the extra patrol checks in his neighborhood.

Deputy Wright stated that there is a lot more interest in applying for police officer jobs, but it doesn't always work out. EPD has been receiving help regarding hiring and retention.

Deputy Wright discussed the Christmas in July fundraiser and National Night Out.

At 5:13 p.m., President Abbatiello recessed the Police Board meeting.

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

At 5:30 PM, President Abbatiello called the meeting to order.

Opening remarks and Pledge of Allegiance by Councilmember Rankin.

Councilmember Rankin gave opening remarks and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes.

Meeting Minutes from July 7, 2025.

Upon motion by Rev. Davis, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously, the minutes of the July 7, 2025 meeting were approved as written.

Municipal Official Items.

Items by Mayor Cook.

Mayor Cook updated on Town of Easton employee retirements.

Mayor Cook gave a security update on the Town office building. She stated there will be a new exterior door, new window, a security door to hallway, and new council chamber doors. She stated that it should be completed in the next two months.

Mayor Cook stated there is a new speed limit signs near Mile Post Drive and cars seem to be slowing down.

Mayor Cook updated on the East Ave storm drain project. She stated that it is National Parks and Recreation Month and thanked all that participated.

She extended a thank you to Deputy Chief Wright for stepping in for Chief Lowery as he filled in as the Interim Town Manager.

Mayor Cook asked that the Boards and Commissions appointments will be differed to the next meeting.

Confirmation of (re)appointments to Boards & Commissions.
The confirmations were deferred to next meeting.

Items by Town Manager.

Public Assembly Request: Mini Festival, Chesapeake Creative Wellness, 8/9 - 10/11
The Town Manager, Andy Kitzrow, asked for approval for the Mini Festival Public Assembly Request.
Upon motion by Rev. Davis, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously, the festival was approved.

Public Assembly Request: For All Seasons, School Supplies Giveaway, 8/20/25
The Town Manager, Andy Kitzrow, asked for approval for All Seasons School Supplies Giveaway request.
Upon motion by Ms. Curry, seconded by Mr. Rankin and carried unanimously, the Public Assembly request was approved.

Public Assembly Request: Commemoration of September 11, 2001 events, 9/11/25 7:30am - 9:30am.
The Town Manager, Andy Kitzrow, asked for approval for September 11, Commemoration Public Assembly Request.
Upon motion by Mr. Montgomery, seconded by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously; the Public Assembly request was approved.

Items by Town Attorney.

Ms. VanEmburch, Town Attorney asked that the campaign finance workshop be scheduled. President Abbatiello scheduled the workshop for August 4, at 4:30 p.m.
President Abbatiello scheduled the joint meeting with the Planning Commission for August 25 at 4:00 p.m.

Legislation.

Res. No. 6211, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF AN INDEMNITY DEED OF TRUST AND OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS AS SECURITY FOR THE EASTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S LOAN TO BUILD THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING FACILITY ON LAND OWNED BY THE TOWN OF EASTON."

The Town Attorney discussed the Indemnity of trust the Town would sign for the EVFD's training facility. She discussed the pledges which will occur over time.

Brett Whitehead, EVFD President of Friends of EVFD, discussed the shortfall from their fundraising efforts.

He stated they have raised 4.7 million for the project. The goal is 5 million. He stated they are looking for a bridge loan. The initial estimate, which was 4 million, is now 4.3 million.

Mr. Whitehead stated they are well ahead of schedule. He estimated completion in mid-September with a ribbon cutting in October. He invited the council to do a walk thru prior to the ribbon cutting.

Upon motion by Ms. Curry, seconded by Mr. Rankin and carried unanimously, Res. No. 6211 was approved.

Public Participation/Comments.

There was no one present with comments.

Committee Reports by Members of the Council.

Ms. Curry discussed EEDC announcements. She stated that Washington Street Pub recently opened and there were 6000 customers served .

Newly minted Taste of Easton will occur at the Tidewater Inn with sampling of all the restaurants. She stated it hasn't been done in about 10 years.

Mr. Rankin joined the Library Board. He stated he reached out to the Executive Director. There is no meeting in August. The next meeting will be in September.

Rev. Davis thanked Deputy Wright for his leadership during this transitional period.
Pres. Abbatiello stated there are openings on the Boards and Commissions. He encouraged those interested to fill in a Volunteer Interest Form which is available on the Town's website.

Items by Members of the Council.

Ms. Curry discussed her concerns with the move in date for Doverbrook. She stated she thought it was supposed to be April or May and now she is hearing early August.
Ms. Curry asked about food trucks. She asked if businesses have the right to put up services for food trucks.
Mr. Rankin thanked Deputy Chief Wright for stepping in for Chief Lowery as he served as Interim Town Manager. He discussed pot holed parking lots.
Dr. Montgomery echoed pleasantries regarding Washington Street Pub as well as Renny Gaye's restaurant. He thanked Deputy Chief Wright for his service over the past year.
Rev. Davis thanked the town for all the recent events.
Pres. Abbatiello thanked Deputy Chief Wright for his service, as well as the recent retirees from the Town of Easton. He reminded the listening audience that there are fundraisers coming up.
Pres. Abbatiello stated that August 5 is National Night Out. He stated the Town intends to start Ward Town Hall open forums for citizens to share their concerns.

CLOSED SESSION: General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(15) to close the meeting for discussions about the the security of an information system.

At 6:00 p.m., upon motion by Rev. Davis, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, President Abbatiello moved into Closed Session to discuss security of the Town's information system.
Upon motion by Rev. Davis, seconded by Mr. Rankin, the President of the Council moved out of Closed Session and reconvened back into the regular meeting.

Adjournment.

At 6:38 p.m., upon motion by Rev. Davis, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, President Abbatiello adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk