

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

April 15, 2013

PRESENT AT CONVENING

Mayor Robert C. Willey
Council President John Ford
Councilmember Megan M. Cook

Councilmember Leonard E. Wendowski, Sr.
Councilmember Kelley K. Malone
Councilmember Pete Leshner

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

OPENING REMARKS BY MR. WENDOWSKI AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mr. Wendowski led the audience in opening remarks and the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 1, APRIL 8 AND APRIL 9, 2013 MEETINGS.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, minutes of April 1, April 8 and April 9, 2013 meetings were approved as written.

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.

Mayor Willey advised that the budget workshops start this week with the department heads. The public hearing will be forthcoming. The Town is facing at least a 5% increase for insurance.

APPOINTMENT OF JENNIFER L. WILLIAMS TO HOUSING AUTHORITY OF TALBOT COUNTY.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, Ms. Williams' confirmation was approved.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

Mr. Karge stated that the Marlboro Road project will be commencing and will take approximately 120 days.

The Glebe Road project is almost complete.

Chapel road crosswalks should be activated within the next two weeks.

Mr. Richardson has advertised for maintenance contracts. He recommends awarding the bid contracts as follows:

- 1) To Kyle Marshall – Marshall Property Management, for items A, C and D which consist of lawn mowing and bush hogging.
- 2) To Living Ecosystem, for items A, B and E which consist of; lawn mowing and hedge & tree trimming.
- 3) To Oxford Lawn and Landscape, Inc., for items A, F and G which consist of; lawn mowing, debris and brush removal.

Mr. Richardson has recommended awarding the lawn mowing “Item A” to multiple contractors, thus providing flexibility over the contract period considering the low cost provided in the bid results.

The award of this contract was tabled until the next meeting until the property maintenance bid results were reviewed.

APPROVAL OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PERMIT APPLICATION.

Mr. Karge asked for Street closure on May 4th from 7a.m. to 11 p.m. in the vicinity of the Academy Museum. It was the consensus of the council to require The Academy to notify business that may be affected from the South & Harrison Street closure. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, approval was granted to close the street for Academy Museum activities on May 4.

Mrs. Cook stated that she is receiving complaints regarding trucks parking in the Tractor Supply area. Mr. Karge advised that signs could be placed to deter parking. Mr. Leshar stated that he supports effort to have signs placed. Mr. Wendowski suggested "No Truck Parking." Mr. Karge asked for clarification for placement of signs. President Ford suggested placing signs where residents are affected.

ORDINANCE NO. 590, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING ARTICLE VI OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE TOWN OF EASTON CODE REGARDING ETHICS PROVISIONS."

President Ford stated that some suggestions to the language are being considered. He suggested tableling the legislation until corrected.

SETTING BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

President Ford set the Budget Public Hearing for May 20 at 7:15 p.m.

REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$766,537.67.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshar, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, invoices totaling \$766,537.67 were approved for payment.

UPCOMING ELECTION.

President Ford reminded those present that the upcoming election will be held May 7 for President of Council, Ward 2 and Ward 4. President Ford encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

7:15 PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ORDINANCE NO. 621 WHICH PROPOSES AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN'S ZONING ORDINANCE WHICH WOULD AMEND ARTICLE XI OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE BY REVISING THE WAY IN WHICH PROPOSED REGULATIONS REPRESENT THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE TASKED TO DEVELOP SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS (PURSUANT TO THE MORATORIUM DECLARED ON SUCH SIGNS IN OCTOBER 2012), AS MODIFIED BY THE EASTON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.

Mrs. VanEmburch added language to identifying signs already in place.

Planning and Zoning Commission has forwarded a positive recommendation on the committee's recommendation to add the word visual.

President Ford asked for public comment.

Mr. Al Silverstein, Talbot County Chamber of Commerce was present to support the proposal submitted to the council. He stated that he feels that it is important that businesses have opportunity to advertise.

Mr. Leshar asked that the proposed legislation be amended to address the maximum percentage of the sign to be 25 percent.

President Ford stated that he supports the legislation as is currently written.

Mr. Leshar discussed his thoughts on amending the legislation.

Mr. Wendowski stated that the sign approved on should be what is considered.

President Ford stated that he respects Ms. Malone's request to think about an amendment.

ORDINANCE NO. 621, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE TOWN OF EASTON ZONING ORDINANCE."

Upon motion by President Ford seconded by Mr. Wendowski carried 4 to 1, Ordinance No. 621 passed with Mr. Leshar voting no.

Mrs. Cook explained that she voted yes due to the compromise of the committee.

ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL

Mr. Wendowski stated that Little League Opening Day is Saturday at 8:45 a.m.

Mrs. Cook stated that Comptroller Franchot will be in town Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. to walk around the Hill project.

There is a Legislation luncheon scheduled Thursday at Comfort Inn at noon to give a recap of the legislative session.

ADJOURN

At 7:36 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, President of Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled council meeting.

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk