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PRESENT AT CONVENING

10 Council President John Ford
11 Councilmember Megan M. Cook
12 Councilmember Leonard E. Wendowski, Sr.
13 Councilmember Kelley K. Malone
14 Councilmember Pete Leshner

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

16 Mayor Willey was excused.

OPENING REMARKS BY MRS. COOK AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

17 Mrs. Cook led those present in opening remarks and the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 15 AND APRIL 26, 2013 MEETINGS.

18 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, minutes of the April 15 and April 26, 2013 meetings were approved as written.

POLICE BOARD.

19 Chief Spencer was present to discuss police department activities.

20 Chief Spencer discussed staffing at the Department. He stated that they have one vacant police officer position and currently have two police recruits in the academy.

21 The following Special Events have been scheduled:

- 22 • June 5 Law Enforcement Torch
- 23 • June 25 MML-PEA Breakfast, OC Convention Center
- 24 • August 6 National Night Out – Moton Park

25 Recent accidents at Dutchman's Lane were described.

26 Chief Spencer discussed specialized training officers are attending.

27 Monthly departmental statistics were distributed.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

APPROVAL OF BID FOR PAVING AT PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY.

28 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the bid for paving at the public works facility from R.L. Ewing Contractors, Inc. was approved in the amount of \$14,290.00.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AWARD FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE BID.

29 Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, the recommendation to award the bid contracts as follows was approved:

30 Kyle Marshall – Marshall Property Manangement, for items A, C and D which consist of lawn mowing and bush hogging.

31 Living Ecosystems, for items A, B and E which consist of lawn mowing and hedge and tree trimming.

32 Oxford Lawn and Landscape, Inc., for items A, F and G which consist of lawn mowing, debris and brush removal.

BID AWARD RECOMMENDATION FOR DOVER & HARRISON INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS.

Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, the recommendation to award the Dover & Harrison Intersection Improvements Project to George & Lynch, Inc. in the amount of two hundred eighteen thousand, one hundred twenty five dollars and fifty cents (\$218,125.50) was approved 4 to 1 with Mr. Wendowski voting no.

Mr. Karge discussed two options for accomplishing funding for the project.

Mr. Karge brought a request for an upcoming Public Assembly Event; Men In High Heels Run to benefit Friends of Hospice on August 4, 2013 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to the floor for approval.

It was the consensus to table the request until the next meeting giving businesses time to weigh in on the requested street closure during the event.

Mr. Karge discussed necessary construction on Washington Street in the vicinity of Glebe Road. He stated that the road must be excavated to replace failed pipes. He stated that it is anticipated that the work can be done in one day.

Mr. Karge advised that work on Mack's Lane which runs behind McDonalds is commencing. He stated that McDonalds has requested for work to be completed by Memorial Day. Mr. Karge advised that the work will be substantially complete by that date.

ORDINANCE NO. 623, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON REPEALING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR PROVISIONS FROM ARTICLE VIII OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE EASTON TOWN CODE, RENUMBERING PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 2 AND ENACTING A NEW ARTICLE IX IN CHAPTER 2 OF THE TOWN CODE TO PROVIDE FOR AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN THE TOWN."

Mr. Heckler was present to discuss the Economic Development Corporation.

President Ford brought Ordinance No. 623 to the floor for introduction.

President Ford set the public hearing for comments on Ordinance No. 623 for Monday, June 3 at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Heckler stated that he will have Ordinance No. 623 posted on the Town's website as well as Annapolis Economic Development Corporation's model.

CONSIDERATION OF MAYORAL APPOINTEES TO EASTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

President Ford brought the Mayoral appointees to the floor for consideration.

Herbert S. Miller – Chairman
Douglas Keeton – Vice Chairman
Margaret Barry McLemore – Secretary
Michael S. Menzies - Treasurer

It was the consensus of the Council to table the appointments until the next meeting when Mayor Willey would be present.

RESOLUTION NO. 6016 AUTHORIZING THE BUDGET MODIFICATION FOR THE LOAN TRANSACTION TO FUND CAPITAL PROJECTS.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried 4 to 1 with Mr. Wendowski voting no, Resolution No. 6016 was approved for passage.

President Ford suggested waiting until recommendations from staff were received before moving figures around to accommodate funding.

ORDINANCE NO. 624, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE TOWN OF EASTON ZONING ORDINANCE."

President Ford brought Ordinance No. 624 to the floor for introduction.

President Ford set the public hearing for comments on Ordinance No. 624 for June 3, 7:30 p.m.

LANDLORDS AND RENTAL INSPECTION CONCERNS

Mrs. VanEmburch discussed the town's property maintenance or livability code.

The Town Attorney stated that local landlords had met with Mayor Willey. Ms. VanEmburch suggested getting information from the state which outlines what they required to be passed. She stated that local jurisdictions have to substantially conform to the state's code. Ms. VanEmburch stated that Mayor Willey is getting information from other municipalities regarding what they do and how they handle their rental housing code. She stated that she will get the information and report back to the council.

Mr. Steve Wheeler, PO Box 2603, Easton stated we have a crisis in town. He stated that he is trying to eliminate contention. Mr. Wheeler stated that he rents safe, clean affordable housing. He discussed what he perceives to be inaccuracies, inconsistencies, and innuendos. Mr. Wheeler stated that he has concerns regarding properties that have previously been inspected and passed.

Ms. Daphne Cawley, P.O. Box 2971, Easton, discussed their concerns regarding how the code is interpreted. Ms. Cawley asked for a prompt response. She stated that time is of the essence.

Mr. Steve Hershey, 8646 Brooks Drive, Easton stated that he manages and owns in excess of 30 rental properties. He stated that this is their small business. He discussed a house on Wye Avenue and the need to replace windows according to the Code. He stated that it is stated that it won't allow egress in case of fire. Mr. Hershey asked the council to give serious consideration and thought to the way the inspections are being handled.

Ms. Patricia McGlannan, 11 Tred Avon Avenue, Easton discussed fines and judicial procedures. She stated that she is shocked by the invasive nature of inspections. She asked the Council for some relief. She stated that she is considering putting her rental properties on the market which would put numerous families on the street.

Mr. Bill Wieland, 607 Windmill Road discussed the hardship the Rental Housing Inspection Code has created. He stated that there is a diminishing amount of rentals available. Mr. Wieland discussed findings by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

President Ford stated that the group would not leave tonight with any answers. He stated that the Mayor is setting up a meeting with the state to discuss flexibility with some of the concerns raised by landlords this evening. Mr. Ford stated that there is more information needed from the town staff and state.

ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Mr. Leshar extended congratulations to Eastern Shore Land Conservancy for their purchase of the McCord's building.

Mrs. Cook reminded everyone to get out and vote tomorrow.

President Ford stated that he hopes for a good turnout in the town election.

President Ford stated that the Planning Department has scheduled informational meeting on Wednesday May 29 in the Council's chambers to discuss the Windmill Branch Watershed project.

President Ford reminded those present that there will be a budget workshop Thursday, May 16 in the Council's chambers. He stated that it is a public meeting but not a public hearing. President Ford stated that there is a significant deficit in the town's budget. The public hearing for the draft budget where the council will take public comment is scheduled for May 20 at 7:15 p.m.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Mr. Mark Stover, 101 Marlboro, Postal Suites discussed the hardship on businesses the road construction is causing.

Mr. Roberto Loforte, 101 Marlboro Avenue, discussed Glebe Road and the lack of interest to get anything done. He stated that he has older customers that refuse to come to his business due to the inconvenience of the construction.

ADJOURN

At 8:21p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled council meeting.

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk