



Town Council MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 - 5:00 PM
Council Chambers, Easton Town Office
14 S Harrison Street

5:00 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.

At 5:00 p.m., President Cook called the workshop to order.

Workshop

Town Manager, Mr. Richardson stated that this evening is to have a close look at the impact fees, schedule of fees and discuss how to move forward. Mr. Richardson stated there is a handful of ways to move forward with the TischlerBise study: leave fees as they are or go directly to the maximum supportable fees or phase the fees in. He stated he sent an e-mail outlining the process. The schedule of fees was also forwarded for consideration. Mr. Richardson discussed the changes put in the Schedule of Fees. He stated that tonight is for discussion on the Impact Fees. He discussed the recommended maximum supportable fees as recommended by TischlerBise. He stated he recommends not implementing fees in total all at one time. Mr. Richardson discussed the housekeeping changes in the schedule of fees. He stated that the MSW fees might want to be revisited as potential development occurs. Mr. Richardson stated that the Parks and Recreation fees have been updated for field usage and has been put in the schedule of fees as well as the room rental at the Easton Firehouse.

Mr. Silverstein stated he has concerns regarding projects and being locked in to use the fees collected for specific projects; specifically funds collected and allocated for the indoor sports complex. The Town Attorney, Mrs. VanEmburch clarified the impact fee funds and how they can be used. She discussed the east/west connector road and discussed how it was not built but considered in the last study. Methodology was discussed. Mr. Richardson stated that the stormwater fees can be eliminated in the study as they are being fully funded by ARPA money.

Mr. Silverstein asked for a list of the projects being considered in the study.

Mr. Engle discussed field rental fees. He stated that the Parks and Recreation Department may not be able to handle the upkeep of all the fields. Mr. Richardson discussed the maintenance aspect since the lights have been installed.

Mayor Willey discussed the possibility of additional fields.

The Town Attorney discussed how we have adopted legislation to re-apportion the funds that have been collected to different projects.

Rev. Davis stated that he wants to see if the fees as recommended make the parks self-sufficient.

Mr. Abbatiello discussed storm drains. He stated that there may be more storm drain projects in the next 10 years not funded by ARPA funds.

The Town Attorney clarified that the funds collected have to be used in six years as outlined in the Town's Code.

The Town Manager stated that if we collect the fees, we have a responsibility to implement the expenditure.

President Cook discussed taking the storm restoration out of the study.

Discussion occurred regarding phasing in the impact fee increases.

Mr. Silverstein stated he prefers to phase in the increase over a six-year period.

Mayor Willey stated that if the fees are not phased in, the price of houses is going to be affected.

It is the consensus to implement the impact fee increase over a 10 year period, taking it to the maximum supportable fee as outlined by TischlerBise.

President Cook suggested adjusting the warehousing fee decreasing it by \$93 to a total of \$427.

Mr. Abbatiello asked about using the fees in the allotted period. The Town Attorney clarified that the window picks up every year.

President Cook asked if there are additional questions regarding the schedule of fees.

It was suggested to update the schedule and remove antiquated fees.

Discussion occurred regarding the parking kiosks. It was suggested to add FAQ on the screen. If you want to use a quarter to pay, you must pay at the kiosk. Otherwise, the app puts \$10 on your account.

Mr. Abbatiello discussed the MSW fee. This increase is part of a phase in and does not get us to 100%.

President Cook asked for any questions. There were none.

Adjournment.

At 5:51 p.m., President Cook adjourned the scheduled workshop meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk