

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

October 3, 2011

PRESENT AT CONVENING

Council President John Ford
Councilmember Kelley K. Malone
Councilmember Pete Leshner

Councilmember Leonard E. Wendowski, Sr.
Councilmember Megan M. Cook

Mayor Willey and Mr. Karge were excused.

IN ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance were the Town Attorney Ms. VanEmburch and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy Ruf.

CONVENING

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

Ms. Malone opened the meeting with remarks and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19 AND SEPTEMBER 26, 2011 MEETING.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, minutes for the September 19 and September 26, 2011 meetings were approved as prepared.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.

Ms. VanEmburch stated that four bids have been received for the generator.

The Town Attorney requested permission to award the bid to Kleppinger; the lowest bidder. She stated that the bid is below the budgeted amount.

Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski, seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, the bid as submitted by Kleppinger

Ms. VanEmburch stated that the RTC bid for construction of the parking lot was in the paper today. She asked that the Council please be prepared to act on acceptance of the bid at the next meeting.

Maryland Department of Transportation and State Highway officials recently met with municipalities and Talbot County October 11 at 3:30 p.m. at the courthouse to discuss projects and budgets.

The Town Attorney advised that the State Ethics Commission will consider the Town of Easton's waiver request at their December 8, 2011 meeting.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, Ms. Janet Gregor's appointment to the Historic District Commission was unanimously approved. Ms. Gregor's appointment is for the remainder of a three year term expiring June 28, 2014.

Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, Ms. Janet Hendricks appointment as representative from the Academy Art Museum to the Easton Main Street Board was unanimously approved.

MR. TALBOT BONE, WATER & WASTEWATER MANAGER TO PRESENT TO COUNCIL A SEWER SYSTEM REHABILITATION PROJECT EASTON UTILITIES WILL BE STARTING.

Mr. Talbot Bone, Manager of Water and Waste Water Sewer System was present to discuss a sewer system rehabilitation project. He stated it will involve 90 miles of sewer lines that had original installation starting 1900.

Mr. Bone discussed the process and stated that they intend to clean and inspect current lines. He stated that they will use cured in place pipe. He discussed streets that may have problems during renovation.

Mr. Bone discussed the process of notifying customers.

He estimated three weeks for repairs and stated that they do not intend to schedule any work during the Waterfowl Festival.

MS. PAIGE BETHKE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING TALBOT COUNTY ECONOMIC INITIATIVES.

Ms. Bethke was present to discuss economic initiatives in Talbot County. Ms. Bethke presented the Economic Development Commission Report.

Ms. Bethke discussed a countywide plan to come together and initiate a joint county/municipal strategic plan for long-term economic development growth and infrastructure investment for Talbot County.

Mr. Paul Makosky, Chairman Economic Development Commission subcommittee on land use was present to discuss land uses and the lack of land for industrial development and the existing limits to growth. Mr. Makosky discussed a process to generate a long term plan for development with measurable economic benchmarks. He stated that it will be necessary to identify funds and resources for future investment.

Ms. Bethke suggested sharing ideas and developing consistency between municipalities and county.

PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE TOWN'S ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING CONSIDERATION OF ADDING FLEXIBILITY TO THE ORDINANCE WITH REGARDS TO THE STANDARD REQUIRING THAT SIDEWALKS BE CONSTRUCTED ALONG ANY PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR ALL NEW NON-RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.

At 7:57 p.m., President Ford opened the Public Hearing on a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance regarding the construction of sidewalks for all new non-residential development.

President Ford read the proposed text change regarding waiving

At 8:03 p.m., President Ford opened the floor to public comments.

Mr. Wendowski stated that he thinks it is a good idea to make the ordinance as tight as possible. She stated that areas may never have sidewalks because the requirement will be waived.

Ms. Malone likes the flexibility but is concerned the leeway may be abused.

Mr. Leshar discussed the advantages to the Planning and Zoning Commission being able to waive the requirement.

President Ford stated that the record will remain open for written comments until close of business Friday.

At 8:07 p.m., President Ford closed public hearing.

ORDINANCE NO. 591, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE TOWN OF EASTON ZONING ORDINANCE."

President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 591 for a first reading. He stated that he will ask for council consensus at the next meeting with a formal vote on November 7.

Mr. Leshar stated that he is comfortable with the language as drafted.

Mrs. Cook suggested adding language regarding future development.

ORDINANCE NO. 592, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON EXTENDING THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO BE FUNDED BY DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES WITHIN THE TOWN."

Mrs. VanEmburch discussed extending the time period for the current capital projects that have not been completed. She stated that Ordinance No. 592 extends the time period beyond six years which originally was contemplated to give time to consider projects.

President Ford brought Ordinance No. 592 to the floor for a first reading. He stated that a consensus will be taken at the next meeting.

LETTER FROM MR. JOHN A. ATWOOD REGARDING REQUEST TO AMEND THE TOWN'S ZONING ORDINANCE BY ADDRESSING A SPECIFIC USE "WINERY."

President Ford brought to the floor a letter from Mr. Atwood regarding a request to amend the Town's Zoning Ordinance by addressing a specific use; winery.

President Ford set the Zoning Ordinance Amendment Public Hearing to consider wineries for November 7 at 7:15 p.m.

ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Mrs. Cook reminded those present about the public meeting at the Easton Firehouse on October 6 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the Easton Point project.

ADJOURN

Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk