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

October 5, 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, Chief of Police Ben Blue, Director of Economic Development Mrs. Maureen Scott-Taylor, Building Code Official Mr. Don Richardson, Long Range Planner Mr. Lynn Thomas and Town Clerk Ms. Ruf.

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.

President Ford announced that there had been a Closed Session to discuss personnel prior to tonight's regular meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, minutes of the September 21, 2009 meetings were approved as written.

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY

Mayor Willey presented Life Saving Heroism Proclamations to YMCA employees Ms. Ehrin Hughes, Ms. Terry Roach, Ms. Latoya Brooks, Ms. Courtney Willoughby, and Mr. Bobby Tate who started CPR on a member who since has had open heart surgery.

Mr. Robbie Gill, CEO YMCA discussed how proud they are of their staff. He stated that the AED was give to them through a grant.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM CHIEF OF POLICE

Mayor Willey stated that he is in receipt of a letter of resignation from Chief Ben Blue effective December 25, 2009.

Chief Blue thanked all the elected officials for all the support they have given the department during his tenure.

President Ford stated that Easton Police Department has never been held in higher esteem by the community and that kind of respect starts at the top with good leadership and as elected officials we are very grateful.

GRANT FROM ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mayor Willey advised that the Town of Easton will be receiving \$82,000 from the Energy Assistance program and may be used for the HVAC system.

Mayor Willey discussed a recent meeting with the MD Department of the Environment concerning the Easton Point property.

APPROVAL OF THE EASTON MAIN STREET BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ms. Scott-Taylor briefed on Main Street Maryland.

1 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, the Main Street Board
2 of Directors as submitted by Ms. Scott-Taylor were approved.

3
4 Doug James Benson & Mangold Real Estate
5 Bill Chapman Trade Whims Retail
6 Bob Greenlee Tidewater Inn Accommodations
7 Ron Mitchell Inn at 202 Dover/Peacock Restaurants
8 Juliet McIntosh Academy Art Museum Cultural Attractions
9 Nancy Tankersley South Street Art Gallery Galleries
10 Laurie Yorkilous Shore BancShares Financial
11 Ex-Officio Members:
12 TOE Economic Development Director
13 TC Director of Tourism
14 Easton Main Street Manager
15 Avalon Events Manager

16
17 **ITEMS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

18
19 Mr. Jamie McNeal was present to update on statistical information for August and September. He
20 stated that the Department will install alarms for residents on Saturday, October 10.

21
22 Mr. McNeal stated that Easton Fire Department will miss Chief Blue. He discussed the great working
23 relationship with the police department.

24
25 Mr. McNeal discussed Fire Prevention Week and changes with 911 alarms.

26
27 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER**

28
29 Mr. Karge advised that Mr. Ernest Heinmuller sent a letter request a change of parking regulations on
30 Port Street. He stated that the staff looked at the issue and recommended no change. He stated that not
31 all lots have off street parking. The staff recommends asking emergency personnel to use the access
32 via Peachblossom Street not Port Street where there is parking on the street.

33
34 Easton Police has received a request from members of the Easton Christ Church for parking
35 exemptions along Harrison Street adjacent to the church during their fall sale on October 12 through
36 October 16 and will only affect the two hour limit.

37
38 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the waiver was
39 approved.

40
41 Mr. Karge discussed the paving contract which will occur prior to the cold weather this year.

42
43 Mr. Karge discussed the leaf collection schedule will begin on Thursday through January. He stated
44 that the schedule may change rapidly according to how the leaves may fall.

45
46 **ORDINANCE NO. 560, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE**
47 **TOWN OF EASTON ZONING ORDINANCE TO CREATE THE REGIONAL**
48 **HEALTHCARE (RH) AND GOVERNMENTAL/INSTITUTIONAL (G/I) ZONING**
49 **DISTRICTS."**

50
51 The Town Attorney, Ms. VanEmburch discussed the proposed ordinance creating the regional
52 healthcare zone. Tonight is the first reading. She stated that the purpose is to present the ordinance and
53 to go through to get questions and comments and discuss concerns.

54
55 Mr. John Murray, Esq. on behalf of Shore Health System discussed details of the Zoning Ordinance.

56
57 Mr. Showalter discussed the provisions of Ordinance No. 560.

58
59 President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 560 for a first reading and set the public hearing for October
60 19 at 8:00 p.m.

61
62 **MEMO FROM MR. LYNN B. THOMAS, LONG RANGE PLANNER REGARDING**
63 **DOWNTOWN PARKING**

64
65 Mr. Thomas was present and summarized various downtown parking studies.

1 Discussion occurred regarding the total utilization of downtown town owned parking spaces.

2
3 Ms. Scott-Taylor discussed the snap shot parking use survey done by the parking enforcement officers.
4 She discussed economic facts for the Tidewater Inn.

5
6 **CONSENSUS REGARDING THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF THE TOWN OWNED**
7 **PARKING LOTS BEHIND THE TIDEWATER INN FOR THE PARKING LOT OWNED BY**
8 **THE HOTEL ON SOUTH LANE.**

9
10 Mr. Wendowski stated that in principle he knows that we need to do it but he would like to see the
11 agreement structured that that the parking lot comes back to the town in the unlikely event the
12 Tidewater Inn should fail.

13
14 President Ford stated that the parking consideration is vital to the success. He stated without the
15 Tidewater, the town center will have more failures. It is an economic development for the town center.

16
17 Mayor Willey stated that he does not want to see the Tidewater Inn go dark.

18
19 Ms. Malone discussed the lots that are not currently utilized.

20
21 Mr. Leshar stated that he is ready to support the swap. He stated that this parking will not be lost to
22 downtown customers.

23
24 President Ford stated that other things must be accomplished such as better directional signage to other
25 parking lots. He stated that some may have to change some habits.

26
27 It was the consensus of the council to swap the parking lots.

28
29 The Town Attorney was asked to draft necessary legislation.

30
31 **RESOLUTION NO. 5954, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON APPROVING AN**
32 **AGREEMENT WITH THE MIDDLE DEPARTMENT INSPECTION AGENCY, INC. TO**
33 **PROVIDE INSPECTION AND CODE ENFORCEMENT SERVICES FOR ELECTRICAL**
34 **SYSTEMS FOR THE TOWN."**

35
36 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously Resolution No. 5954
37 was approved.

38
39 **ORDINANCE NO. 562, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON CODIFYING AND**
40 **REENACTING WITH AMENDMENTS PORTIONS OF ORDINANCE 448 AND ITS**
41 **EXHIBITS A AND EXHIBITS B, UNDER CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE I, II AND III."**

42
43 Mr. Richardson was present to discuss Ordinance No. 562.

44
45 President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 562 for a first reading and asked Mr. Richardson to forward a
46 copy of Ordinance No. 562 to the council showing the changes.

47
48 **RESOLUTION NO. 5957, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING**
49 **THE EXECUTION OF A LICENSE AGREEMENT TO ALLOW AN ENCROACHMENT AT**
50 **314 NORTH AURORA STREET INTO THE RIGHT OF WAY KNOWN AS MAGNOLIA**
51 **STREET."**

52
53 Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, Resolution No.
54 5957 was approved.

55
56 **PROPOSAL THAT COUNCIL SEND LETTER ADVOCATING THAT STATE HIGHWAY**
57 **LOWER THE SPEED LIMIT AS ROUTE 33 NEARS THE PARKWAY.**

58
59 Ms. Malone discussed a letter that Ms. Judy Grillo, a local citizen has advocated to improve the half
60 mile or so of Rt. 33 east as it nears the parkway. Ms. Malone stated that she has a letter tonight
61 requesting the council's support to be forwarded to SHA.

62
63
64
65

1 **ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL**

2
3 Ms. Malone discussed an upcoming meeting regarding Ashby Commons. She stated that Elm Street
4 wants to purchase the lots and wants to meet with the community to discuss the proposal.

5
6 Ms. Malone discussed her recent meeting with the Neighborhood Association at Chapel Farms.

7
8 President Ford discussed the upcoming workshop meeting scheduled for October 12.

9
10 Mayor Willey stated that the Annual Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast will be held October 23 at 7:00 a.m. at
11 Krystal Q.

12
13 **ADJOURNMENT**

14
15 Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously; President Ford
16 adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting at 9:13 p.m.

17
18 _____
19 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk