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TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND
Easton Town Hall
14 S. Harrison Street

December 17, 2012

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PRESENT AT CONVENING

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Mayor Robert C. Willey	Councilmember Kelley K. Malone
Council President John Ford	Councilmember Pete Leshner
Councilmember Megan M. Cook	Councilmember Leonard E. Wendowski, Sr.

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

OPENING REMARKS BY PRESIDENT FORD AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2012 MEETINGS.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, minutes of the December 3, 2012 meetings were approved.

MR. ERNIE SMITH PRESENT TO AWARD CHRISTMAS PARADE TROPHIES.

Mr. Smith presented awards to the following participants of the Easton Christmas parade. He thanked the Council for judging.

Mayor's Trophy: The Busy Beavers 4-H
1st Place: (2 winners) The Girl Scouts and Chesapeake Christian School
2nd Place: Talbot County Humane Society
3rd Place: The Curling Club

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.

Mayor Willey stated that he is meeting with Angela Lane at Talbot County tomorrow to discuss the county tax differential calculation.

Mayor Willey discussed the Police Board and Fire Board meetings in 2013. He suggested scheduling the meetings quarterly, during the regularly scheduled council meetings and placing them early on the agenda.

Mayor Willey stated that the Housing Authority received a \$25,000 grant earmarked for studying and elevation drawings for their proposed project on Port Street which is a part of the planning process of Phase I.

Mayor Willey recently attended the ROTC inspection at Easton High School. He stated they were impressive.

Mayor Willey announced that there will be a breakfast meeting with the Town Council members and the Eastern Shore Delegation Friday December 28, 8:00 a.m. at Tidewater to discuss a wish list for Easton.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

Mr. Karge advised that the Public Works Department recently completed planting 92 trees around Easton.

Mr. Karge stated that the Town of Easton recently advertised for bids for three police vehicles. He stated that there is \$84,000 in the budget for the cars. He asked for permission to accept the bids for two Dodge Chargers with rear wheel drive for \$24,264 each from Fred Frederick; and a SUV for \$25,438 from Apple Ford for a total of \$73,966 which is below the \$84,000 in the budget. Mr. Karge stated that the vehicles still have to be outfitted which is approximately \$10,500 per vehicle.

Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, the bids for the police cars as outlined were approved unanimously.

Mr. Karge wished everyone happy holidays in the upcoming season.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.

71 Mrs. VanEmburch discussed the petition from Shore Health System for the DRRA. She stated that she would
72 refer to the Planning and Zoning Commission for their December 20 meeting for review and consideration.
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75 Mrs. VanEmburch asked President Ford to schedule the Public Hearing on the Shore Health Systems DRRA for
76 January 7.
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78 **LETTER FROM EASTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC. ASKING APPROVAL OF THE**
79 **ELECTION OF MORRIS (SONNY) E. JONES TO THE OFFICE OF CHIEF FOR THE YEAR 2013.**

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81 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, confirmation of Chief Morris
82 (Sonny) E. Jones' election to the position of Chief of the Easton Volunteer Fire Department was unanimously
83 approved.
84

85 Outgoing Chief Jamie McNeal thanked the town and Mayor for their support. He stated that the Department had
86 62 calls for the month of November; 46 so far in December. Chief McNeal briefed on the fire at Cambridge at a
87 three story apartment complex.
88

89 Chief Jamie McNeal briefed on the business activities of Suburban Propane. MDE has instructed Suburban not
90 to release anymore propane and to develop alternatives to releasing gas. President Ford asked Mr. McNeal to
91 leave MDE contact information with the Town Manager.
92

93 Chief McNeal recommended Sonny Jones for the position of Chief. He stated he fully supports the staff of the
94 Easton Volunteer Fire Department.
95

96 Chief McNeal wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a fire safe holiday.
97

98 **ORDINANCE NO. 617, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE TOWN**
99 **OF EASTON ZONING ORDINANCE."**

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01 President Ford stated that the Public Hearing had been left open to make grammatical corrections to the
02 ordinance.
03

04 There being no further public comment, President Ford closed the public hearing at 7:43 p.m.
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06 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 617 was
07 approved following a roll call vote.
08

09 **ORDINANCE NO. 618, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE**
10 **EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A PROMISSORY NOTE IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF**
11 **\$3,000,000 PAYABLE TO THE EASTON UTILITIES COMMISSION FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE**
12 **OF PROVIDING FINANCING FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR THE TOWN OF EASTON AND**
13 **PLEDGING THE FULL FAITH AND CREDIT AND TAXING AUTHORITY OF THE TOWN OF**
14 **EASTON TO THE REPAYMENT OF SAME."**

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16 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried, Ordinance No. 618 was approved following a
17 roll call vote.
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19 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$1,814,129.63.**

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21 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, invoices totaling \$1,814,129.63
22 were approved for payment.
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24 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

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26 Ms. Malone wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season.
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28 Mr. Leshar stated that he would circulate a proposed draft of the rules of the council by e-mail. He stated that he
29 would send the draft to Mr. Karge for circulation.
30

31 Mr. Wendowski, Mrs. Cook and President Ford wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
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33 **ADJOURN**

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35 At 7:57 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mr. Leshar and carried unanimously, President Ford
36 adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.
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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk