



## **Town Council MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, March 7, 2022 - 5:30 PM  
Council Chambers, Easton Town Office  
14 S Harrison Street

### **4:30 PM Workshop with State Highway Administration.**

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

Mr. VanEmburch discussed the workshop regarding improvements for pedestrian and vehicular traffic on Rt. 328, Matthewstown Road, Route 50 and Black Dog Alley.

Town Engineer Mr. VanEmburch stated that present this evening are representatives from District 2 which encompasses Talbot County, Caroline, Queen Anne County, Kent and Cecil County. Mr. VanEmburch introduced Mr. Kenneth Fender, District Engineer, Assistant Engineer for Traffic, Rich Baker; Assistant Engineer for Project Development Asiyah Cabray. Mr. VanEmburch discussed the assistance

Eric Beckett, Deputy Director of Preliminary Engineering, has been with rails-to-trails.

Mr. Fender, stated there are no current projects for Route 328. He discussed the Lomax to Dutchman's Lane project.

Mr. Fender stated that the Gannon property has submitted an Access Management Permit Project. Rev. Davis asked if traffic studies had been completed on Matthewstown Road. He discussed his concern with the passing grade for the road.

Mr. Fender stated they have not had a specific request to look at traffic on that road and unless they get a specific request, no studies are done.

President Cook thanked the participants for coming tonight and stated there are several projects coming down the pipeline, two of which have been approved. She stated the plan is to be proactive regarding the projects and ease the traffic on Rt. 328.

Mr. Fender discussed the development process and when they take a look at the projects.

Mayor Willey asked about the status of the intersection of Rt 322 and Glenwood Avenue.

It was advised by Mr. Beckett that a signal at Glenwood Avenue will most likely be funded by SHA.

Town Manager Mr. Richardson discussed the process before building permits are issued.

Mr. Fender stated that it is always a good idea to reach out to SHA when a development is being considered for approval.

Mr. Baker stated there is no right-of-way for widening.

Mr. Abbatiello discussed a list of constituent concerns on Matthewstown Road and getting around trucks at the truck repair facility.

Mr. Silverstein discussed concerns at Hardee's entrance.

Eric Beckett discussed a sidewalk program that has been established with SHA. He discussed the restrictions.

Mr. Baker stated that the construction of the new Royal Farms on the west end of Easton alone warrants a signal.

Mayor Willey discussed flooding on Commerce Drive, the intersection of Marlboro and Rt. 322.

Mr. Fender discussed a study that was performed at that location.

Mr. Abbatiello discussed underground utilities and turning lanes for developments on Rt. 328.

Mr. Fender stated that SHA will take a look at the concerns the council expressed this evening but he has five counties and has to spread out what is needed. A Talbot County priority letter was suggested for the county.

Mr. Engle discussed the south end and proposed development and thanked SHA for addressing the concerns at the light.

Mayor Willey asked about lighting at Washington Street and Rt. 322.

Mr. Fender stated the dialogue between SHA and the town is what they need to understand what is being considered within the town.

Mr. Baker discussed innovating timing that is being considered for Rt. 50.

SHA representatives departed the meeting at 5:18 p.m.

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

Mayor Robert C. Willey

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.

**Opening remarks and Pledge of Allegiance by Councilmember Silverstein.**

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

### **Approval of Minutes.**

Minutes of February 21, 2022 meeting:

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes of the February 21, 2022 meeting were approved as written.

### **Municipal Official Items.**

Items by the Mayor:

Mayor Willey stated that the EVFD Tower 1 has been out for repairs and will be back in town Tuesday in operating order.

Mayor Willey stated he attended Chief David Spencer's retirement dinner and it was a very nice affair.

Presentation of Proclamations in Celebration of Achievements and Contributions.

Ms. Jesse Caldwell  
Ms. Gladys H. Giddens  
Ms. Bertha Brown Wilson  
Representative of Francis Wilson

President Cook read a Proclamation in honor of Black History Month. Recipients received a copy for their distinguished service recognizing the many construction contributions to the Town of Easton.

Approval of Recommendation from the Park Board for Master Brian Warner's Eagle Scout Project of Frederick Douglas on the Hill.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously, approval of the recommendation from the Park Board for Master Brian Warner's Eagle Scout project of Frederick Douglas on the Hill was approved.

Items by the Town Manager

Public Assembly Events:

1) St. Patrick's Day Parade and Potato Race - 3/17

2) Country School 5K - 4/23

The following Public Assembly Events were considered for approval:

1) St. Patrick's Day Parade

Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello seconded by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously, St. Patrick's Day Parade and Potato Race was approved.

2) Country School 5K

Upon motion by Mr. Engle, seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, the Country School's 5K was approved.

Items by the Town Attorney

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

### **Presentations.**

Ms. Dana Newman, Director, Talbot County Free Library to discuss library services.

Ms. Newman, Director, discussed Talbot County Free Library services. She discussed a grant and access for services such as Wi-Fi Hotspots. Ms. Newman stated that all Talbot County

students have a library card and access to resources. She discussed services that were available during Covid-19. Ms. Newman thanked Mr. Engle for being a representative on the TCFL Board.

### **Legislation.**

Ordinance No. 778, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON GRANTING THE APPLICATION OF MALLARD CONSTRUCTION GROUP, INC. AND JV LAND HOLDINGS, LLC FOR A PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE EASTON ZONING ORDINANCE."

Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 778, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON GRANTING THE APPLICATION OF MALLARD CONSTRUCTION GROUP, INC. AND JV LAND HOLDINGS, LLC FOR A PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE EASTON ZONING ORDINANCE" was approved.

### **Review of Invoices.**

Invoices from 2/2/22 to 2/23/22 totaling \$888,992.65.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, invoices totaling \$888,992.65 were approved.

### **Items by Members of the Council:**

Mr. Silverstein thanked the Library for their resources. President Cook stated she has used their meeting rooms as well.

Mr. Abbatiello thanked SHA for coming today. He stated there is a lot of work to be done.

Mr. Engle enjoyed the retirement dinner for Chief Spencer. Mr. Engle mentioned how many students visit the library for the internet.

Rev. Davis thanked TCFL for their presentation. Rev. Davis thanked SHA for clarity regarding improvements.

Rev. Davis thanked TCFL for their presentation. Rev. Davis stated that hopefully changes considered by SHA will make citizens feel safer. He stated he is grateful and honored to be a part of Black History Celebration. Rev. Davis stated that Roshanda Roberts was a big help and should be recognized.

### **Adjournment.**

At 6:06 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, President Cook adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk