



Town Council MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 17, 2021 - 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.

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

Opening remarks by Councilmember Rev. Davis and Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Approval of Minutes of May 3, 2021 meeting

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes of the May 3, 2021 meeting was approved as written.

Items by the Mayor.

Discussion of Recommendations from Easton Park Advisory Board.

1. Allow Mr. William. Ryan (President of Board for BAAM) to hire a contractor to renovate the soccer field area in Moton Park with the approval of Mr. Rick VanEmburch. After which time, they will obtain appropriate goals for youth.
2. Allow the following for the original Easton Point Park Plan:
 - a. Add a brick and rod iron fence with a gate and a small parking area for no more than ten parking spaces for cars on the West Glenwood side of the park; and
 - b. Keep the main entrance on Flood Avenue and keep the main building located on the property as per the original plan and demolish the three-sided building.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the recommendations from Easton Park Advisory Board were approved.

Executive Order

Mayor Willey asked for approval for Executive Order 2021-02 "Rescinding Previous Executive Order Provisions During Previous State of Emergency Declaration for the Town of Easton for Covid-19."

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein second by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the Executive Order was approved.

Housing Commission

Mayor Willey stated he has had requests from the Housing Commission to retain the profits from the Buffalo Soldier House.

Oath of Office to Council Members

1. President Megan JM Cook
2. Councilmember Donald M. Abbatiello
3. Councilmember Re. Elmer N. Davis

Mayor Willey administered the Oath of Office to the newly (re) elected members of the Easton Town Council:

- Council President Megan JM Cook for an additional four-year term.
- Councilmember Donald M. Abbatiello for a four-year term.
- Councilmember Rev. Elmer N. Davis for a four-year term.

Items by the Town Manager.

Public Assembly Permits:

Book Festival for Children, Talbot Free Library – 6/12/21, 7AM – 4PM

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein second by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, the Book Festival for Children was approved.

Move the Monument Coalition, March and Rally - 6/19/21, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Richardson stated that 1st Sgt. Kellner and Chief Spencer are present for any questions.

Mr. Silverstein stated he has concerns regarding closing the Town's business district. He stated he hopes we can find a different route due to retail shopping on a Saturday. Mr. Silverstein stated he is worried about the public's safety when the fire engines come out. He stated he hopes the town can allow the rally to happen without impact; maybe through a residential neighborhood.

Mr. Engle stated he has concerns that there is not time period locked up. He stated that there is a lot of manpower being tied up and \$14,000 is more than we pay for any other event other than WFF or Plein Air. Mr. Engle stated that the Town needs to get with the county regarding the times.

President Cook stated that the county is waiting for the Town's approval and will act accordingly for their piece on the courthouse.

Mr. Richardson stated this request could be modified or tabled. This application is presented as requested by the applicant.

Chief Spencer stated the county is locked in on the march taking 90 minutes then dispersing safely as possible. He stated that they requested from the applicant amending the times but they were not a.m.e. Chief Spencer stated that the applicant picked the location but the elementary school on Glenwood Avenue may be able to accommodate the crowd.

President Cook asked Ms. Marjorie Opalski if there is a possibility of switching the parade route. She stated that she did not believe that is a possibility. Ms. Opalski stated that the route was given a lot of thought and was not a casual decision. She stated they have their final approval from the Health Department. She stated she has notified the merchants and they were receptive.

Mr. Silverstein asked if the requestor has permission to park in the shopping centers. He stated that it is not public parking. He stated that the applicant may want to contact the owners of the shopping centers. He discussed an alternate route down Glenwood Avenue and asked the applicant to reconsider. Ms. Opalski stated she was a member of a committee.

1st Sgt. Kellner discussed his conversations with the committee and his recommendation to keep the marchers on the sidewalk on Marlboro.

Mr. Silverstein made a motion to hold the application and have continued discussions about an alternate route.

President Cook stated that the Council could approve the rally.

Mr. Richardson stated that this Public Assembly Permit request is for the march and the parade route.

Mr. Abbatiello stated that he appreciates everything the committee is doing to get this done as it's very important. He stated his main concern is for safety. Mr. Abbatiello stated that a good alternative would be going thru Glenwood as the overall objective is to get to courthouse. He stated that the most important thing is to get the participants there safely.

Mr. Silverstein amended his motion to approve the Public Assembly Permit subject to using Glenwood avenue as the vehicle for the march. He stated his motion included the approval for closing of the streets in the downtown area; seconded by Mr. Abbatiello.

President Cook stated that the amended motion which was seconded by Mr. Abbatiello is to start at 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., close streets around courthouse and march down Glenwood Avenue to the courthouse.

The Town Attorney stated that she believes the Police Department recommends 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Richardson stated that the public assembly permit requests assembly at 11:00 a.m. with the march occurring between 11:25 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. with the rally commencing 12-1:30 p.m. with disbursement of the event from 1:30-2 p.m. Mr. Richardson stated that opening of the streets would be when Easton Police Department deems it safe.

President Cook called for a roll call vote for the amended motion from Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Abbatiello. The motion passed 3-2 for the proposed Glenwood Avenue route for the march with President Cook and Rev. Davis voting no.

Approval for Additional Drinking Fountain for Easton Point Park
Mr. Richardson discussed the improvements at the playground.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein second by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the drinking fountain for Easton Point Park from Penco at a cost of \$6,329.88 was approved. The expenditure is an amenity requested on the FY2020 Community Parks and Playgrounds grant.

Approval for Generator and Electrical Disconnect Panel Replacements for EVFD Station 60.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein second by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, the generator for Station 60 to be supplied by C. Albert Matthew in the amount of \$68,058 and the disconnect panel in the amount of \$6,712 was approved.

Mistletoe Hall Farm - Phase 2 Design Recommendation

Mr. Richardson asked for approval for the Mistletoe Hall Farm Phase 2 Design proposal from RK&K in the amount of \$64,878. The Economic Development Association is allowing the use of the remaining money to fund Phase 2 but will not provide any additional money. Phase 2 of the Mistletoe Hall Farm project includes a road with utilities and a cul-de-sac between lots 6 and 7 and subdividing lots 6 and 7 into 6 lots instead of 2. EDA has agreed that the Town may work with the design engineer RK&K to provide the Phase 2 design as a modification to the original contract.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein second by Rev. Davis and carried unanimously, the proposal from RK&K in the amount of \$64,878 was approved.

Parks and Recreation Summer Camps

Mr. Richardson stated that the summer camps applications are on line for soccer and baseball camp in June.

Light at Route 50 and Parkway

Mr. Abbatiello asked if there has been any information from State Highway Association regarding Route 50 and Parkway.

Mr. Richardson stated the Town Engineer has been in contact with SHA and they have heard us. He stated it is going to take some time but there is positive momentum

Items by the Town Attorney.

The Town Attorney, Mrs. VanEmburch asked for a Closed Session to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b) (4).

Fire Board

President Stacey stated with restrictions easing, they are moving forward with fundraising events. Pres. Stacey stated that they are re-opening the firehall for events. He stated that the 29th Annual EVFD Golf Classic at Hog Neck is almost sold out. He discussed the 5K that is being planned and the Stews and Brews. He stated they have applied for a DNR Grant which allows for purchase of forestry hose.

President Stacey stated they appreciate the Mayor and Council and all their help and support.

Chief CR Chance stated that the Department is looking at accountability for members for better reporting for workman's compensation personnel hours. He discussed a new check-in software for calls.

Chief Chance stated that the 4th of July festivities are happening this year.

Chief Chance asked to take the Tower to Annapolis June 6 for the Fallen Firefighters Memorial. He stated they will notify Talbot Center for standby.

Upon motion by Mr. Abbatiello, seconded by Mr. Silverstein, permission was granted to take the Tower to Annapolis June 6.

5:35 PM Public Hearing to consider the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget

At 6:16 p.m., President Cook opened the public hearing to consider the FY2021-22 Budget.

Ord. 761, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON ESTABLISHING THE TOWN BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022."

President Cook brought Ordinance 761 to the floor for a first reading.

Ord. 762, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE RAISING BY TAXATION THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO PAY THE ORDINARY EXPENSES OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON THE VARIOUS BOND ISSUES AND THE REDUCTION OF CERTAIN BONDS AND NOTES FOR THE PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS AND SETTING THE INTEREST AND PENALTY FOR DELINQUENT BILLS, COMMENCING ON JULY 1, 2021 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2022."

President Cook brought Ordinance 762 to the floor for a first reading.

Ord. 763, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO CARRY FORWARD CERTAIN CAPITAL FUND EXPENDITURES INTO FISCAL YEAR 2022."

President Cook brought Ordinance 763 to the floor for a first reading.

Res. 6134, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON REVISING THE TOWNS LICENSE, APPLICATION, PERMITS, INSPECTION, CERTIFICATE AND OTHER FEES."

Mayor Willey discussed the FY2021/22 proposed budget.

Mayor Willey asked for a work session to discuss with the council what the American Rescue Plan will be earmarked for.

Mr. Silverstein stated he appreciates the time and effort expended by staff to come up with a balanced budget. He discussed the American Rescue Plan funds and asked if money could be transferred.

Mayor Willey stated he will forward a list of capital items to the council for consideration.

President Cook stated that the tipping fee may be concerning. She stated she would like to ease the increase incrementally.

Public Comments.

President Cook asked for public comments. There were none.

Mr. Gary Thompson, owner of properties on June Way discussed the unit on June Way, Waylands that has been breached. He stated that he hopes that the squirrels vacated the premises before the property was boarded up. He stated his concern is regarding units adjacent to unit 703. Mr. Thompson stated that if neighbors report any activity, he will return to the council.

The Town Attorney, Mrs. VanEmburch stated that the Town is restricted from entering the premises and has limited access to the property.

Items by Members of the Council:

Mr. Silverstein stated he would like to encourage motorists to be courteous and to use their turn signal on cars for other drivers to know their intention.

Mr. Abbatiello ask the community to be patient with different stores and employees.

Mr. Engle stated he appreciated the opportunity to come downtown for Community Day. He stated it was a good start and very enjoyable.

Rev. Davis thanked his colleagues and everyone for Community Day. He stated he met interesting people. Rev. Davis stated it is important to be out in the community where you can live and work. He offered kudos to the organizer and stated he was proud to be a part of Community Day.

President Cook reiterated that Saturday was great; with a good crowd and beautiful art.

President Cook stated that the Park Board will hold a Public Hearing May 26, 5:15 p.m. to consider re-naming RTC Park to John F. Ford Park.

At 6:43 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, President Cook moved in to Closed Session regarding General Provisions Article § 3-305(b) (4).

CLOSED SESSION: General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(4) To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand or remain in the State.

Proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; General Provisions Article § 3-305(b) (4).

At 7:33 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously following a roll call vote, President Cook convened into Open Session.

Adjournment

At 7:34 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Abbatiello and carried unanimously, President Cook adjourned the regularly scheduled council

meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk