

1 **TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND**
2 **Easton Town Hall**
3 **14 S. Harrison Street**

4 March 4, 2013
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7 **PRESENT AT CONVENING**
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9 Mayor Robert C. Willey 12
10 Council President John Ford 13 Councilmember Kelley K. Malone
11 Councilmember Megan M. Cook 14 Councilmember Pete Leshner

15 Also present was Town Manager Mr. Robert Karge, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch, and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy Ruf.

Mr. Wendowski was excused.

OPENING REMARKS BY MRS. COOK AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

At 7:00 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order. Mrs. Cook led the audience in opening remarks and the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Ford announced that the Closed Session on the agenda was postponed until March 18 at 6:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2013 MEETINGS.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, minutes of the February 19, 2013 meeting were approved.

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.

Mayor Willey reminded the council that there is a 7:30 a.m. breakfast meeting scheduled March 5 with members of the Talbot County Council.

Mayor Willey discussed complaints about people not disposing of their dog's waste specifically in North Easton Park. He reminded everyone to be more responsible about their dogs.

President Ford stated that the Parks and Recreation Department recommending place more pickup bags out for residents for their dog's waste.

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT TO TALBOT COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY AND HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mrs. Cook carried unanimously Ms. Carolyn Jaffe's appointment to the Talbot County Housing Authority was approved.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

Mr. Karge advised that Maureen Scott Taylor, Economic Development Director will be retiring March 31. Mark Heckler will be taking over her duties.

The St. Patrick's Day parade in Easton is scheduled Sunday March 17 with vehicles and floats.

Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, the plans for St. Patrick's Day as outlined by the Town Manager were approved.

PARKING SPACE REQUEST FOR JOB SITE LOCATED AT 1 E. DOVER STREET.

Mr. Karge discussed the construction at Dover and Washington Street and stated that Marvel Construction has asked permission to continue to use two parking spaces for construction equipment and loading and unloading of materials.

Mr. David Valliant was present to discuss the project. He stated that they are installing new plumbing, heating, and air conditioning and trying to restore the building to its original condition. He stated that they need the two parking spaces to continue the restoration. Mr. Valliant stated that there will be two retail spaces on the first floor, office suites on the second and third floor.

Mayor Willey stated that it is a first class project. He asked the council to approve the use of the two parking spaces Monday thru Friday for continued construction purposes.

President Ford stated that it is an investment in the Town Center and he is supportive of this request.

Mr. Leshner stated that it is an investment in downtown and the council needs to encourage the restoration.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the use of the two parking spaces was approved for an additional year.

Mr. Karge updated on the construction activities on Marlboro and Glebe.

Mr. Karge stated that the construction for a fifth lane on Marlboro Road will start approximately April 15.

Mr. Karge asked for a brief Executive Session to discuss personnel.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 620

Mr. Grunden was in attendance to discuss Ordinance No. 620.

President Ford stated that a public hearing is not required but asked the council for their preference.

Mr. Leshner stated that the Ordinance is unlikely to solicit public response.

President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 620.

ORDINANCE NO. 620, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON (THE "BORROWER"), AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A GENERAL OBLIGATION INSTALLMENT BOND IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,730,000) PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE MARYLAND WATER QUALITY FINANCING ADMINISTRATION ACT (CODIFIED AS SECTIONS 9-1601 TO 9-1622, INCLUSIVE, OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND (2007 REPLACEMENT VOLUME AND 2012 SUPPLEMENT)), SECTIONS 31 TO 37, INCLUSIVE, OF ARTICLE 23A OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND (2011 REPLACEMENT VOLUME AND 2012 SUPPLEMENT), AND SECTION 19 OF ARTICLE VI, INCLUSIVE, OF THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF EASTON, SUCH BOND, TO BE DESIGNATED "TOWN OF EASTON (EASTON UTILITIES COMMISSION) WATER QUALITY BOND", THE NET PROCEEDS OF THE SALE THEREOF TO BE USED AND APPLIED FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF FINANCING OR REFINANCING OF THE WASTEWATER FACILITY DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT A TOGETHER WITH THE ACQUISITION OF ALL NECESSARY PROPERTY RIGHTS AND EQUIPMENT, AND RELATED ARCHITECTURAL, FINANCIAL, LEGAL, PLANNING AND ENGINEERING EXPENSES; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BORROWER AND THE MARYLAND WATER QUALITY FINANCING ADMINISTRATION; PRESCRIBING THE FORM AND TENOR OF THE BOND AND THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE THEREOF AT PRIVATE SALE TO THE MARYLAND WATER QUALITY FINANCING ADMINISTRATION; PROVIDING FOR THE PROMPT PAYMENT OF THE MATURING PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BOND WHEN DUE; PLEDGING THE FULL FAITH AND CREDIT OF THE BORROWER TO THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SUCH BONDS; COVENANTING TO LEVY AND COLLECT ALL TAXES NECESSARY TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SUCH BOND; PRESCRIBING THE FORM AND TENOR OF THE BOND AND THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE THEREOF; AND GENERALLY RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE, SALE AND DELIVERY OF THE BOND."

Mr. Grunden described the project and the construction of the cross town force main and water main project. He stated that Easton Utilities Commission will pay the loan from revenues from customers. He stated that the loan is for the wastewater piece only. Mr. Grunden stated that it is advantageous for Easton Utilities to borrow. Mr. Grunden stated that the loan is for 1.6% locked in for 20 years.

7:15 PM PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ORDINANCE NUMBER 619 WHICH PROPOSES TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 613, APPROVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL AND EFFECTIVE ON OCTOBER 8, 2012. ORDINANCE NO. 613 IMPOSED A SIX-MONTH MORATORIUM ON THE APPLICATION FOR, CONSIDERATION OF, APPROVAL OF, CONSTRUCTION OF, EXPANSION OF, PROCESSING OF, OR ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR ELECTRONIC SIGNS, AND APPOINTED A COMMITTEE TO STUDY AND EVALUATE ELECTRONIC SIGN PROVISIONS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS. ORDINANCE 619 PROPOSES TO EXTEND THIS MORATORIUM FOR A PERIOD OF TWO MONTHS TO ALLOW FOR THE FINALIZATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT AS WELL AS THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS NECESSARY TO REVIEW AND POSSIBLY

ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN'S ZONING ORDINANCE WITH REGARDS TO ELECTRONIC SIGNS.

At 7:19 p.m., President Ford opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 619.

The Town Attorney, Mrs. VanEmburch stated that Planning and Zoning did consider the amendment of Ordinance No. 613 at their meeting on February 21 and support the extension of the moratorium.

There being no comments from the public, at 7:20 p.m., President Ford closed the public hearing. He stated that written comments will be accepted until close of business Friday.

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

President Ford discussed the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy project at the previous McCord's building. He stated that they have funding challenges to meet for the purchase and renovation of the building which will be a very important asset for the town. President Ford stated that he has asked Eastern Shore Land Conservancy to attend a council meeting to discuss their project.

Mayor Willey stated that he has a meeting Thursday morning at 11:00 to discuss the Hill project small area plan.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:24 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshar, seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, President Ford convened into Closed Session to discuss personnel

OPEN SESSION

At 7:26 p.m., upon motion by Mrs. Cook, seconded by Mr. Leshar and carried unanimously, President Ford reconvened into Open Session.

ADJOURN

At 7:27 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshar, seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk