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

November 21, 2016

PRESENT AT CONVENING.

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

Also present was the Town Manager Mr. Donald J. Richardson, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.

CALL TO ORDER.

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

OPENING REMARKS BY MRS. COOK AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mrs. Cook gave opening remarks and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 7, 2016 MEETINGS.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes of the November 7, 2016 meetings were approved.

MR. BUNKY LUFFMAN, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS FOR GOVERNOR HOGAN TO VISIT COUNCIL.

Mr. Bunky Luffman discussed his experience on the lower shore and stated that he is doing an introduction tour. He stated that he has been active on local governmental affairs. He encouraged municipalities to call if they need help with anything.

MARYLAND SENATOR ADELAIDE C. ECKARDT, DISTRICT 37 TO VISIT COUNCIL.

Senator Eckardt was present and stated that they are putting together their legislative requests for the upcoming session. She stated that Maryland is doing much better fiscally. She stated that the state is looking at adequate housing for all residents.

FIRE BOARD REPORT.

Morris (Sonny) Jones, Jr., Trustee was present to discuss Fire Department activities. He stated that this will be the last Fire Board report for this year. Mr. Jones wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season. Mr. Morris stated that the self-contained breathing apparatus should be delivered within the next week.

Mr. Morris relayed messages from the outgoing chief and president for the assistance the Town of Easton has given the Fire Department.

Mr. Morris introduced Mr. Don Abbatiello, Vice President and stated that he is the upcoming President of the Fire Department.

Mr. Abbatiello discussed fundraisers and stated that a Wine Festival is scheduled in May. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their support and the recent improvements at the Fire house.

Mr. Abbatiello encouraged everyone to the Holiday Train Garden which starts November 25.

Mayor Willey discussed a survey being done regarding funding contributions for the EVFD.

President Ford encouraged everyone to see the train display.

POLICE BOARD REPORT.

68 Chief Spencer discussed personnel and the dispatch consolidation. Chief Spencer stated that there is one
69 open position for a police officer which is to be filled in the July 2017 Academy Class. He stated that the
70 Talbot County 911 dispatchers are scheduled to move back to Talbot Center December 12.

71
72 Chief Spencer discussed the completed Lexipol contract. He stated that it is a new policies and
73 procedures manual that will be online.

74
75 Chief Spencer discussed community events recently held as well as upcoming events. He reminded
76 everyone that the Easton Police Department toy drive is accepting donations in their drop box locations.

77
78 Chief Spencer stated that there will be 10 officers deputized United States Marshals for the Presidential
79 Inauguration Ceremony in Washington. He stated that the Town of Easton will be completely
80 reimbursed for their services and expenses.

81
82 **ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.**

83
84 Mayor Willey discussed the notification from the Comptroller's office that there was recently errors
85 made in distributing income tax revenues. He stated that the Town of Easton was under allocated and
86 will receive \$618,000. He discussed upcoming projects and how the money will be spent.

87
88 Mayor Willey stated that a truck fire at the Public Works facility had resulted in the loss of a dump truck
89 which will have to be replaced as soon as possible due to the necessary use of the vehicle.

90
91 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

92
93 **APPROVAL OF BID FOR 2016 BACKHOE FROM ALBAN TRACTOR.**

94
95 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the bid from Alban Tractor
96 in the amount of \$105,953 was approved.

97
98 Mr. Richardson asked for approval for the 2017 annual sidewalk concrete and construction replacement
99 contract. Mr. Richardson stated that the Town Engineer recommended awarding the bid to Santos and
100 Barker Excavation for various repair work.

101
102 The Town Engineer will select the lower contract on a case by case basis.

103
104 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the bid award to Santos
105 and Barker Excavation was approved as recommended by the Town Engineer.

106
107 Mr. Richardson discussed a memo regarding daily parking provisions in Lot 4 that was recently
108 forwarded to the council for consideration. He stated that the changes proposed would:

- 109
110 1. Reduce the reserved spaces from 15 to 8 spaces, for the Town Management Staff.
111
112 2. Remove the meters for 22 spaces and modify those spaces to Reserved between the hours of
113 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. for other Town Staff. Allow these spaces beyond those reserved hours
114 to be available as free parking.
115
116 3. Encourage managers and supervisors with assigned vehicles to use those vehicles in
117 accordance with the Employee Handbook.
118
119 4. This proposal would leave 15 spaces for metered parking and/or permit parking.

120
121 Mr. Leshar asked for clarification regarding the net changes.

122
123 Mr. Richardson stated that the net change would result in more empty spaces beyond those reserved
124 hours to be available as free parking.

125
126 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the changes as proposed by
127 Mr. Richardson were approved.

128
129 **MR. PAUL MOFFETT, EASTON UTILITIES ENGINEER SEEKING COUNCIL APPROVAL FOR THE PHOTO**
130 **VOLTAIC ARRAY AT THE EASTON SUSTAINABILITY CAMPUS.**

131

132 Mr. Moffett discussed and displayed the proposed Easton Sustainability Campus. He stated that the
133 wastewater treatment facility is one of the best in the state. Mr. Moffett stated that this campus would
134 highlight Easton and Maryland as the leading innovators of renewable energy.

135
136 Mr. Leshar discussed funding.

137
138 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, approval for the Photo
139 Voltaic Array at the Easton Sustainability Campus was approved.

140
141 **CONT'D. PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON THE REQUEST TO ANNEX APPROXIMATELY**
142 **6.533 ACRES, MORE OR LESS LYING CONTIGUOUS TO THE EXISTING BOUNDARIES OF THE TOWN OF**
143 **EASTON.**

144
145 At 7:46 p.m., President Ford opened the continued Public Hearing on the request to annex property
146 lying contiguous to the existing boundaries of the Town of Easton.

147
148 President Ford asked for public comment.

149
150 Mr. Robert Lonergan, 7845 Woodland Circle discussed noise and the potential effect and what
151 enforcements are or could be instituted. Mr. Lonergan discussed concerns of unregulated noise. He
152 stated that homes and their values are their largest capital asset. Mr. Lonergan stated he is not against
153 the development of Easton Point but asked the council to consider the nearby homeowners. He asked
154 how noise problems would be enforced.

155
156 President Ford stated that the Annexation Plan is still in draft form. He discussed the state statute.

157
158 Mr. Engle stated that Easton Police Department currently enforces noise complaints. Mr. Engle stated
159 that the new owner of the proposed restaurant has been very clear that they will not provide outside
160 entertainment.

161
162 Mrs. Cook stated that complaints could jeopardize future liquor license renewal.

163
164 Mr. Paul Connolly, 7872 Avon Court discussed accepted decibel levels.

165
166 Ms. Alice Michalak, 7837 Woodland Circle stated that she looks right up the river to Easton Point and
167 her main concern is noise. She asked that the annexation agreement stipulate no outside music. Ms.
168 Michalak stated that she wants a beautiful development. Ms. Michalak asked for clarification regarding
169 the amount of land to actually be annexed.

170
171 Ms. Joan Cox, Londonderry stated that she is not as concerned about noise but stated that she has as
172 many concerns as the Woodland Farms residents.

173
174 Mr. Paul Denton, 7793 Woodland Circle stated that he supports the previous points made and reiterated
175 outlining in the Annexation Plan that there is to be no amplified, outdoor music. Mr. Denton stated that
176 he is all for the development if their interests are protected.

177
178 Ms. Donna Hasslinger, 7847 Woodland Circle and President of Woodland Farms Homeowners
179 Association expressed her concerns about the current noise and what could be future noise if
180 developed. She discussed the Annexation Plan.

181
182 At 8:16 p.m., President Ford ended tonight's Public Hearing but stated that there are ongoing
183 negotiations. He left the Public Hearing open for additional written comments which he stated can be
184 forwarded to the Town Clerk for dissemination.

185
186 President Ford thanked the audience for their comments this evening.

187
188 **RES. NO. 6071, "A RESOLUTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN LANDS LOCATED ALONG PORT STREET AND**
189 **CONSISTING OF 6.533 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, INTO THE TOWN OF EASTON AND TO PROVIDE**
190 **FOR THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ANNEXATIONS."**

191
192 Resolution No. 6071 not acted on.

193
194 **ORD. NO. 690, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF**
195 **THE TOWN OF EASTON TO APPLY THE GENERAL COMMERCIAL (CG) ZONING DISTRICT TO CERTAIN**

196 **LOTS OR PARCELS OF LAND ANNEXED TO THE TOWN OF EASTON BY RESOLUTION NO. 6071 LOCATED**
197 **ALONG PORT STREET AND CONSISTING, COLLECTIVELY, OF 6.533 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS.”**

198
199 Ordinance No. 690 not acted on.

200
201 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$1,142,053.83.**

202
203 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, invoices totaling
204 \$1,142,053.83 were approved for payment.

205
206 **ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.**

207
208 Mr. Leshar stated that the second meeting in January that is usually moved to Tuesday due to the
209 observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. day, would conflict with the Eastern Shore Association of
210 Municipalities dinner meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 17.

211
212 President Ford scheduled the second council meeting in January for Wednesday January 18.

213
214 Mrs. Cook reminded those present that the East End Neighborhood Association meeting will be held
215 November 30 at 6:00 p.m.

216
217 President Ford wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

218
219 **ADJOURN.**

220
221 At 8:19 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshar, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, President
222 Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

223
224
225 _____
226 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk