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

August 3, 2009

PRESENT AT CONVENING

8 Mayor Robert C. Willey	11 Councilmember Pete Leshner
9 Council President John F. Ford	12 Councilmember Leonard E. Wendowski
10 Councilmember Kelley K. Malone	13 Councilmember Megan M. Cook

IN ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance were the Town Attorney Ms. VanEmburch, Town Manager Mr. Karge, Director of Economic Development Mrs. Maureen Scott-Taylor, Director of Parks and Recreation Ms. Lorraine Gould and Town Clerk Ms. Ruf.

Also present was President and CEO of Easton Utilities, Mr. Hugh E. Grunden.

CONVENING

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

Mrs. Cook opened the meeting with prayer and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, minutes of the July 20, 2009 meeting were approved as written.

STAFF REPORTS

Mrs. Gould, Director of Parks and Recreation reported that there are 148 spaces in the center left for bricks for the Memorial Walk. Mayor Willey has applications for bricks as well as replica paper weights.

Mrs. Gould reported that tomorrow night is National Night out from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Moton Park. Easton Police Department will help set up and bar-b-que.

Mrs. Gould discussed having at risk youth funded by the Stimulus Plan help spread mulch, clean rails to trails and paint bathrooms. Mr. Karge stated that this was at no cost to the Town of Easton beyond materials.

Mrs. Gould discussed skatepark hours and activities.

Mrs. Maureen Scott-Taylor Director of Economic Development discussed developing Mistletoe Hall Farm into an industrial park and the possibility of US Economic Development Administration funding for infrastructure.

Mrs. Scott-Taylor discussed Community Legacy award for 22-24 North Harrison Street.

Mrs. Scott-Taylor stated that The Inn at Easton has recently been sold and will remain an inn with fine dining. She stated that The Tidewater Inn is under contract and an announcement about the new management is expected sometime next month. She stated that since Cadmus closing, its parent company is trying to sell the building and is being marketed for industrial uses as well.

Mrs. Scott-Taylor addressed the empty storefronts on Harrison and Goldsborough Street and stated that there will be more movement in the downtown.

Mrs. Scott-Taylor talked about the town's upcoming 300th anniversary. She stated that she will be moving to 11 S. Harrison Street after September 1.

Ms. Malone discussed the potential for the Welcome Center to have more open hours. Mrs. Scott-Taylor stated that she recognizes the need and realizes that the streets are busy on Saturday.

1 Mr. Wendowski discussed the grant for the bike racks.
2 Mr. Hugh E. Grunden, President and CEO Easton Utilities was present to discuss recent projects. Mr.
3 Grunden also discussed a publication available on their website: Efficient Lawn Watering.
4

5 **ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY**

6
7 Mayor Willey discussed upcoming events for the Town’s 300th Anniversary.
8

9 Mayor Willey stated that he has received a letter from Senator Cardin regarding questions pertaining to
10 the expansion of the runway at the Talbot County Airport. Senator Cardin has asked that the FAA
11 contact the Town directly with answers.
12

13 Mayor Willey discussed an upcoming meeting with Mayor Victoria Stanley-Jackson and Mr. Ed
14 Kinnamon, City of Cambridge.
15

16 Mayor Willey asked for an Executive Session regarding advice of counsel.
17

18 Mayor Willey read a statement regarding the Frederick Douglass statue:
19

20 “Effective immediately the Town of Easton will no longer function as the fiscal agent for Fred’s Army
21 and/or the Frederick Douglass Memorial Action Coalition.
22

23 Any previous contributions made to the Town of Easton for this effort will continue to be restricted for
24 use in the creation of a Frederick Douglass statue.
25

26 This action does not affect the state grants, including Community Legacy, Heritage Areas and State of
27 Maryland bond monies awarded to the Town of Easton earmarked for the Frederick Douglass statue.
28

29 Anyone desiring to make a contribution the Frederick Douglass statue effort, may still make them
30 directly to the Town of Easton.
31

32 This change has been implemented in an effort to insure fiscal control of grant monies awarded to the
33 Town of Easton.”
34

35 President Ford stated that these steps have been taken due to concerns raised by granting agencies
36 regarding lack of progress on that project.
37

38 Mayor Willey stated that Michaels Development will be present in the near future to make a
39 presentation to the Council.
40

41 **ITEMS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER**

42
43 Mr. Karge stated that the paving bid will be accomplished soon to be more efficient and effective.
44

45 Mr. Karge discussed real estate tax collections by the Town. He extended thanks to the taxpayers for
46 their timely payments.
47

48 Mr. Karge asked for approval for a Public Assembly Permit for CMT Customs’ 3rd Annual Open
49 House September 22 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
50

51 Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, approval was granted.
52

53 **ITEMS FROM THE TOWN ATTORNEY**

54
55 Ms. VanEmburch asked for an Executive Session for § 10-508 (a)(4) to consider a matter that concerns
56 the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; and §
57 10-508(a)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.
58

59 **RESOLUTION NO 5952, “A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A PROJECT TO: EXPAND AND**
60 **SUSTAIN THE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY TO HELP THE YOUTH OF THE**
61 **COMMUNITY BY FREEDOM ROWERS ACQUIRING ADDITIONAL BOATS AND**
62 **RELATED EQUIPMENT AND EMPLOYING STAFF TO MANAGE AND MAINTAIN**
63 **THEIR EQUIPMENT.”**
64

65 Ms. Diana Lobien was present to address the Council about the program.

1
2 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar, seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 5952
3 was approved.
4

5 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**
6

7 President Ford stated that the Council would go over the list from Council members regarding
8 priorities from their constituents. The list would be collected then compiled. A workshop will be
9 scheduled in the near future to address the list.
10

11 Ms. Malone discussed general categories: rental properties, the need for making the town more
12 pedestrian and cycling friendly and the need to address traffic problems in Easton and downtown
13 revitalization plans. She stated that curbside recycling is still a concern with constituents as is jet noise
14 generated from the Airport. There are still concerns regarding the impact of the runway extension at
15 the Talbot County Airport.
16

17 Mr. Leshar stated that he wants the town to do what is necessary to support the move for Shore Health
18 System. He stated that he wants to see the vision for the infill development plan realized, and is
19 concerned with economic development issues such as empty stores. He thinks curbside recycling and
20 transportation improvements should be addressed as well as Charter revisions. Mr. Leshar would like
21 to see what might be done in terms of a noise ordinance.
22

23 Mr. Wendowski stated that he would like to see traffic issues addressed such as speeding through
24 neighborhoods. He stated that Charter revisions and the Comp Plan is also a major concern. Mr.
25 Wendowski stated that the residents on the east side of Route 50 feel like they are only county instead
26 of town.
27

28 Mrs. Cook's constituents would like to see activities for teens such as a teen center. She stated that
29 crime, gangs and open drug market concerns need to be addressed. The downtown revitalization is also
30 a main concern as well as making the town pedestrian friendly for walking. Mrs. Cook mentioned
31 sidewalk conditions, street trees, historic district, trash and what may come of Easton Point. She stated
32 that the hospital plans are also a concern.
33

34 Mayor Willey stated that there will be a speed camera demo on August 5 at 3:00 p.m.
35

36 Mayor Willey stated that the items he would like to see addressed include the future of Global
37 Strategies should the Airport runway expand, next year's budget concerns, Marlboro Avenue upgrades,
38 the update of the Town of Easton Employee Handbook, Mistletoe Hall Farm development and the
39 Town's 300th Anniversary. He stated that the Affordable Housing program should be addressed as well
40 as the Comprehensive Plan. Mayor Willey's immediate concern is completing the Easton Police
41 Department expansion.
42

43 President Ford stated that his concerns include the Comprehensive Plan and the need to stay focused
44 on the hospital including the development of zoning. He discussed inclusionary zoning in regards to
45 Affordable Housing. President Ford stated that the council needs to move forward on small area plans
46 such as Easton Point and Bay Street. President Ford stated that the Council needs to look at how they
47 manage themselves and possibly review and update the ordinance passed in 1954.
48

49 President Ford stated that the council can start tackling items in the near future.
50

51 **CLOSED SESSION**
52

53 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously; President Ford
54 convened the regularly scheduled meeting into Closed Session at 8:03 p.m.
55

56 **ADJOURNMENT**
57

58 Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mr. Leshar and carried unanimously; President Ford
59 adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting at 9:10 p.m.
60

61 _____
62 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk