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

March 7, 2011

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PRESENT AT CONVENING

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

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IN ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance were the Town Manager Mr. Robert F. Karge, Sr., the Assistant Town Attorney Mr. Patrick Fitzgerald and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy Ruf.

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CONVENING

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 22, 2011 MEETINGS.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, minutes of the February 22, 2011 meetings were approved as prepared.

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.

RE-APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF CANVASSERS AND SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS.

Mayor Willey asked for consideration for the appointment of Mr. Louis Dorsey, Ms. Bonnie Chase and Mr. Glenn Daubach for a two year term on the Boards of Canvassers and Mrs. Carlene Phoenix as Supervisor of Elections for a four year term.

Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, the appointments were approved.

Mayor Willey discussed the upcoming budget workshops scheduled for April 11 and April 12.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

Mr. Karge stated that he has the traffic study received by Mrs. Scott-Taylor that he will forward to the Council.

Mr. Karge discussed a concern related to a tattoo parlor and the Town having no request for that business .

Mr. Karge discussed the surplus for FY from June 30. Mr. Karge discussed the need for a formal transfer budget resolution and the requirement to keep the current year budget balanced.

Mr. Karge discussed a pending roof repair bid due March 24.

Mr. Wendowski asked for clarification regarding security at the bar-b-que championship event. Mr. Karge stated the officers are treated as independent contractors.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the hospital DRRRA and suggested that if there are questions to send an e-mail to Ms. VanEmburch

UPDATES FROM EASTON UTILITIES BY HUGH E. GRUNDEN, PRESIDENT AND CEO.

Mr. Grunden discussed the sample LED lights on display at the Easton Utilities parking area.

Mr. Grunden stated Easton Utilities has filed an application with the State of Maryland for funding to install traffic signals with LED lights.

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70 Mr. Grunden discussed ongoing projects at Easton Utilities.

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72 Mr. Grunden stated that they would be implementing SCADA which would get everything on the same
73 platform and system. He stated that it is a large capital investment but will improve their efficiency, reliability
74 and safety.

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76 Mr. Grunden discussed minimal outages during the recent snow fall.

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78 Mr. Grunden discussed an upcoming rate case for gas increase. He said that they are striving for justifiable and
79 reasonable rates.

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81 Mr. Grunden stated that there are exciting projects for cable monitoring usage and that customers should see
82 substantial increase in speed.

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84 He stated that they intend to move to all digital cable system which should enhance reliability and the quality of
85 the signal.

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87 On the wastewater side Mr. Grunden discussed the discharge monitor report which continues to excel. He stated
88 that they are building a storage tank which will improve effluent. He stated that the project is under budget.

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90 Mr. Grunden stated that Easton Utilities is working with a new accounting system.

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92 He discussed the Annual Strategic Planning Session and the process which emphasis how to plan and budget.

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94 President Ford stated that Easton Utilities Commission is an asset to this community.

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96 **CHIEF DAVID SPENCER TO PRESENT TO COUNCIL ANNUAL EASTON POLICE**
97 **DEPARTMENT REPORT.**

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99 Chief Spencer discussed the Easton Police Department Annual Report and recent statistics. Chief Spencer stated
100 it has been a very successful year; traffic enforcement citations are up and more serious crimes are down.

101
102 Chief Spencer thanked the council for attending their Annual Banquet and their show of support.

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104 Chief Spencer stated that the requested budget has been submitted to Mayor Willey for review.

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106 He stated that there are a total of five bicycle patrol officers. With weather permitting, they are now out on
107 patrol.

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109 **ORDINANCE NO. 583, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING SECTIONS**
110 **29.8.3 AND 29.8.5 OF THE TOWN OF EASTON CODE REGARDING SITE SPECIFIC ANALYSIS**
111 **FOR DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES WITHIN THE TOWN."**

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113 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 583 was
114 approved following a roll call vote.

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116 **ORDINANCE NO. 585, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE**
117 **CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL FOR ORDINANCE 461, WHICH GRANTED THE AMENDMENT TO**
118 **A PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT FOR ELM STREET DEVELOPMENT, LC, TO MODIFY THE**
119 **REQUIREMENTS FOR ON SITE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS."**

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121 President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 585 for a first reading.

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123 President Ford set a public hearing to hear comments regarding Ordinance No. 585 for March 21 at 7:30 p.m.

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125 **REQUEST FROM MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION FOR BANNER FOR ANNUAL CHARITY**
126 **ANTIQUES SHOW AND SALE AT THE WATERFOWL FESTIVAL BUILDING MARCH 18 THRU**
127 **MARCH 20.**

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129 Ms. Christina P. Mills was present and requested a variance for the size of the banner with updated dates above
130 Bountiful at Talbottown Shopping Center. She stated that this is a one-time request to allow the organization
131 time to order a new banner for next year that will comply with the revised requirements for banners as allowed
132 by the Town Code.

134 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, the request from the Mental
135 Health Association for a banner for the Annual Charity Antiques Show and Sale was approved
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138 **REQUEST FROM CHESAPEAKE WILDLIFE HERITAGE FOR ABATEMENT OF TAXES.**

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40 Mr. Karge stated that this is an annual request. He stated that the Town fully supports their request and
41 encourages the abatement of these taxes since this is on a tax exempt entity.
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43 Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mr. Leshar and carried unanimously, the request for abatement of
44 taxes from Chesapeake Wildlife was approved.
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46 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:**

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48 **MS. MALONE**

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50 Ms. Malone stated that she enjoyed the Easton Police Department banquet. She thanked the officers who risk
51 their lives daily.
52

53 **MR. LESHER**

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55 Mr. Leshar discussed the Tanyard Branch retrofitting the stormwater drainage in town. He stated that this is the
56 second one in the town of Easton.
57

58 **MR. WENDOWSKI**

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60 Mr. Wendowski asked President Ford if discussion could occur at the scheduled workshop March 14 regarding a
61 noise ordinance.
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63 Mr. Wendowski asked that new information regarding new business proposals be forwarded to the Council.
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65 **PRESIDENT FORD**

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67 President Ford reminded those present about the scheduled workshop Monday 6:00 p.m. to discuss recycling and
68 possibly a noise ordinance.
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70 **ADJOURN**

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72 At 7:55 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously; President Ford
73 adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.
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76 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk
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