

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

July 3, 2017

PRESENT AT CONVENING.

Mayor Robert C. Willey
Council President John Ford
Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein

Councilmember Pete Leshner
Councilmember Ron E. Engle
Councilmember Megan M. Cook

At 6:34 President Ford called the meeting to order.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, President Ford moved into Closed Session.

At 6:55, upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, President Ford moved out of Closed Session.

7:00 PM OPENING REMARKS BY MR. ENGLE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

President Ford stated that the Council met earlier this evening in Closed Session under 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 19, 2017 MEETING.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the minutes were approved as written.

Application for Lidl.

President Ford stated that the representative for Lidl has asked that the application be deferred.

ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.

Mayor Willey stated that Easton Police Department has three recruits enrolled in the upcoming Academy class.

Mayor Willey stated that the Town's property tax bills have been mailed.

Mayor Willey asked for Council consideration for the Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning and Zoning Commission appointments.

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS AND PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, Mayor Willey's appointment of:

Mr. Michael N. O'Keefe as an alternate to the Board of Zoning Appeals for the remainder of a three year term expiring December 31, 2018; and

Ms. Victoria McAndrew's appointment as an Alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a five year term expiring December 31, 2022 were confirmed.

Mayor Willey thanked Mr. Leshner for presenting proclamations to August Boldt and Brandon Westerfield at their recent Eagle Scout ceremony.

Mayor Willey stated he is in receipt of an invitation for the BSA's Distinguished Citizen Award from the Del-Mar-Va Council of the Boy Scouts.

Mr. Silverstein stated he would like to attend.

Mayor Willey stated he has received a letter from MD Department of Planning designating the Enterprise Zone for the Town of Easton.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

Mr. Richardson stated that there is a new hire in the Planning and Zoning Department, Sierra Crist, Planner/GIS Analyst.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.

Town Attorney Mrs. VanEmburch stated that Celeste’s request for annexation and amendment to zoning public hearing is scheduled for July 17 at 7:15 p.m.

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

At 7:09 President Ford opened the continued public hearing.

The Town Attorney discussed the proposed amendment to the Annexation Agreement. She stated that the major change is in Section 3.2. The Town Attorney summarized the enactment of a new Zoning District. This section says that development and the issue of permits is not permitted until that time.

Ryan Showalter, Esq. was present on behalf of the petitioners and thanked the council for their interest and patience. He stated that the applicants are very interested in a vote this evening. He stated that he believes the council and the petitioners share the same vision for Easton Point.

Bishop Joel, 21 Sycamore Avenue, stated he was impressed by Mr. Prager’s published comments in the Star Democrat. Bishop Joel cited the need for historical preservation in the Port Street corridor. Bishop Joel urged the council to preserve the two story brick building which was once the Rosenwald School. He stated that the historical significance is a great importance to the community.

Bruce Armistead, Esq. 114 Bay Street, Easton stated that he supports the proposed change in the annexation agreement for a period of six months. He stated that Mr. Prager would like all parties to work together to accomplish three things, 1) to facilitate responsible development, 2) benefit the town and surrounding properties, and; 3) allow all Easton point property owners to realize the value. Mr. Armistead stated that there would be no legal challenge from Mr. Prager. He requested that the town work as diligently as possible for responsible development.

At 7:19 p.m., President Ford closed the public hearing.

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

Upon motion by Mr. Leshar, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6071 was approved.

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

Upon motion by Mr. Leshar, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 690 was approved.

The Town Attorney stated that for the record, the Annexation Agreement dated July 3, 2017 is the Agreement that should be acted on.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshar, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the Annexation Agreement dated July 3, 2017 was approved.

ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. Leshar extended an invitation for those interested to come to St. Michaels Square tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. where he will speak on Independence and America’s Open Door

Mrs. Cook wished everyone a Happy and Safe 4th of July as well as Canada Day which was on July 1st.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 7:22 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.