



Town Council MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 8, 2021 - 6:30 PM
Council Chambers, Easton Town Office
14 S Harrison Street

Budget Workshop

IN ATTENDANCE

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, Finance Officer Mrs. Carol Callahan, Assistant Finance Officer Charles Connelly, and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.

CONVENING

Council President Mrs. Cook called the workshop to order at 6:30 p.m.

Public Safety – Continuation: Code Enforcement

Jackie Naylor was present to discuss Code Enforcement. She stated that not much has changed from last year. She stated that contractual services are the biggest expense for property maintenance. She stated that the amount allocated for Professional fees are in line. Ms. Naylor stated that the big requested expense for their department is for a vehicle. She stated that \$35,000 has been appropriated in the budget.

Ms. Naylor stated that rental inspections are about 18 months behind due to COVID although rental licenses are current. Ms. Naylor stated that the Town charges \$100 per unit for inspections; \$50 per unit for rental licenses.

Ms. Naylor stated that residences are being renovated on Goldsborough Street and the thru way into town looks much better.

Town Engineer

Mr. VanEmburch was present to discuss his department. Mr. VanEmburch discussed geotechnical costs. He stated that the Engineering Department covers the projects and Public Works covers repairs and maintenance. Discussion occurred regarding a parking lot for rails-to-trails participants and stream restoration projects. Mayor Willey discussed the American Rescue dollars that may be able to be used. Mr. VanEmburch asked that Glenwood Avenue to be partially funded. He stated he will continue design and look for additional funding. He asked that monies be restored to upsize pipe in Tanyard Branch watershed model. Mr. VanEmburch asked that funding be restored in the operating account to work with the model done in the Tanyard Branch.

Public Works

At 7:18 p.m., Mr. Dickerson, Superintendent of Public Works joined the workshop. Mr. Dickerson stated that the greatest asset Public Works has is its staff. He asked that the wages be competitive with other agencies. He discussed having the recently purchased lot near the Public Works facility for storage with fencing. He stated that fees for recycling have increased. Mr. Dickerson discussed the lease program and the resale of the vehicles. He stated that Public Works plants around 140 trees a year and cut 59 lots in the town of Easton per week. He stated that the new truck is for the replacement of a truck that is no longer in

the fleet.

Mr. Dickerson stated that his wish list would include fencing; maybe a mower, maybe a tractor.

Parks & Recreation

Mrs. Lorraine Gould, Director of Parks and Recreation was present to discuss her department's budget. She stated that there is no variation from last year. Mrs. Gould discussed costs for contractual routine services.

Mayor Willey discussed possible fees for using parks and recreation fields. Mr. VanEmburch stated that Talbot County does charge fees for field usage.

Mr. Silverstein discussed the replacement of picnic tables.

Discussion occurred regarding the dog park. Mr. VanEmburch stated that 1/3 is to be a town contribution, 1/3 private donations, and 1/3 of the funding is to be obtained thru grants.

Economic Development

Tracy Ward, Executive Director, Easton Economic Development Corporation was present to discuss their budget. She stated that most of the funding requested is for promotional activities. A video was presented that was established for Main Street that shows downtown Easton.

Mayor Willey stated that 29 checks will be delivered for downtown Easton businesses to help with Covid relief.

Ms. Ward stated that \$58,000 is allocated for communication in their budget.

Ms. Ward stated that family friendly events drives business downtown.

Ms. Ward discussed a new hire and stated that the applicant will be offered more money than what is approved. She stated that the new hire Intends to amplify digital presence.

Ms. Ward stated that Community Day is planned for May 15

Mr. Richardson Comments

Mr. Richardson discussed OPEB money and obligations, insurance costs, leases, outstanding bonds and payment schedules. He stated that the budget as is totals \$24,591,618.

Mr. Richardson stated that the intent is to use the Law Enforcement Fund's current balance and anticipated \$120,000 revenue from speed camera funds for upcoming fiscal years.

Mayor Willey asked that any questions be directed to him or the Town Manager in the next coming weeks.

Adjournment

At 8:29 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, President Cook adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk