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

March 20, 2017

PRESENT AT CONVENING.

Mayor Robert C. Willey	12	Councilmember Pete Leshner
Council President John Ford	13	Councilmember Ron E. Engle
Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein	14	Councilmember Megan M. Cook

CALL TO ORDER.

At 6:00 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order.

6:00 PM KEITH NOVAK CPA, PRINCIPAL; CLIFTONLARSONALLEN LLP TO PRESENT AUDIT OUT BRIEF.

President Ford welcomed Mr. Novak.

Mr. Novak stated there was one change in disclosures this year. Mr. Novak discussed actuarial assumptions. He stated that there had been no difficulties in performing the audit; no corrected or uncorrected adjustments and no disagreement with managements. Mr. Novak stated that they issued a clean audit opinion.

Mr. Novak stated that they are issuing an unmodified opinion which is the highest opinion given. He stated that budgetary standpoint expenditures did not exceed fair value disclosure for investments. He stated that as with any small government, one finding was with the segregation of duties. Mr. Novak stated that the town is of a size that to segregate duties would be hard to achieve. He urged the council and staff to remain vigilant.

Mr. Novak asked for questions.

Mr. Silverstein asked if there are any punitive damages for filing late with the state. Mr. Novak stated that not that he has been aware of.

Mr. Novak withdrew from the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

7:00 PM OPENING REMARKS BY MRS. COOK AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

President Ford stated that previous to the regularly scheduled meeting, the auditor had been present to present the Audit Out Brief.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 6, 2017 MEETING.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes of the March 6, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.

TOWN OF EASTON EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS.

Mayor Willey presented the following employees their Town of Easton Employee Service Awards:

- o Nancy Adams, 20 years
- o Yvonne Freeman, 20 years
- o Daniel Farmer, 10 years
- o Joshua Merrick, 10 years
- o Michele Patrick, 10 years
- o Rob Scherholtz, 10 years
- o Gregory Webb, 10 years

Mayor Willey stated that the next Council meeting will commence at 6:15 p.m. at the 911 Center for a tour of the new facility.

69
70 **ENTERPRISE ZONE.**

71
72 Ms. Tracy Ward, Easton Economic Development Corporation was present to discuss the possibility
73 of Easton establishing an Enterprise Zone.

74
75 Ms. Ward stated that the Port Street Redevelopment would be included in the Enterprise Zone but
76 the council would be required to pass a resolution in support of the process.

77
78 President Ford set the public hearing for discussion of the Enterprise Zone for April 3 at 7:15 p.m.

79
80 Ms. Ward stated that there is an April 15 deadline for submitting documents and legislation.

81
82 Tracy Ward and Ted Bautz introduced Easton Economic Development Corporation Board Member
83 Mr. Ward Buchert.

84
85 Ms. Ward stated that the State of MD has a program that if the town establishes an Enterprise Zone,
86 there is a tax credit program which provides tax incentives to businesses and property owners
87 located in some of the State’s most economically distressed communities. In order to qualify, the
88 Town of Easton will have to have an eligible census track. The Enterprise Zone is based on the
89 poverty level of the census track.

90
91 Ms. Ward stated that the State of Maryland is recommending that the town go forward to try to
92 meet the April 15 deadline. This would require a public hearing the end of May.

93
94 Ted Bautz stated that this is an important element in the thought process and will include the
95 hospital property which will have redevelopment efforts within the next five years. He stated that
96 the program will need council support in the form of resolution.

97
98 President Ford stated that on the schedule as outlined, a public hearing may occur May 1.

99
100 **ACCEPTANCE OF FY2016/17 AUDIT.**

101
102 Mayor Willey stated that questions regarding the audit should be directed to Carol Callahan,
103 Finance Director. He stated that he will ask for acceptance of the audit at the next council meeting.

104
105 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

106
107 **APPROVAL OF STREET RESURFACING BID AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF.**

108
109 Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried the bid from Alan Myers MD, Inc. in
110 the amount \$345,420.80 was approved.

111
112 **APPROVAL OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY EVENTS.**

113
114 **MIDSHORE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION 5K WALK/RUN.**

115
116 **AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY 5K RUN/WALK.**

117
118 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Engle and carried the Public Assembly permits were
119 unanimously approved.

120
121 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

122
123 The Town Attorney stated she will have two ordinances for council consideration at the next meeting
124 regarding the acquisition of two properties for the Hill project. She requested that the Council
125 President set a public hearing.

126
127 President Ford set the following public hearings:

- 128
129 April 3, 7:15 Enterprise Zone
130 April 3, 7:20 Hill Project acquisition

131
132 **ROBERT RAUCH, P.E., ON BEHALF OF GALLOWAY MEADOWS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING**
133 **RECOMMENDATION FROM SHA.**

134
135 Mr. Bob Rauch and Casey Rauch were present to discuss the Galloway Meadows project. Mr. Rauch
136 discussed the preliminary review from State Highway Administration recommending that the bypass
137 lane for the left turning vehicles not be installed due to several driveways along the south side of MD
138 328. He stated that they are happy to do a bypass lane if SHA would allow it; but if not, they are
139 asking that the PUD be accepted without the bypass lane as preferred by members of the council.

140
141 Mr. Engle stated that he feels SHA is making a tragic mistake and he wants his opinion to go on
142 record.

143
144 Mr. Silverstein stated that if the SHA is not going to require the lane, the project should still go
145 forward.

146
147 The Town Attorney suggested a meeting with SHA. She stated that they are willing to meet and work
148 out the details.

149
150 **CONT'D. PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON THE REQUEST TO ANNEX APPROXIMATELY**
151 **6.533 ACRES, MORE OR LESS LYING CONTIGUOUS TO THE EXISTING BOUNDARIES OF THE TOWN OF**
152 **EASTON.**

153
154 President Ford asked for public comments. There were none.

155
156 The Town Attorney stated that there have been scheduling conflicts with the property
157 owners and they are trying to reach a consensus among themselves. Mrs. VanEmburch
158 stated that she hopes to have comments to the council for consideration next week.

159
160 **RES. NO. 6071, "A RESOLUTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN LANDS LOCATED ALONG PORT STREET**
161 **AND CONSISTING OF 6.533 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, INTO THE TOWN OF EASTON**
162 **AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ANNEXATIONS."**

163
164 Not acted on.

165
166 **ORD. NO. 690, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE OFFICIAL**
167 **ZONING MAP OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO APPLY THE GENERAL COMMERCIAL (CG)**
168 **ZONING DISTRICT TO CERTAIN LOTS OR PARCELS OF LAND ANNEXED TO THE TOWN OF**
169 **EASTON BY RESOLUTION NO. 6071 LOCATED ALONG PORT STREET AND CONSISTING,**
170 **COLLECTIVELY, OF 6.533 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS."**

171
172 Not acted on.

173
174 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$1,081,136.81.**

175
176 Upon motion by Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, invoices
177 totaling \$1,081.136.81 were approved.

178
179 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.**
180 **MR. SILVERSTEIN**

181
182 Mr. Silverstein thanked EBA for putting on a great St. Patrick's Day parade.

183
184 **MR. ENGLE**

185
186 Mr. Engle discussed the entrance on Dover Road going east near Aldi's and stated that there is no
187 indication that there is no left turn lane. Mr. Engle asked that there be cones placed in that vicinity.

188
189 **PRESIDENT FORD**

190
191 President Ford discussed the level of anxiety in our immigrant community. He stated that a meeting
192 took place this afternoon with the purpose of getting a clearer sense on Mr. Matt Peters' opinion. He
193 stated that the largest concern focused on the families' fear of being separated. He stated that he
194 would like to make public the Easton Police Department's policy regarding immigration. President
195 Ford stated that the officers of the EPD are not immigration officials or are they eligible to enforce
196 immigration law. Chief Spencer is very near the completion of a written policy that the department is
197 following. Mr. Peters felt that if that policy was more broadly known, some of the fears may be
198 alleviated. President Ford stated that it is the desire and intention of this council to support the

199 efforts of organizations such as the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center and it is the intention
200 to put that in writing and circulate to the council; then, if everyone is in agreeance the statement can
201 be put on website and in the newspaper.

202
203 **ADJOURNMENT.**

204
205 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, President Ford
206 adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting at 7:40 p.m.

207
208
209 _____
Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk