

**TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND
EASTON TOWN HALL
14 S. HARRISON STREET**

April 3, 2017

PRESENT AT CONVENING.

Mayor Robert C. Willey	12	Councilmember Pete Leshar
Council President John Ford	13	Councilmember Ron E. Engle
Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein	14	Councilmember Megan M. Cook

Also present was the Town Manager Mr. Donald J. Richardson, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch, Town Planner Mr. Lynn Thomas and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.

CALL TO ORDER.

At 7:00 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order.

OPENING REMARKS BY MR. SILVERSTEIN AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2017 MEETING.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, minutes of the March 20, 2017 meeting were approved.

ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.

DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING BUDGET WORKSHOPS.

Mayor Willey stated that the budget workshops with Department Managers are scheduled for April 5 and April 6 starting at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Willey stated that the budget is balanced and any additional requests need to have a funding source. He stated that the health insurance renewal is not settled yet and the Highway User funds and Police Aid are not finalized. Substantial amount of capital items have not been funded and are not included in the budget.

REQUEST ACCEPTANCE OF FY2015/16 AUDIT AS PREPARED BY CLIFTONLARSONALLEN LLP.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Leshar the audit was accepted and approved.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

APPROVAL OF RECYCLING BID FIVE YEAR CONTRACT.

Mr. Richardson stated that the contract in the amount of \$2,352,000 was recommended by staff. He stated that this is a 25% increase over the next five years.

Mr. Richardson asked that the bid approval be tabled.

APPROVAL OF ROOF REPAIR BID AT GLENWOOD AVENUE PUBLIC WORKS.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Leshar and carried unanimously, the bid in the amount of \$6,200 from Tecta America from Salisbury, Maryland was approved.

HUGH GRUNDEN, EASTON UTILITIES PRESIDENT & CEO TO ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING THE PJM NEW JERSEY PROJECT.

Mr. Grunden was present to ask the town to support and send a letter opposing rate increases brought on by a PJM Interconnection project that provides little benefits locally. Mr. Grunden stated that it is important that voices be heard along Delmarva Peninsula.

Mr. Leshar made a motion to send a letter supporting Easton Utilities' position; seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously.

71 **7:15 PM PUBLIC HEARING TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE TOWN OF**
72 **EASTON ESTABLISHING AN ENTERPRISE ZONE TAX CREDIT PROGRAM; A JOINT EFFORT BETWEEN THE**
73 **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE TAX INCENTIVES TO BUSINESSES AND PROPERTY**
74 **OWNERS LOCATED IN SOME OF THE STATE'S MOST ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES.**
75

76 At 7:22 p.m., President Ford opened the 7:15 p.m. scheduled public hearing.
77

78 Ms. Tracy Ward discussed the proposed State Enterprise Zone for Talbot County. She discussed the
79 Census Tract Zone and the designation requirements. She stated that the application is due April 15. Ms.
80 Ward stated that they will apply jointly with Talbot County. She discussed the benefits and the income tax
81 credits. Ms. Ward stated that the state will reimburse the local jurisdiction 50% of the lost revenue. She
82 stated that the standards and management is implemented by the Town of Easton and Talbot County
83 depending on the jurisdiction. Ms. Ward stated that no residential properties will be included. Ms. Ward
84 will provide an updated map. She stated that she will need evidence of the public hearing and a resolution
85 of support from the Town of Easton.
86

87 President Ford introduced Resolution No. 6078 and asked for questions. There were none.
88

89 At 7:34 p.m., President Ford closed the scheduled public hearing
90

91 **RES. NO. 6078, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION FOR**
92 **DESIGNATION OF A PORTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AS A MARYLAND ENTERPRISE ZONE."**
93

94 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried, Resolution No. 6078 was approved with
95 Mr. Engle absent.
96

97 **7:20 PM PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ORDINANCE NUMBERS 705 AND 706 WHICH AUTHORIZES THE**
98 **TOWN OF EASTON TO PURCHASE A PORTION OF 36 SOUTH AURORA STREET AND A PORTION OF 38**
99 **SOUTH AURORA STREET.**
100

101 At 7:35 p.m., President Ford opened the 7:20 p.m. scheduled public hearing.
102

103 The Town Attorney discussed the necessity for the purchase of the properties. She stated that it is
104 necessary to acquire property from adjoining property owners as well as to meet setbacks and
105 requirements.
106

107 President Ford asked for questions. There were none.
108

109 At 7:37 p.m., President Ford closed the public hearing.
110

111 **ORD. NO. 705, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO**
112 **PURCHASE A PORTION OF 36 SOUTH AURORA STREET IN THE TOWN OF EASTON."**
113

114 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried, Ordinance No. 705 passed with Mr.
115 Engle absent.
116

117 **ORD. NO. 706, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO**
118 **PURCHASE A PORTION OF 38 SOUTH AURORA STREET IN THE TOWN OF EASTON."**
119

120 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried, Ordinance No. 706 passed with Mr.
121 Engle absent.
122

123 **CONT'D. PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON THE REQUEST TO ANNEX APPROXIMATELY 6.533**
124 **ACRES, MORE OR LESS LYING CONTIGUOUS TO THE EXISTING BOUNDARIES OF THE TOWN OF EASTON.**
125

126 The Town Attorney stated that the staff is currently reviewing changes made in the Annexation Plan. She
127 stated that the annexation is not ready to be acted on tonight.
128

129 President Ford stated that legislative action will not occur on the Port Street Annexation at the next
130 meeting due to any public comments. He stated it may be acted on May 1 after taking public comments.
131

132 **RES. NO. 6071, "A RESOLUTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN LANDS LOCATED ALONG PORT STREET AND**
133 **CONSISTING OF 6.533 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, INTO THE TOWN OF EASTON AND TO PROVIDE**
134 **FOR THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ANNEXATIONS."**
135

136 Not acted on.
137

138 **ORD. NO. 690, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF**
139 **THE TOWN OF EASTON TO APPLY THE GENERAL COMMERCIAL (CG) ZONING DISTRICT TO CERTAIN LOTS**
140 **OR PARCELS OF LAND ANNEXED TO THE TOWN OF EASTON BY RESOLUTION NO. 6071 LOCATED ALONG**
141 **PORT STREET AND CONSISTING, COLLECTIVELY, OF 6.533 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS."**
142

143 Not acted on.

144
145 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.**
146

147 Mrs. Cook invited everyone to the East End Neighborhood Association Annual Cleanup Saturday April 8.
148 She stated everyone should meet at the Community Garden at 8:00 a.m. and that the rain date is April 22.
149

150 President Ford stated that Easton Little League Opening Day is Saturday. He encouraged everyone to go to
151 North Easton Sports Complex for the festivities.
152

153 **ADJOURNMENT.**
154

155 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, President Ford
156 entertained a motion to adjourn.
157

158 President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting at 7:42 p.m.
159
160

161 _____
162 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk