

1 **TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND**
2 **Easton Town Hall**
3 **14 S. Harrison Street**

4 May 20, 2013
5
6

7 **PRESENT AT CONVENING**
8

9 Mayor Robert C. Willey
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
16 Also present was Town Manager Mr. Robert Karge, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch, and Town Clerk
17 Mrs. Kathy Ruf.
18

19 **OPENING REMARKS BY MS. MALONE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**
20

21 Ms. Malone gave opening remarks and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
22

23 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 6 AND MAY 16, 2013 MEETINGS.**
24

25 Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, the minutes of May 6 and
26 May 16 were approved as written.
27

28 **FIRE BOARD.**
29

30 Chief Sonny Jones reported that the Department recently received the Heritage Award recognizing the Easton Fire
31 Department's lengthy service to the community.
32

33 Chief Jones discussed the Maryland State Firemen's Convention. He asked permission to take Engine 68 and
34 Aerial Tower 61 to parade.
35

36 It was the consensus of the Council for the Department to participate in the State Firemen's Parade in Ocean City.
37

38 Chief Jones reported that Ms. Malone is working on a film documentary regarding the EVFD.
39

40 Training drills and manpower hours were discussed.
41

42 First Assistant Chief Engineer Jason Spies updated on the new ladder truck and thanked the Mayor and Council.
43 He updated on the building timeline and stated that they will be going to Ohio June 11. He advised that he will
44 keep the council updated regarding the delivery time
45

46 President Tim Knotts congratulated the Council on their re-election. He discussed fundraising activities.
47

48 Fire Board members departed the meeting at 7:06 p.m.
49

50 **OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL JOHN FORD,**
51 **COUNCILMEMBERS PETE LESHER AND MEGAN COOK.**
52

53 Mayor Willey administered the Oath of Office to President Ford, Councilmembers Pete Leshner and Megan Cook
54 for a four year term.
55

56 Mayor Willey stated that he is looking forward to the next four years.
57

58 **ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.**
59

60 Mayor Willey discussed a meeting scheduled in Crownsville with DHCD regarding rental housing building codes.
61

62 Mrs. Gould has advised Mayor Willey of a tentative grand opening at the RTC Park property on June 21.
63

64 Mayor Willey stated that he has received a request from Charles Gayle for a letter of support which will be sent to
65 the State of Maryland seeking a Heritage Grant for the Bethel Church.
66

67 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, permission was granted to draft the
68 letter in support of the Heritage Grant for Bethel Church.
69

70 Mayor Willey advised that the Town of Easton will need to reapply for the Sustainable Communities designation
71 in order to apply for the Community Legacy Grant in October.

72
73 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

74
75 Mr. Karge discussed the Harrison Intersection Improvements which are in the amount of \$218,125.50. He stated
76 that the amount is more than in the budget due to the pedestrian controlled stop light at Harrison and Dover. He
77 discussed upgrades that are necessary due to the Uniform Manual of Traffic Control Devices. Mr. Karge stated that
78 the scope of work includes removing the controller box, replacing the storm drain line, curb inlets and making the
79 intersection ADA compliant. He discussed funding for the project and stated that \$100,000 was saved on the Maxx
80 Lane project and the remainder would be taken from the Mayor's Contingency Account.

81
82 Mr. Leshner asked for a breakdown of costs for the project.

83
84 Mr. Wendowski discussed the amount of money being spent.

85
86 President Ford stated that he is comfortable letting the 4-1 vote stand.

87
88 Mr. Leshner and Ms. Malone stated that they believe this work needs to go forward.

89
90 **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FOR PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PERMITS.**

91
92 Mr. Karge asked for approval of a Public Assembly Permit for the Hospice High Heel Race for August 4, 2013. He
93 stated that the merchants have been advised of the event and none have any issues.

94
95 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, approval was granted for the
96 Hospice High Heel Race.

97
98 Mr. Karge asked for approval of a Public Assembly Permit for the Juneteenth Celebration /Frederick Douglass
99 Honor Society June 19 South Harrison Street to walk from South Street and Dover Street to the Avalon Theater.

00
01 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, the Public Assembly Permit was
02 approved.

03
04 Mr. Karge advised that the Police Department's Torch Run is scheduled for Wednesday June 5th. He advised that
05 the route has changed and they will be running through town.

06
07 Milling and paving activity in town is half complete for town projects. Mr. Karge updated on construction projects.
08 He stated that Glebe Road may be reopened this week and Marlboro Road construction is on target.

09
10 Mr. Karge discussed the Town's Parks and Recreation Baseball Camp for ages 8-13 with Brian Femi at North
11 Easton Sports Complex scheduled for June 24 through July 25. He stated that registration forms are available on
12 the town's website and at the town office.

13
14 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

15
16 Mrs. VanEmburch stated that the Planning Commission considered Waterside Village with four amendments.

17
18 President Ford set the public hearing for July 15 at 7:15 p.m.

19
20 Mrs. VanEmburch suggested no other public hearings be held on that date.

21
22 President Ford asked for clarification regarding the Board of Appeals.

23
24 Mrs. VanEmburch discussed the Board of Appeals and stated that they have the power to review code enforcement
25 issues. They also can decide if the code has been applied correctly. She stated that the Board cannot waive
26 requirements of the livability code.

27
28 President Ford considered empowering the Board of Appeals to be able to waive a decision. He stated that he
29 would like more information on what other jurisdictions do.

30
31 **UPDATE ON DOWNTOWN EASTON PARTNERSHIP**

32
33 Betty Huang, Studio B Gallery, Goldsboro Street stated that she is working with the downtown merchants
34 developing an Easton partnership. She discussed merchants investing their own resources in developing a website.
35 She stated that the Mall map is to be updated. Ms. Huang stated that 39% of downtown businesses are
36 participating. Ms. Huang is looking for \$50,000 from Town of which \$35,000 will be used for a yearly manager's
37 salary.
38

39 The Council expressed concern regarding budgets and reporting. They stressed keeping the momentum as
40 necessary from the group.

41
42 Mrs. Cook asked to be notified of future downtown merchant meetings.

43
44 **CONSIDERATION OF MAYORAL APPOINTEES TO EASTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
45 **CORPORATION.**

46
47 Herbert S. Miller, Chairman

48 Douglas Keeton, Vice Chairman

49 Margaret Barry McLemore, Secretary

50 R. Michael S. Menzies, Treasurer

51
52 The Town Attorney stated that she thought this was tabled until the public hearing scheduled for June 3.

53
54 **7:15 PM PUBLIC HEARING TO OBTAIN THE VIEWS OF CITIZENS ON COMMUNITY**
55 **DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING NEEDS AND TO OFFER CITIZENS THE OPPORTUNITY TO**
56 **REVIEW AN APPLICATION FOR INSTALLATION OF STORM WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM,**
57 **AND CURB, GUTTERS AND PARKING AREA FOR 5-OWNER OCCUPIED HOMES AT 233 PORT**
58 **STREET, EASTON, A DEVELOPMENT OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CHOPTANK WITH ALL**
59 **HOMES SOLD TO QUALIFYING LOW-INCOME HOME BUYERS WHICH THE TOWN OF EASTON**
60 **PROPOSES TO SUBMIT TO THE STATE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$64,000 ON OR BEFORE THE MAY**
61 **31, 2013 DEADLINE FOR SAME.**

62
63 At 7:57 p.m., President Ford opened the public hearing.

64
65 Ms. Nancy Andrew, Executive Director Habitat for Humanity Choptank discussed the CDBG application and
66 scope of work. She stated that they are the sub recipient and will apply for the grant under the Town of Easton.

67
68 President Ford asked for audience comments. There were none.

69
70 At 8:00 p.m., President Ford closed the public hearing.

71
72 **RESOLUTION NO. 6018 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR**
73 **COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$64,000.**

74
75 Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6018 was
76 approved.

77
78 **MS. PAIGE BETHKE, DIRECTOR; TALBOT COUNTY OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
79 **TO REVIEW THE STRATEGIC PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS.**

80
81 Ms. Bethke stated that she was present to bring to the town the recommendation of Sage Policy Group.

82
83 Mr. Wendowski represents the town on this Economic Group. Ms. Bethke discussed the strategic plan
84 recommendations for the town and county. She stated that there is a 36.2% increase in population in ten years and
85 Easton needs to bring in higher paying jobs to increase income.

86
87 Ms. Bethke introduced Ted Bautz and Mike Hiner who serve on the Strategic Planning Commission.

88
89 Ms. Bethke discussed recommendations for Talbot County and the Town of Easton.

90
91 Ms. Bethke asked the Council to approve the concepts recommended by Sage Policy Group.

92
93 Ms. Bethke asked to take back to the County the Town's approval of the Strategic Plan recommendations. The
94 Town Council's consensus was that they are in favor of the recommendations and will work with the county in
95 collaboration.

96
97 **PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 BUDGET.**

98
99 At 8:40 p.m., President Ford opened the Public Hearing on the FY2013-2014 budget.

00
01 Mayor Willey discussed the proposed budget and highlighted what has been submitted. He stated that the budget
02 totals \$18,319,814. Mayor Willey discussed pending budget changes developed subsequent to the original
03 proposal.

04
05 President Ford stated that this year's budget has been troubling.

06
07 Mayor Willey discussed the shortfall in this year's budget and in the upcoming years.

08
09 President Ford opened the public hearing for public comment. There were none.
10

11 President Ford left the public hearing open for comments due to proposed changes, fees or tax payment discounts
12 which will need to be altered to fund this budget. He stated that the public can come forward June 3 to make
13 comments. President Ford stated that a workshop would be scheduled to discuss amendments to the proposed
14 budget.
15

16 **RESOLUTION NO. 6017, THE BUDGET FOR THE TWELVE MONTH PERIOD FROM JULY 1, 2013**
17 **AS SUBMITTED BY MAYOR ROBERT C. WILLEY.**
18

19 President Ford introduced Resolution No. 6017.
20

21 **ORDINANCE NO. 625, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE RAISING BY TAXATION THE**
22 **AMOUNT NECESSARY TO PAY THE ORDINARY EXPENSES OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AND TO**
23 **PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON THE VARIOUS BOND ISSUES AND THE**
24 **REDUCTION OF CERTAIN BONDS AND NOTES FOR THE PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS AND**
25 **SETTING THE INTEREST AND PENALTY FOR DELINQUENT BILLS, COMMENCING ON JULY 1,**
26 **2013 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2014."**
27

28 President Ford brought Ordinance No. 625 to the floor for a first reading.
29

30 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.**
31

32 Mr. Wendowski congratulated the council members on their re-election.
33

34 Mrs. Cook was congratulated for her nomination by Easton Elementary for Care Paks. She stated that she was the
35 winner for Talbot County and one of five finalists in the state.
36

37 **ADJOURN**
38

39 At 9:04 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously; President Ford
40 adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.
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42

43 _____
44 Kathy M. Ruf
45
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