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

July 6, 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 Planner Mr. Hamilton, Long Ranger Planner Mr. Thomas, Town Manager Mr. Karge and Town Clerk Ms. Ruf.

CONVENING

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

Mr. Leshner opened the meeting with prayer and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, minutes of the June 15, 2009 meetings was approved with corrections as submitted by Ms. Malone.

REPORT FROM EASTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Sonny Jones was present to discuss the EVFD's June activities. He discussed their attendance at the Maryland State Fire Convention.

STAFF REPORTS – PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Mr. Thomas, Long Range Planner updated on the progress of the Comprehensive Plan. He stated that a public hearing is scheduled for July 30, 7:00 p.m. at Easton High School. He stated that the final adoption of the plan could be accomplished by year end.

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY

Mayor Willey presented "Doc" Kuntz with a Proclamation for community service.

Scout Leader Ernie Smith and members of Boy Scout Troop 532 were present to make Doc Kuntz an honorary member.

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO FORMER COUNCILMEMBER MS. MOONYENE JACKSON-AMIS

Ms Jackson-Amis was present to receive a pewter plaque from the Town of Easton in honor of her eight years of service as a councilmember.

MS. MOONYENE JACKSON-AMIS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING FREDERICK DOUGLASS STATUE.

Ms. Jackson-Amis was present to encourage the Town of Easton to provide information to the State of Maryland on Town of Easton letterhead or to present a resolution regarding the in-kind costs the town will be providing.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the following Public Assembly permits as recommended by Easton Police Department were approved.

- o 7/11/09 Bethel AME Church, Hanson Street
- o 9/2/09 Walk-Choices for Life Pregnancy, Idlewild Park

1 Mr. Karge advised that the capital loan with Easton Bank & Trust was recently paid off early saving
2 approximately \$190,000 in finance charges.

3
4 Mr. Wendowski asked that the traffic study for Cooke’s Hope and Easton Club be released.

5
6 Mr. Karge advised that Mr. Hause has met with those parties.

7
8 Mr. Wendowski stated that Corbin Park should be considered for an additional traffic study.

9
10 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY**

11
12 Mr. Wendowski asked the Town Attorney to discuss police powers on private roads.

13
14 Ms. VanEmburch stated that if the public has use of the road, the Transportation Article allows for
15 enforcement of speed limit. The minimum default speed limit is 30 miles per hour unless a traffic study
16 is completed.

17
18 **PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE TOWN’S ZONING**
19 **ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS FOR THE USE “HOMELESS SHELTER.”**

20
21 President Ford opened the Public Hearing at 7:38 p.m.

22
23 Mr. Thomas introduced the proposed amendment to the Town’s Zoning Ordinance and discussed the
24 history of the request. He discussed Talbot Interfaith Shelter’s organization and their objective. Mr.
25 Thomas stated that Talbot Interfaith is looking at establishing a permanent location for a homeless
26 shelter and they asked the Planning Department to address their request.

27
28 Talbot Interfaith Shelter had requested to add CR District as the residents that inhabit the shelter often
29 need to visit establishments that are not in residential areas but in the CR District. They also asked for
30 an amendment to the ordinance which would allow local law enforcement agencies to make referrals
31 when the Department of Social Services would not be working to get folks placed in the shelter as
32 needed.

33
34 President Ford stated that Ordinance 555 needs to be amended.

35
36 At 7:45 p.m., President Ford opened the floor for audience comments.

37
38 Ms. Evelyn Sedlack discussed the background of the Talbot Interfaith Shelter operation. She stated that
39 the shelter opened in January 2009 where clients could only sleep and eat. There are currently 400
40 volunteers working in a period of three months. She stated that they need an opportunity to meet in a
41 central location.

42
43 President Ford stated that the record would remain open for written comments until the close of
44 business on Friday.

45
46 At 7:51 p.m., President Ford closed the Public Hearing.

47
48 **LETTER FROM MR. JOHN MASONE, TALBOT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
49 **REQUESTING WAIVER OF BUILDING PERMIT FOR STORAGE BUILDING**

50
51 The waiver of the fee was approved unanimously by the council.

52
53 **ORDINANCE NO. 556, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE**
54 **TOWN OF EASTON CODE TO ADD SECTION 29.8.5 REGARDING SITE SPECIFIC**
55 **ANALYSIS FOR DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES WITHIN THE TOWN.”**

56
57 President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 556 for a first reading.

58
59 Ms. VanEmburch stated that although this ordinance was requested due to a specific construction
60 project at the Airport, it would apply to anyone. She stated that this language was recommended by our
61 consultant.

62
63 **RESOLUTION NO. 5951, “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON APPROVING**
64 **THE 2009 GAS SERVICE TARIFF REVISIONS PROPOSED BY THE EASTON UTILITIES.”**

65

1 Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried, Resolution No. 5951 passed 4 to 1
2 with Ms. Cook voting no.

3

4 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

5

6 Ms. Malone stated she had spent quality time at the MML Convention in Ocean city. She discussed the
7 workshop on geocache. Ms. Malone stated that the RTC park cleanup has been postponed.

8

9 Mr. Leshner stated that there will be a Ward 2 constituent meeting to look at Town priorities July 14 at
10 the Welcome Center at 7:00 p.m.

11

12 Mr. Wendowski stated that the Talbot County Senior Center is still looking for funds for furnishings.

13

14 Mrs. Cook congratulated Easton on their show of fireworks.

15

16 President Ford stated that the fireworks were worth waiting for.

17

18 President Ford stated that the first meeting in August will be the introduction of things for the Council
19 to be thinking about to prioritize.

20

21 **ADJOURNMENT**

22

23 Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously; President Ford
24 adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting at 8:16 p.m.

25

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27 _____
Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk