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

July 7, 2008

**PRESENT AT CONVENING**

8 Mayor Robert C. Willey  
9 Mr. John F. Ford  
10 Ms. Maureen Scott-Taylor  
11 Mr. Scott R. Jensen  
12 Mr. Leonard E. Wendowski, Sr.  
13 Ms. Moonyene Jackson-Amis

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Also in attendance were the Town Attorney Mr. Kehoe, Town Manager Mr. Karge, Building Code Official Mr. Richardson, Economic Development Coordinator Mr. Bond, Town Planner Mr. Hamilton, Parks and Recreation Director Mrs. Gould and Town Clerk Ms. Ruf.

**CONVENING**

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

Ms. Scott-Taylor opened the meeting with prayer and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2008 MEETING**

Upon motion by Ms. Scott-Taylor seconded by Mr. Jensen and carried; minutes of the June 16, 2008 meeting were approved.

**EASTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Mr. Jamie McNeal was present with the June report. He discussed Easton Volunteer Fire Department's successful appearance at the Maryland State Firemen's Convention in Ocean City. Mr. McNeal stated that Easton Volunteer Fire Department returned for the third year in a row with the Best Appearing Fire Company in Maryland. He stated that they also received Third Best Appearing Color Guard, Best Appearing Ambulance, Best Appearing Rescue Truck, Best Appearing Fire Department Marching Unit, Fire Company with the Most Uniformed Personnel in Line, Best Appearing Fire Prevention Float and a large plaque in recognition of their 200 years of service to the Town which is on display at the station. Mr. McNeal stated that they have a new Chief's command unit in service.

Ms. Scott-Taylor asked for a breakdown of the in-town versus out-of-town automatic fire alarms.

Mr. McNeal stated that he will forward a breakdown of how many alarms are town and how many are county.

**PRESENTATION TO TOWN COUNCIL OF INFILL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Mr. Al Bond stated Historic Easton had taken on this project over a year ago. He stated that it was funded through the State of Maryland Businessworks Program and a matching grant from the Carl Freeman Company. Mr. Peter Lebowitz. AKRF Consultants presented a summary of the plan. Mr. Bond stated that paper copies as well as electronic documents will be forwarded and available on line. He stated that it is expected to be forwarded to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Historic District Commission for review and specific recommendations how to incorporate the plan in the town's larger Comprehensive Plan process and what tools are developed in this plan and how they might be used.

**ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY**

Mayor Willey asked Mr. McNeal to schedule the next Fire Board meeting August 18, 6:15 p.m. at the Firehouse to give the Council an opportunity to see the trophies won at the Maryland State Firemen's Convention.

Mayor Willey asked for consideration Boards and Commissions appointments.

1 Upon motion by Ms. Jackson-Amis seconded by Ms. Scott-Taylor and carried unanimously, Ms. Doris  
2 Mason's appointment as an alternate to the Board of Appeals and Ms. Martha Horner's appointment to  
3 the Waterfowl Festival Commission was approved.  
4

5 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER**

6  
7 Mr. Karge asked for approval for a Public Assembly Permit as recommended by Easton Police  
8 Department: Cinema by Starlight, Fridays between July 11 – August 29, 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. on the  
9 grass lot between North Harrison Street and Brewer's Lane.  
10

11 Upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Ms. Scott-Taylor and carried unanimously, approval was  
12 granted for Cinema by Starlight.  
13

14 Mr. Karge advised that the Easton Police Department building addition/renovation is ready to go to  
15 bid. He stated that the final drawings are due in with a pre-bid meeting scheduled for July 17. Bids are  
16 requested back to the town July 31.  
17

18 Mr. Karge advised that he had spoken with Judge Earnest's office in regards to the parking waiver  
19 request. He stated that the Judge's office requested signs posted limit the hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
20 but the State's Attorneys office asked that signs be posted from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
21

22 Upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, approval was  
23 granted to reserve the spaces from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
24

25 Mr. Karge advised that the Maryland State Little League Championship games will occur July 19 for  
26 the 11 and 12 year olds.  
27

28 **MRS. LORRAINE GOULD, DIRECTOR EASTON PARKS AND RECREATION**  
29 **DEPARTMENT UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PARK RULES**

30  
31 Ms. Gould gave an overview of permits issued for the parks and sports complex. She stated that  
32 everything is working very well since the new park rules were approved in April. She stated that she  
33 likes working with the implemented rules.  
34

35 Discussion occurred regarding entities that have filled out permit requests. Mr. Jensen suggested  
36 reaching out to previous applicants to help them follow the rules so they could use the park.  
37

38 Ms. Jackson-Amis asked Ms. Gould if surveys are completed to see what the park utilizations are.  
39

40 **ITEMS FROM THE TOWN ATTORNEY**

41  
42 Mr. Kehoe asked to meet with the Council in Closed Session to discuss some legal issues, the advice of  
43 legal counsel and a matter that concerns the business or organization to locate or remain in the state.  
44

45 **REQUEST FOR WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS ELECTRIC SERVICE RATE REVISIONS**

46  
47 President Ford set the workshop to discuss electric service rate revisions for July 21, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.  
48 prior to the regularly scheduled Council meeting. Mr. Ford stated that the workshop is open to the  
49 public but not for public comment.  
50

51 **MS. DAPHNE CAWLEY TO ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING EXTENSIVE FEE ON**  
52 **BUILDING PERMIT**

53  
54 Ms. Daphne Cawley, 505 S. Washington Street was present to discuss extensive permitting fees on  
55 recently purchased foreclosed properties.  
56

57 Mr. Don Richardson, Building Code official was present to explain the options. He stated that building  
58 permits are not transferrable and inspections are still necessary.  
59

60 The Town Attorney stated that he would like to discuss the matter with Mr. Richardson, work out  
61 something administratively and advise the Council of the whole process.  
62

63 Ms. Jackson-Amis stated that legislation is in place and it should be worked out between the  
64 applicants, the Town Attorney and the Building Official.  
65

1 **REQUEST FROM AFFORDABLE HOUSING BOARD FOR EXEMPTION OF PERMIT**  
2 **FEES**

3  
4 Mr. Ford stated that this request had been tabled at the last meeting. He discussed the reason for the  
5 request. He stated that we are lessening the burden on an affordable house by waiving the fees and not  
6 passing the burden on to the developer.

7  
8 Mayor Willey asked for another two weeks to get a recommendation.

9  
10 Mr. Wendowski made a motion to table the request seconded by Ms. Scott-Taylor and carried  
11 unanimously.

12  
13 Mr. Jensen asked for the dollar amount. Mr. Ford stated that the permit fee would be approximately  
14 \$1,000 per house.

15  
16 Ms. Jackson-Amis asked that the record show that if the houses are being built by Habitat or a similar  
17 organization but when the developer is already getting a density bonus and some of the other things  
18 factored in, she doesn't understand why they would qualify for a fee waiver.

19  
20 **LETTER FROM MR. JOHN ATWOOD, CHAIRMAN EASTON PLANNING AND ZONING**  
21 **COMMISSION REGARDING A REQUEST TO REVISE THE TOWN OF EASTON'S**  
22 **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO CHANGE THE GROWTH AREA MAP AND FUTURE LAND**  
23 **USE MAP TO ACCOMMODATE THE TOWN, TALBOT COUNTY, AND SHORE HEALTH**  
24 **SYSTEM'S EFFORTS TO PROVIDE FOR A POTENTIAL SITE OF A FUTURE**  
25 **REGIONAL-SCALE HOSPITAL IN OR NEAR THE TOWN.**

26  
27 President Ford set the public hearing for August 4 at 7:15 p.m.

28  
29 **LETTER FROM MR. JOHN ATWOOD, CHAIRMAN EASTON PLANNING AND ZONING**  
30 **COMMISSION REGARDING THE APPLICATION FOR AN 11,000 SQUARE FOOT**  
31 **ADDITION TO THE EXISTING HEARTFIELDS FACILITY.**

32  
33 President Ford set the public hearing for August 4 at 7:45 p.m.

34  
35 **APPROVAL OF INVOICES TOTALING \$832,057.58**

36  
37 Upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, invoices totaling  
38 \$832,057.57 were approved for payment.

39  
40 **CLOSED SESSION**

41  
42 Upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously following a roll  
43 call vote, President Ford convened into Closed Session to discuss some legal issues, the advice of legal  
44 counsel and a matter that concerns the business or organization to locate or remain in the state.

45  
46 **ADJOURNMENT**

47  
48 Upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously; President Ford  
49 adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting at 9:40 p.m.

50  
51 \_\_\_\_\_  
52 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk