



Town Council MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 3, 2021 - 5:30 PM
Council Chambers, Easton Town Office
14 S Harrison Street

Present at Convening

Mr. Al Silverstein
Mr. Don Abbatiello
Mr. Ron Engle
Rev. Elmer Davis
President Megan Cook

Also present was the Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch, and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.

Mayor Robert C. Willey and Town Manager Mr. Don Richardson were excused

Call to Order by President Cook.

At 05:30 PM, President Cook called the meeting to order.

Opening remarks by Councilmember Engle and Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Approval of Minutes of April 19, 2021 meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes of the April 19, 2021 meeting was approved as written.

Items by the Town Attorney.

Public Assembly Permits:

- Blue Point Hospitality, 3 Federal Street – Outdoor Music 05/08 – 6/26/2021
- EEDC, Thompson Park – Music in Downtown 5/15 – 9/25
- Change of date for Cultural Crossing from June 19 to June 26.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein second by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, Public Assembly Permits were approved.

Request Public Hearing date for Budget Ordinance FY2021-2022 (5/17, 5:35PM).

The Town Attorney, Mrs. VanEmburch asked that the Budget Public Hearing be set for May 17, 5:35 p.m.

President Cook set the Public Hearing as requested.

Police Board.

Chief Spencer and Capt. Wright were present. Chief Spencer stated he has hired six recruits to go to the Academy in July. He stated he may be able to send eight recruits to the Academy which is a first for 55 EPD. He discussed the recruits that will be graduating and what they have completed.

Chief Spencer discussed recent and upcoming events. He stated that Juneteenth is scheduled for June 19 and is still being discussed. Chief Spencer stated he will report back at the next council meeting.

Kinley Timms, Commandant at the VFW, notified Easton Police Department that 2020 Officer of the Year in the entire state of Maryland is Detective Justin Ribley which is a very high honor.

President Cook asked that congratulations be extended to Detective Ribley.

Chief Spencer stated that officers were present for the tribute to honor the fallen officer Cpl. Keith Heacock from Delmar, Delaware. He discussed the streets that were lined with first responders and the entire community when Cpl. Heacock's body was returned from the Baltimore hospital to Delmar.

Resolution No. 6133, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT REGARDING ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT."

Town Attorney stated that this agreement is identical to the previous agreement but changes the entity from EBA to Easton Economic Development Corporation to serve that function for the Town.

Upon motion by Mr. Engle second by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6133 was approved.

Annexation and Zoning for property located east of the intersection of Maryland Route 309 and Black Dog Alley and consisting of 1.637 acres of land, more or less.

The Town Attorney discussed the terms of the Annexation Agreement and the zoning assigned. She stated the petitioners are responsible for associated improvement costs and costs incurred.

The Town Attorney discussed Section 3 and stated that it is not needed as the county and state all agree that the zoning is similar and not necessary.

Resolution No. 6132, "A RESOLUTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN LANDS LOCATED EAST OF THE INTERSECTION OF MARYLAND ROUTE 309 AND BLACK DOG ALLEY AND CONSISTING OF 1.637 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, INTO THE TOWN OF EASTON AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ANNEXATION."

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6132 was approved following a roll call vote.

Ordinance No. 759, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO APPLY THE GENERAL COMMERCIAL (CG) ZONING DISTRICT TO A CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND ANNEXED TO THE TOWN OF EASTON BY RESOLUTION NO. 6132 LOCATED GENERALLY EAST OF THE INTERSECTION OF MARYLAND ROUTE 309 AND BLACK DOG ALLEY AND CONSISTING OF 1.637 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS."

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 759 was approved following a roll call vote.

5:35 PUBLIC HEARING on Ordinance No. 760, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING SECTIONS 11-20 OF ARTICLE III OF CHAPTER 11 OF THE TOWN OF EASTON CODE REGARDING THE IMPOSITION OF A REFUSE DISPOSAL FEE."

At 5:41 p.m., President Cook opened the 5:35 p.m. scheduled public hearing.

President Cook asked for any questions. There were none.

Mr. Silverstein stated that it is his understanding that the Ordinance does not impose additional fees but gives the council the option to look at costs and consider options.

Mr. Engle discussed taxes and the misconception that taxes are being raised.

At 5:43 p.m., President Cook closed the public hearing. President Cook stated that the Ordinance is eligible for a vote this evening.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein second by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 760 was approved following a roll call vote.

Review of invoices totaling \$782,521.49.

Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, invoices totaling \$782,521.49 were approved.

Public Comments.

There were no public comments.

Items by Members of the Council:

Mr. Al Silverstein reminded everyone to vote tomorrow in the Town of Easton election which is being held at Easton Volunteer Fire Department from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Don Abbatiello stated that if the community comes out to vote, members of the council will be present to discuss issues or concerns. He stated that they are happy to listen and discuss issues.

Mr. Ron Engle discussed a community event on May 15 on the Rails-to-Trails. Mr. Engle stated that with respect to the downtown, there have been tables, chairs and benches ordered. He stated that we are also in the process of purchasing flower pots to enhance the downtown. Mr. Engle stated that EEDC has spoken with downtown merchants.

Rev. Elmer Davis reiterated that the council will be together tomorrow at EVFD if there are any concerns, voters will have a captive audience. Rev. Davis thanked Easton Police Department for being a part of the service for the Cpl. Keith Heacock that was recently killed in Delmar.

President Megan Cook reminded everyone that tomorrow is election day for President of the Council, Ward 2 and Ward 4. She urged voters to come out from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Adjournment

At 5:47 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, President Cook adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk