



Town Council MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025 - 5:30 PM
Council Chambers, Easton Town Office
14 S Harrison Street

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

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

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

Opening remarks and Pledge of Allegiance by Councilmember Curry.

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

Approval of Minutes.

Meeting minutes of the 8/18/25 meeting and 8/25/25 workshop.

Upon motion by Dr. Montgomery, seconded by Ms. Curry and carried unanimously, minutes of the August 18, 2025, meeting and workshop meeting minutes from the August 25, 2025 were approved as written.

Municipal Official Items.

Items by Mayor Cook.

Mayor Cook reminded the listening audience that September is Talbot Goes Purple Month. She thanked Sheriff Gamble for all his work on this initiative. She discussed upcoming events:

- September 5 - Festival of Hope at Anchor Church
- September 10 - P&Z presentation at Easton Club East
- September 11 - 911 Ceremony at the Dover Street Memorial Park
- September 13 - Annual EVFD Golf Tournament

Mayor Cook discussed the East Avenue Storm Drain project and stated it is moving along. She displayed the change in capacity with the new storm drain pipe. Mayor Cook thanked Public Works for their hard work on the parking lot improvements across from the town office near the Welcome Center. She stated it should open in the near future. Mayor Cook thanked Greg Mueller for the new banners for downtown.

Items by Town Manager.

Public Assembly Event: EHS Homecoming Parade, 9/26/2025

Upon motion by Ms. Curry seconded by Mr. Rankin and carried unanimously, the Public Assembly Event: EHS Homecoming Parade, scheduled for 9/26 was approved.

Items by Town Attorney.

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

Public Hearing.

5:35 PM: To receive comments on Ordinance No. 840, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE TOWN OF EASTON CODE TO ADD CAMPAIGN FINANCE PROVISIONS."

At 5:36 p.m., President Abbatiello opened the 5:35 p.m. scheduled Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 840. Pres. Abbatiello stated that this public hearing will remain open.

Mr. Lance Simon, 401 Crowberry, was present and stated he thinks this is a very important ordinance. He offered suggestions for inclusion in the ordinance. Mr. Simon stated previously, it was mentioned that there was no need for this ordinance, but he wanted to clarify that statewide ordinances exclude municipal elections. Mr. Simon stated that he had sent a review of the ordinance sections. He discussed reporting deadlines and stated that it should be when the candidate starts spending money. Mr. Simon discussed penalties and contributions.

He stated that online learning and an online filing portal with pre-filled deadlines would be a help.

Pres. Abbatiello stated this public hearing would be kept open for public comments.

Legislation.

Ord. No. 840, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE TOWN OF EASTON CODE TO ADD CAMPAIGN FINANCE PROVISIONS."

Ord. No. 840 was not acted on. President Abbatiello stated the Ordinance will be held over until October 6, 2025.

Res. No. 6212, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PILOT PROGRAM FOR MOBILE FOOD USES (FOOD TRUCKS) IN EASTON, MARYLAND."

The Town Attorney discussed the provisions of the pilot ordinance. She stated that any food truck can not be within 300' of a brick and mortar restaurant.

The application also requires a map showing where it is going to be located. The food truck will not be allowed on public property or in the public right of way.

President Abbatiello opened the floor for public comments.

Mr. Steve Mangassarian, S. Aurora Street, discussed the history of food trucks. He stated he is in favor of food trucks, and thinks the pilot program is well-thought-out.

Mr. Barry VanVechten, asked if food trucks are allowed at festivals such as those held at Idlewild Park. The Town Attorney stated they are but must be part of the Public Assembly Permit.

Ms. Curry asked who is responsible for permission from the property owner. The Town Attorney stated the applicant is the owner of the food truck.

Enforcement was discussed.

Pres. Abbatiello stated the location would be limited. Discussion occurred about whether the pilot program should be for 6 months or 8 months.

Rev. Davis stated that the pilot program gives us the opportunity to test and collect data.

Dr. Montgomery stated we might think about the fee for the application. Discussion occurred, and it was stated that it may be revised.

Pres. Abbatiello and Dr. Montgomery suggested \$500 for eight months. Ms. Curry stated she thinks \$500 is exorbitant.

Mr. Kitzrow suggested 6 months, \$250. The ordinance for the pilot program was amended to be effective for 8 months, with a \$250 application fee.

Upon motion by Mr. Montgomery, seconded by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously, Res. No. 6212 was approved as amended.

Public Participation/Comments.

Mr. Mangassarian discussed food trucks and stated the fee should be commensurate with the quality of the food trucks, such as \$1500 per year.

Committee Reports by Members of the Council

There were none.

Items by Members of the Council:

Mr. Rankin thanked those that commented this evening and thanked the Town Attorney for putting the Pilot Ordinance together for food trucks.

President Abbatiello thanked the Planning Commission for their work on the Comprehensive Plan.

President Abbatiello announced scheduled public town hall meetings. He stated they would be held as follows:

Ward 2, September 29, at the firehouse at 7-8pm

Ward 3, October 9, at the firehouse at 7-8pm

Ward 4, October 23, at the firehouse at 7-8pm

Ward 1, October 27, at the firehouse at 7-8pm
He encouraged the public to come out to express their concerns.

Adjournment.

At 6:24 p.m., upon motion by Rev. Davis, seconded by Dr. Montgomery and carried unanimously, President Abbatiello adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk