**The Mayor and Commissioners**

**of the Town of Elkton**

May 27, 2020

In order to comply with Governor Larry Hogan's declaration of a State of Emergency as part of Maryland's response to COVID-19, and in order to limit public gatherings during this time, the Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton (the "Board") conducted a virtual meeting on this date at 12:00 p.m. The following persons participated via computer and/or telephone: Mayor Robert J. Alt; Commissioners Jean A. Broomell, Charles H. Givens, Sr., Robert M. Massimiano and Earl M. Piner, Sr.; Town Administrator Lewis H. George, Jr.; Finance Director Steven H. Repole; Planning Director Jeanne D. Minner; Senior Administrative Specialist L. Michelle Henson; and Town Attorney John P. Downs, Esquire.

 Mayor Alt called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and lead the participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

 Mayor Alt polled the participating Board members to confirm a quorum.

 Commissioner Piner noted that he would be leaving the virtual meeting at approximately 12:30 p.m. due to a prior commitment.

 ACTION: The minutes of the May 13, 2020 virtual meeting were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Piner. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Givens and approved by all present with no corrections or amendments.

 ACTION: The financial report and the bills submitted for payment were approved on a motion made by Commissioner Givens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Broomell and approved by all present.

 Mayor Alt asked Mr. George to present Ordinance 2-2020 Police Pension Plan in the interim prior to the 12:05 p.m. Public Hearing.

 **Ordinance 2-2020 Police Pension Plan - Presented for Adoption**

 Mr. George presented Ordinance 2-2020 Police Pension Plan for adoption. He stated Ordinance 2-2020 amends the Town of Elkton Code Chapter 2.28 Police Pension Plan to provide Officers a second option for early retirement. A copy of Ordinance 2-2020 was placed in the record of the minutes.

 **ACTION:** Ordinance 2-2020 was adopted on a motion made by Commissioner Massimiano. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Broomell and approved by all present.

 **Public Hearing - Constant Yield Tax Rate**

 Mayor Alt declared the Public Hearing open at 12:05 p.m.

 Mr. Repole stated the Constant Yield Tax Rate (CYTR) was introduced at the May 13, 2020 virtual meeting during the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Budget presentation.

 Mayor Alt stated the FY21 Budget proposes maintaining the Tax Rate at .6356 per $100 of real property assessment, which is higher than the .6193 CYTR.

 Mayor Alt queried the Board and those in attendance via computer and telephone for comments.

 Hearing no comments, Mayor Alt declared the Public Hearing closed at 12:07 p.m.

 **Public Hearing - Ordinance 1-2020 Fiscal Year 2021 Budget - Presented for Adoption**

 Mayor Alt declared the Public Hearing open at 12:08 p.m.

 Mayor Alt stated Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Budget was approved for introduction at the May 13, 2020 virtual meeting.

 Mayor Alt noted the highlights that were presented on May 13, 2020, including maintaining the tax rate at .6356 per $100 of real property assessment, and maintaining Business Personal Property Tax at $1.21 per $100 of personal property, which is unchanged from Fiscal Year 2020, and noted water / sewer and trash collection fees are also unchanged. He noted that the Town of Elkton water / sewer rates are among the lowest in Maryland.

 Mayor Alt stated the sworn Officers of the Elkton Police Department will receive a 5.4% increase under their Collective Bargaining Agreement, adding that the FY21 Budget includes the same percentage of increase for all employees. He added that the recruitment will continue for the vacant Planner Assistant position.

 Mayor Alt stated that shared State Income Tax Revenues are projected to decrease by 20% due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

 Mayor Alt stated the Town will continue to support the Main Street Program via a $100,000 grant as has been the case for the past several years.

 Mayor Alt stated the Town will acquire the Armory property as well as complete the Neighborhood Community Center.

 Mayor Alt queried the Board for comments regarding FY21 Budget.

 Commissioner Givens questioned the salary for the Planning Assistant position. Ms. Minner stated the salary is dependent upon qualifications.

 Mayor Alt queried all those in attendance via computer or telephone for questions or comments regarding FY21 Budget.

 Mr. Richard Lemen questioned the status of loans from the Sewer Fund to complete the Neighborhood Community Center. Mr. Repole stated the loans will be repaid in Fiscal Year 22.

 Mr. Lemen noted the anticipated decrease in Highway User Revenue (HUR) funding. Mr. George clarified that HUR funds are used specifically for road construction projects, and have no affect on general operating expenses.

 Mr. Lemen questioned the status of smart water meter installation. Mr. George stated the project has been temporarily halted.

 Mr. Lemen questioned if the Neighborhood Community Center will open in 2020. Mr. George stated the center will not open until Gov. Hogan lifts restrictions on gatherings.

 Hearing no additional comments, Mayor Alt declared the Public Hearing closed at 12:30 p.m.

 **ACTION:** Ordinance 1-2020 Fiscal Year 2021 Budget was adopted on a motion made by Commissioner Massimiano. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Givens and approved by all present.

 **Annexation Resolution A2-2020 Presented for Introduction**

 Mr. David Plott, Esquire, representing Mr. Anthony Scarangello, II, owner of property located at 411 Maloney Road, Third Election District, Cecil County, Maryland, and identified on Tax Map 316, Parcel 171 consisting of approximately 1.446 acres, with improvements erected thereon, and further described in the Cecil County Land Records in Liber 2671, Folio 0239; and Mr. Manuel Espinosa, owner of property located at 732 East Pulaski Highway, Third Election District, Cecil County, Maryland, and identified on Tax Map 316, Parcel 170, consisting of approximately 0.592 acres, with improvements erected thereon, and further described in the Cecil County Land Records in Liber 1048, Folio 0621. Presented for Introduction

 Mr. George presented Annexation Resolution A2-2020 regarding (2) parcels located at 411 Maloney Road and 732 East Pulaski Highway. He stated the intent of the parties is to combine the parcels into one lot and develop for commercial use. He stated the planned C-2 zoning designation is consistent with Town zoning.

 Mr. George stated Annexation A2-2020 will be presented for adoption at a Public Hearing during a virtual meeting at 12:05 p.m. on July 15, 2020. He said the Public Hearing will be advertised on June 10th and June 17th as well as on the Town's website. Mr. George stated that Annexation A2-2020, if approved, will become effective 45 days after the July 15th Public Hearing. He stated the 45 day period provides the opportunity for the public to initiate a referendum on the annexation.

 Mr. David Plott, Esquire, stated he represents the property owners. He introduced project members Messrs. Tim Hoerner, Phil Hager and Eric McWilliams to the Board. He stated Mr. George's synopsis of the intent regarding the parcel is correct, and asked the Board to approve Annexation A2-2020 for introduction in order for the development to move forward.

 Mayor Alt queried the Board for comments.

 Commissioner Broomell questioned the current County zoning designation of the parcels. Mr. George stated the current zoning is BG, which is consistent with the Town's C-2 designation.

 **Mayor Alt's Report**

 Mayor Alt stated the Ollie's store in the Big Elk Mall is scheduled to open on June 17th.

 Mayor Alt congratulated graduates from Elkton High and Bo Manor High Schools.

 Mayor Alt thanked Public Works Director Dan Handley and Mrs. Laura Handley for the banners recognizing graduating students.

 Mayor Alt stated the new lights have been installed at Meadow Park.

 Mayor Alt questioned the status of the annual contribution to the Singerly Fire Company. Mr. Repole stated the payment is in process.

 **Commissioner Massimiano's Report**

 Commissioner Massimiano announced the Cecil County Arts Council is featuring work from his son, Dave and himself during June. He stated the show can be viewed online.

 **Commissioner Givens' Report**

 Commissioner Givens offered congratulations to all graduates.

 Commissioner Givens, referring to the annual award of (2) Mayor & Commissioners Scholarships, stated he will provide the names of the recipients once when announced.

 **Public Comment**

 Ms. Pat Opal questioned if the Community Center will be available for rentals. Mayor Alt stated the Town will follow Gov. Hogan's guidelines and will not lease the Community Center until it is safe to do so.

 Mr. Richard Lemen questioned the status of the Delaware Avenue pedestrian bridge. Mr. George stated the project has not moved to the construction funding stage by the State Highway Administration at this point.

 Mr. Lemen, referring to the Southfields project, questioned the status of traffic impacts on Route 213 regarding the Logistic Center phase. Ms. Minner stated traffic studies will focus on the Logistic Center's impact on Route 40.

 Hearing no additional business to come before the Board, Mayor Alt adjourned the virtual meeting at 1:11 p.m.

L. Michelle Henson

Sr. Administrative Specialist

A VIDEO RECORDING OF THIS MEETING RETAINED AT THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Note: The minutes of regularly scheduled public meetings conducted by the Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton, following their approval, are posted at www.elkton.org. The minutes, in hard copy format, are retained indefinitely by the Town of Elkton, Administration Office, 100 Railroad Avenue, Elkton, Maryland 21921.