



Town Council MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 18, 2022 - 5:30 PM
Council Chambers, Easton Town Office
14 S Harrison Street

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 Rev. Davis.

Councilmember Rev. Elmer Davis gave opening remarks and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes.

Meeting minutes 4/4/22.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously, minutes of the April 4, 2022 meeting were approved as written.

Meeting Minutes 4/5/22.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously, minutes of the April 5, 2022 meeting were approved as written.

Meeting Minutes 4/7/22.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously, minutes of the April 7, 2022 meeting were approved as written.

Municipal Official Items.

Items by the Mayor.

Mayor Willey discussed the EVFD 5K which occurred April 16, 2022.

Mayor Willey stated there will be a dedication for the new John F Ford Park sign April 29 at 10 a.m.

Approval of Agreement between EEDC and Town of Easton for Economic Development Services.

Mayor Willey asked for approval of the agreement between the Town of Easton for EEDC Services. He stated that the legislation is later on the agenda. He stated that the EEDC has been keeping a pulse on the business community as well as being tasked with events and advertising the town for prospective businesses.

Items by the Town Manager.

Staff Recommendation for the Property Maintenance Bid.

Rev. Davis asked if this could be accomplished by town staff.

Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the staff recommendation to approve the Property Maintenance bid from Living Ecosystems was approved.

Approval to Award Bid for Building Relocation.

Mr. Richardson discussed removing the operations from the Town's former Public Works

facility at 672 Glenwood Avenue. He stated that Phillips Wharf has leased a portion of the property and has moved in. He stated that the Town of Easton received five responses for the bid to relocate (2) 50x60 existing steel buildings to one location as one building.

Mr. Grunden stated he does not have sufficient detail.

Mr. Silverstein stated as a taxpayer and councilmember, he would like to have a building put together for Easton Utilities and the Town. He stated he would like to have a written agreement between the Town and EU and a total cost for the project. Mr. Silverstein asked that the matter be tabled to get all the details worked out. Mr. Grunden discussed requiring a push wall.

The bid award was tabled.

Mr. Richardson stated that Parks and Recreation staff are starting their camp registration for those wishing to participate in soccer and baseball. Information for the camps can be found on the Town's website.

Items by the Town Attorney.

Discussion regarding Plastic Free Easton Proposal.

The Town Attorney discussed Plastic Free Easton. She stated she forwarded options to decide how to draft legislation. The President of the Council stated she hopes this could be enacted and effective by the first of the year. Mr. Silverstein stated he hopes to get comments from businesses.

The President of the Council suggested banning bags all together.

Mr. Abbatiello asked if there would be exceptions.

Mr. Silverstein asked to review draft legislation.

Violations and enforcement were discussed.

Mr. Abbatiello stated he was not in favor of a \$100 penalty.

The Town Attorney stated she has enough for a draft then the council can revise.

Hugh E. Grunden, P.E., President and CEO Easton Utilities seeking approval to spend in excess of 2 million dollars to construct a new crew building at 219 N Washington Street.

Mr. Grunden discussed constructing a new crew building for their staff. He stated the proposal has gone before Planning and Zoning Commission for approval and they are ready to submit for a building permit. Mr. Grunden stated that plans and specifications for the proposed 2022 Crew Building were designed by the Becker-Morgan Group. He stated the low bid was by Harper & Sons, Inc. for \$3,224,300. Mr. Grunden stated that this will be a good place for employees to gather. He asked for questions.

Mr. Silverstein asked about rates. Mr. Grunden stated that building this building will not raise rates. He stated that the construction costs will be paid with reserves on hand with no debt financing. Mr. Grunden expects to issue the notice to proceed late May.

Upon motion by Mr. Engle, seconded by Rev. Davis, approval was granted for Easton Utilities to spend in excess of two million (\$2,000,000) dollars to construct a new crew building at 219 N. Washington Street.

Public Hearing.

5:35 PM PUBLIC HEARING for the purpose of discussing Ordinance No. 781, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO SELL LOT 7A AT MISTLETOE HALL COMMERCE BUSINESS PARK TO C ESTATES, LLC."

At 6:07 p.m., President Cook opened the public hearing. She asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none.

President Cook closed the hearing at 6:08 p.m.

Legislation.

Ordinance No. 781, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO SELL LOT 7A AT MISTLETOE HALL COMMERCE-BUSINESS PARK TO C ESTATES, LLC."

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 781, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO SELL LOT 7A AT MISTLETOE HALL COMMERCE BUSINESS PARK TO C ESTATES, LLC" was approved following a roll call vote.

Resolution No. 6153, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BETWEEN THE TOWN OF EASTON AND THE EASTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION."

Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6153, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BETWEEN THE TOWN OF EASTON AND THE EASTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION" was approved.

Ordinance No. 782, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO SELL LOT 6C AT MISTLETOE HALL COMMERCE-BUSINESS PARK TO BLUE CRAB SELF STORAGE, LLC."

President Cook brought Ordinance No. 782 to the floor for a first reading and set a public hearing to hear comments for May 2, 2022 at 5:35 p.m. in conjunction with Ordinance No. 783.

Ordinance No. 783, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO SELL LOT 2 AT MISTLETOE HALL COMMERCE-BUSINESS PARK TO PRO WELLNESS GROUP, LLC."

President Cook brought Ordinance No. 783 to the floor for a first reading and set a public hearing to hear comments for May 2, 2022 at 5:35 p.m. in conjunction with Ordinance No. 782.

Public Participation/Comments.

There were none.

Items by Members of the Council:

Mr. Abbatiello thanked all those that came out for the EVFD 5K fundraiser.

Mr. Abbatiello stated that there will be a meeting scheduled in Ward 2 to hear comments regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Engle stated Ward 3 will have a Comprehensive Plan meeting on Monday, 5:30 PM at Easton Club East meeting room. The meeting will be available live on the zoon and by signing in then available to view on the website.

Mr. Engle stated that downtown received a \$99,000 grant for improvements.

President Cook gave kudos to EEDC and Holly Dekarske for the great eggroll and stated the town is looking great.

Adjournment.

At 6:13, upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk