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2 **TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND**
3 **Easton Town Hall**
4 **14 S. Harrison Street**

5 December 3, 2012
6
7

8 **PRESENT AT CONVENING**
9

10 Mayor Robert C. Willey
11 Council President John Ford

12 Councilmember Kelley K. Malone
13 Councilmember Leonard E. Wendowski, Sr.

14
15 Also present was Town Manager Mr. Robert Karge, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch, Assistant Town
16 Attorney Mr. Patrick Fitzgerald, Town Planner Mr. Lynn Thomas and Mrs. Lorraine Gould for Town Clerk
17 Mrs. Kathy Ruf.
18

19 **OPENING REMARKS BY PRESIDENT FORD AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**
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21 At 7:00 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order. President Ford led the audience in opening remarks
22 and the pledge of allegiance.
23

24 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2012 MEETINGS.**
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26 Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, minutes of the November
27 19, 2012 meetings were approved.
28

29 **ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.**
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31 Mayor Willey discussed vandalism at the RTC Park and stated that perpetrators will be prosecuted.
32

33 Mayor Willey stated that Memorial bricks are still on sale for the Memorial Walk.
34

35 **INTRODUCTION OF CHESAPEAKE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS FROM THE**
36 **MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST.**
37

38 Mrs. Dawn Steward was present on behalf of the Chesapeake Christian School students that participated at the
39 Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.
40

41 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**
42

43 Mr. Karge stated that he has been advised that the restrooms at the parks are now closed for the season.
44

45 The Harrison Street project to rebuild a portion of a collapsed stormwater line will be reopened tomorrow.
46

47 The Glebe Road project is scheduled to start soon with limited access to the residents. The project will take
48 approximately six months.
49

50 The Chapel Road crosswalk project is scheduled to begin on December 17.
51

52 Mr. Karge asked for approval of a Public Assembly Permit for First Night Talbot 2013; December 31 from 6:00
53 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. with approximately 1500 people with a street closure in that affected area.
54

55 Upon motion by Ms. Malone, seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, approval was granted for
56 the public assembly permit for First Night Talbot with the caveat that the adjoining property owners be notified
57 prior to the event.
58

59 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**
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61 Mrs. VanEmburch requested a Closed Session after the regularly scheduled meeting to discuss business
62 expansion or relocation §10-508(a)(4).
63

64 **DISCUSSION OF LOT SWAP FOR PROGRAM OPEN SPACE.**
65

66 Mr. Fitzgerald briefed on the Program Open Space requirements and the potential for the lot swap. Mr.
67 Fitzgerald discussed the small residential piece of land along Chapel Road adjacent to RTC Park. He stated that
68 the lot has sat vacant for some time. The plan developed is to swap that lot which is about ¼ acre with
69 approximately an acre of land at the new park at Easton Point which is in the planning stages. He discussed the

70 parameters for the swap. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that a public hearing must occur to give the public an opportunity
71 to speak about the proposal. He asked for questions.

72
73 Ms. Malone stated that she feels it is a good use of residential land.

74
75 Ms. Malone asked that any letters that go to adjoining property owners also be sent to her.

76
77 **RECESS**

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79 At 7:15 p.m., President Ford recessed the regular meeting to wait for Mrs. Cook and Mr. Leshar to join the
80 meeting.

81
82 **AUDIT OUTBRIEF**

83
84 Mr. Karge asked that the audit out brief meeting be scheduled for January 7 at 6:15 p.m.

85
86 **PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ORDINANCE NO. 617 WHICH PROPOSES AMENDMENTS TO**
87 **THE TOWN'S ZONING ORDINANCE. THE PROPOSAL WOULD AMEND ARTICLE V OF THE**
88 **ZONING ORDINANCE BY ADOPTING A NEW CRITICAL AREA CHAPTER, DRAFTED TO**
89 **REFLECT RECENT CHANGES TO STATEWIDE CRITICAL AREA REGULATIONS. IN**
90 **ADDITION, ARTICLE I, SECTION 114, THE DEFINITIONS SECTION OF THE ORDINANCE, IS**
91 **PROPOSED FOR AMENDMENTS TO REFLECT NEW AND REVISED DEFINITIONS RELATED**
92 **TO CRITICAL AREA ISSUES.**

93
94 At 7:16 p.m., Councilmembers Cook and Leshar joined the meeting.

95
96 At 7:17 p.m., President Ford called the meeting back to order.

97
98 At 7:18 p.m., President Ford opened the Public Hearing to discuss Ordinance No. 617; amendments to the
99 Town's Zoning Ordinance dealing with the Critical Area chapter.

00
01 Town Planner Mr. Thomas discussed Ordinance No. 617 which is intended to update the Town's Critical Area
02 regulations. He stated that this is an attempt to modernize our regulations; an effort going on throughout the
03 state and jurisdictions. Mr. Thomas stated that we are one of five communities currently undergoing this
04 process.

05
06 Mr. Thomas introduced Mr. Gradechak.

07
08 Mr. Thomas stated that the Town Attorney suggested that upon the conclusion of the hearing this evening, the
09 hearing be continued to the next meeting so that if there are any changes pursuant to discussion, they can be
10 made without having to re-advertise which may expedite the procedure.

11
12 Mr. Gradechak gave an executive summary of what changes are proposed. He stated that they are not radical
13 but are mostly technical in nature.

14
15 President Ford stated that the record would be kept open until at least the next meeting. Written comments can
16 be forwarded to the town office for an opportunity for the council to review.

17
18 **ORDINANCE NO. 617, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE TOWN**
19 **OF EASTON ZONING ORDINANCE."**

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21 President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 617 for a first reading.

22
23 **ORDINANCE NO. 618, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE**
24 **EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A PROMISSORY NOTE IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF**
25 **\$3,000,000 PAYABLE TO THE EASTON UTILITIES COMMISSION FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE**
26 **OF PROVIDING FINANCING FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR THE TOWN OF EASTON AND**
27 **PLEDGING THE FULL FAITH AND CREDIT AND TAXING AUTHORITY OF THE TOWN OF**
28 **EASTON TO THE REPAYMENT OF SAME."**

29
30 President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 618 for a first reading.

31
32 Mayor Willey gave an overview of Ordinance No. 618 and discussed the capital projects this will be used to
33 fund: new tower fire truck, Aurora Street rebuild, salt storage building at Public Works, Harrison Street from
34 Dover to South Street new signals and drainage and parking lot across the street, drainage issues around
35 Holiday Inn Express and N Washington Street drainage work. Mayor Willey discussed upcoming projects that
36 may also be considered.

37
38 Mayor Willey discussed the terms of the loan which is for five years at a rate of .9%.

39
40 President Ford stated that Ordinance No. 618 will be acted on at the next meeting. Anyone with written
41 comments can submit them to their councilmember for review.

42
43 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

44 Mr. Leshner read thank you notes from Mrs. Smith's class at Easton Elementary for making Easton a better place
45 to live.

46 Mrs. Cook thanked everyone involved for a nice Christmas parade.

47 Mayor Willey thanked everyone for the year's hard work and wished all a blessed New Year.

48 **CLOSED SESSION**

49 At 7:55 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, President Ford
50 convened into Closed Session.

51 At 8:26 p.m., President Ford adjourned the Closed Session and convened into the regular scheduled meeting.

52 **ADJOURN**

53 At 8:26 p.m., President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

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Lorraine Gould for Town Clerk Kathy M. Ruf