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

October 19, 2015

PRESENT AT CONVENING

Mayor Robert C. Willey	4	Councilmember Pete Leshar
Council President John Ford	5	Councilmember Ron E. Engle
Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein	6	Councilmember Megan M. Cook

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

CALL TO ORDER.

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

OPENING REMARKS BY MR. LESHER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 5 AND OCTOBER 13, 2015 MEETINGS.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the minutes of the October 5 and October 13, 2015 meetings were approved.

DISCUSSION OF COMBINING 911 CENTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES WITH TALBOT COUNTY.

President Ford discussed the work session held on October 13. He summarized what is proposed including a temporary emergency services relocation at Easton Police Department while 911 goes under construction and expansion. President Ford discussed the proposal and stated that the Town dispatchers will become county employees. He stated that Easton Police Department dispatch department will become a backup center. Easton Police Department dispatchers will be offered positions at the Talbot 911 center. The financial impact to the Town of Easton is that the current staffing salaries and benefits that account for \$400,000 remain at that level. The county pays future escalation and capital costs.

Mr. Leshar thanked the police department for their cooperation in this proposal. Mr. Leshar stated that he thinks we need to support the proposal. He stated that he is fully supportive of the offer as it stands on the table and suggests that the Town of Easton go forward as proposed.

Mr. Engle stated that he believes the proposal is positive to the officers' safety. He stated that he is not sure with respect to the financial status. Mr. Engle stated that there are currently seven dispatchers being paid; budgeted for ten. Mr. Engle stated that the final documents need to be reviewed before approved.

President Ford discussed the inequity for the Town of Easton. He stated that he fully supports the proposal.

It was the council's consensus to be in support of the agreement as proposed with the caveat that the legal document be reviewed.

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.

Mayor Willey discussed upcoming dates:

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast: October 23 at 7:00 a.m. at the Tidewater
Veteran's Ceremony: November 10 at 7:00 p.m. at Talbot Auditorium
Easton Volunteer Fire Department Bull Roast: November 14

Mayor Willey discussed the walk thru of the Affordable Housing Unit on Chapel Road.

56 President Ford stated that the Affordable Housing Board has identified another project in the
57 west side for renovation.

58
59 Mayor Willey stated that there will be two new appointees for the Affordable Housing Board
60 in the upcoming packet for council approval.

61
62 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

63
64 Mr. Karge extended condolences to the family of Charles Seth, Jr.; a nine year Public Works
65 employee that recently passed away. He stated that the family is currently making
66 arrangements and the information will be forthcoming.

67
68 Mr. Karge stated that the bond sale recently occurred for \$10.525 million dollars at 2.3%
69 which will be used for capital projects.

70
71 **APPROVAL OF SNOW REMOVAL BID FY2016/17.**

72
73 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, approval
74 was granted to award the snow removal bid to R.L. Ewing in the amount of \$75 per hour for 6
75 wheel dump truck, \$100 per hour for backhoe and \$125 for front end loader.

76
77 **APPROVAL OF ASPHALT RECYCLER BID.**

78
79 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, approval was
80 granted to award the bid to Falcon Asphalt Repair Equipment of Midland, MI for the asphalt
81 recycler in the amount of \$29,933.

82
83 **APPROVAL OF MATERIAL SCREENER BID.**

84
85 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, approval was
86 granted to award the bid to Argus Industrial Co of Pontiac, MI for the material screener bid in
87 the amount of \$26,212.18.

88
89 **APPROVAL OF V BOX SALT SPREADER BID.**

90
91 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, approval
92 was granted to award the bid for the new stainless steel V Box Spreader to Mid Atlantic Waste
93 Systems of Cordova MD in the amount of \$13,967.

94
95 **CLOSED SESSION.**

96
97 Mr. Karge asked for a Closed Session to discuss Real Estate (General Provisions Article §3-
98 305(b)(3) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly
99 related thereto).

100
101 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

102
103 Mrs. VanEmburch discussed the proposal for lights at North Easton Park. She stated that it is
104 not practical to publically bid the lights and there will be legislation brought before the council
105 to dispense with public bidding.

106
107 Mrs. VanEmburch asked for a Public Hearing for proposed lighting at North Easton Park.

108
109 President Ford set the Public Hearing for November 2, at 7:15 p.m.

110
111 The Town Attorney discussed a Webinar for AIRBNB she recently participated in. She stated
112 that she needs feedback from the council and requested a work session with staff to get a
113 consensus.

114
115 President Ford set the work session to discuss AIRBNB for November 2 at 6:00 p.m.

116
117 **ORDINANCE NO. 668, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON**
118 **AMENDING THE TOWN OF EASTON ZONING ORDINANCE."**

120 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, Ordinance
121 No. 668 was approved.

122
123 **PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ORDINANCE NO. 669, “AN ORDINANCE OF**
124 **THE TOWN OF EASTON TO AMEND THE TOWN CODE ADDING TO**
125 **RESIDENTIAL PARKING DISTRICT NUMBER 1.”**
126

127 At 7:30 p.m., President Ford opened the public hearing.

128
129 Mr. Karge discussed issues of parking on South Street. He discussed what he feels is the most
130 appropriate way to deal with issues with parking in that vicinity on the street. He stated that it
131 is consistent with what is in other parts of town. He stated that there will be no charge for
132 residential parking permits; only for replacement permits.

133
134 Ms. Yolanda Escobedo, 114 South Street, stated she is grateful for the comments. She
135 discussed the problems with people parking between Harrison Street and Hanson Street. She
136 stated that she is requesting the same consideration as is afforded elsewhere.

137
138 There being no further public comments, President Ford closed the public hearing at 7:34 p.m.

139
140 **ORDINANCE NO. 669, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO AMEND**
141 **THE TOWN CODE ADDING TO RESIDENTIAL PARKING DISTRICT NUMBER**
142 **1.”**
143

144 Upon motion by Mrs. Cook, seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, Ordinance No.
145 669 was approved.

146
147 Mr. Karge stated that residents can be expected to get their permit in the near future.

148
149
150 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$908,470.95.**
151

152 Upon motion by Leshner seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, invoices
153 totaling \$908,470.95 were approved.

154
155 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.**
156

157 Mr. Silverstein stated that he recently attended the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting
158 where discussion occurred regarding clothing bins. He stated that the Planning Commission
159 does not think it is something they should be taking up.

160
161 President Ford stated that it can be discussed at the scheduled work session on November 2

162
163 Mr. Engle stated that it was a pleasure acting for Mayor Willey on the walk thru on the
164 Affordable House built on Chapel Road. He stated that he is completely impressed the with
165 house.

166
167 **CLOSED SESSION.**
168

169 At 7:38 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried
170 unanimously, President Ford convened into Closed Session.

171
172 At 7:49 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried
173 unanimously, President Forde adjourned the Closed Session and reconvened into Open
174 Session.

175
176 **ADJOURN.**
177

178 There being no further business, at 7:50 p.m., upon motion by Mrs. Cook seconded by Mr.
179 Leshner and carried unanimously, President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk