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

February 6, 2012

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PRESENT AT CONVENING

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

Also in attendance were the Town Manager Mr. Robert F. Karge, Sr., the Town Attorney Ms. VanEmburch, Superintendent of Public Works Michael Dickerson, Town Planner Mr. Lynn Thomas, Chief of Police David Spencer, Captain Mark Waltrup, 1st Sgt. Rhonda Thomas and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy Ruf.

CONVENING

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

OPENING REMARKS BY MRS. COOK AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mrs. Cook led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 18, 2011 MEETING.

President Ford stated that the minutes were not included in this evening's packet and would be acted on during the next meeting.

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.

Mayor Willey asked for an Executive Session after the regularly scheduled meeting to discuss personnel and real estate.

MEMO FROM MAYOR REGARDING APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, Ms. Debbie Renshaw and Ms. Doris Mason were re-appointed to the Board of Appeals for a three year term expiring December 31, 2014.

Mr. Leshner asked that the appointment to the Planning & Zoning Commission be tabled.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER:

AUDIT OUTBRIEF

Mr. Karge stated that the Council had the Audit Outbrief prior to the regularly scheduled Council meeting and he asked permission to release the Audit.

It was the consensus of the Council to release the FY2010/11 Audit.

APPROVAL OF BID FOR BRIDGE STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT.

Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski, seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, the Bid for the Bridge Street Reconstruction Project received from David A. Bramble, Inc. of Chestertown, Maryland in the amount of \$190,565.00 was approved. Mr. Karge stated that a project on Harrison Street would be deferred to make up for the shortage in the budget for the project. Mr. Karge described the project.

CONSIDERATION OF UPCOMING PUBLIC ASSEMBLY EVENT.

Mr. Karge has a request from Easton Police Department for a Public Assembly Event to benefit the Chesapeake Film Festival and Talbot Hospice February 26 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Dover and Harrison Streets as well as a one day liquor license for consumption inside the Avalon.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, approval was granted.

Mr. Karge advised that the Police Department has not seen the request from Main Street for St. Patrick's Day events March 17. He suggested approval by the Council subject to the Police Department working out the details necessary. Mr. Karge advised that it is the 30th Anniversary for the parade, potato race. This year they are proposing live outdoor music on Goldsborough Street between Washington and Harrison Street. Mr. Karge would advise approval contingent on Easton Police Department and Main Street working out the details related to this event. Mr. Karge also advised the Council of the event's desire to refer to a portion of Dover Street between Harrison and Washington as "Irish Way".

Upon motion by Mr. Leshar, seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, approval was granted for the St. Patrick's Day events contingent on EPD approval and notification and consent of business on Goldsborough Street.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.

Ms. VanEmburch reminded the Council about the scheduled Workshop Wednesday, February 8 at 6:00 p.m. on Charter Amendments and redistricting.

HISTORIC DISTRICT CHAIRMAN MR. ROGER BOLLMAN TO PRESENT 2011 HISTORIC DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT.

Mr. Bollman was present to present the 2011 Historic District Annual Report. He stated that there were a total of 85 applications; some repeat hearings. Mr. Bollman discussed staff changes to the Historic District Commission.

PRESENTATION OF HISTORIC DISTRICT CITATIONS.

Mr. Leshar and Mr. Bollman presented Historic District Citations to Mr. and Mrs. Eddy Huang for their property at 401 Goldsborough Street and Mr. and Mrs. Will Gordon for their property at 318 August Street.

LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN JOHN ATWOOD, EASTON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION REGARDING ANNUAL PACKAGE OF ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS.

President Ford set the Public Hearing for March 5 at 7:15 p.m.

LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN JOHN ATWOOD, EASTON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION REGARDING REQUEST ON BEHALF OF JEFFREY AND SHIRLEY MCNEAL FOR PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF 2.469 ACRES INTO THE TOWN.

The Town Attorney asked that this matter be tabled. She discussed the two areas that want to be annexed in front of the hospital property and the intersection by Airport Road.

LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN JOHN ATWOOD, EASTON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION REGARDING REVIEW OF THE PUD APPLICATION PROPOSING TO DEVELOP PHASE II OF THE WATERSIDE VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER.

President Ford set the Public Hearing for March 19, 7:15 p.m.

7:15 PM PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE No. 596, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO AMEND THE TOWN OF EASTON CODE BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE X ENTITLED "SCHOOL ZONES" TO ESTABLISH SCHOOL ZONES WITHIN THE TOWN AND MAXIMUM SPEED LIMITS ON MUNICIPAL ROADS WITHIN THOSE SCHOOL ZONES AND A NEW ARTICLE XI, ENTITLED "SPEED MONITORING SYSTEMS" TO PROVIDE FOR THE AUTHORIZATION AND USE OF SPEED MONITORING SYSTEMS IN SCHOOL ZONES IN THE TOWN."

President Ford opened the Public Hearing at 7:27 p.m. to discuss and hear comments on Ordinance No. 596.

First Sgt. Rhonda Thomas presented a power point presentation regarding vehicles and speeds.

Mr. Fred Kern 200 Spring Drive, Charlestown Village, stated that he is concerned about who is being protected. Mr. Kern stated that he is worried about "Big Brother."

Mr. Al Silverstein, 300 Dixon Street, No. 105 asked about how many units would be placed in the community, and if the council has looked at revenue versus how much the company makes. Mr. Silverstein suggested

instituting a speed awareness campaign. He asked if there is an anticipated amount of revenue the town expects. Mr. Silverstein asked that the council continue to look at this.

Mr. Robbie Gill, CEO of Talbot County YMCA, 7070 Redwood Court, stated that gaps need to be looked at. He stated that all the schools looked at are activity hubs year round for extracurricular activities. He stated that he is all for making areas safer. He noted that the Crossing Guard by the YMCA has almost been hit several times. Mr. Gill stated that protecting kids makes a lot of sense and awareness makes a lot of sense.

Ms. Leah Wade, 105 Willis Avenue, also a representative from Easton Savvy, stated she has many concerns and questions. She discussed the registered owner of cars being issued citations. She discussed the two main areas of concern; Easton High School and Country School and asked if traffic calming measures have been considered. Ms. Wade asked that a review of the contractor be performed on a periodic basis.

Ms. Libby Dawkins, 11 N. Thorogood Lane, stated that Easton has a speeding problem. Ms. Dawkins stated that she is a proponent of a larger police force.

Mr. Tim Bishop, 350 N Washington Street, asked who is requesting this service.

Chief Spencer summarized the Department's position. He discussed the importance of traffic safety. He stated that they are looking solely at the best interest of the community and the children. Chief Spencer discussed technology that is changing the way police do things.

President Ford closed the public hearing at 8:23 p.m. He stated that written comments would be accepted until the end of business on Friday.

ORDINANCE NO. 589, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING ARTICLES II AND III OF CHAPTER 11 PERTAINING TO GARBAGE, REFUSE, AND RECYCLING AND REFUSE AND RECYCLING DISPOSAL CHARGES."

At 8:24 p.m., President Ford re-opened the public hearing regarding recycling.

Mr. Fred Kern, 200 Spring Drive, discussed the Town charging for what he already does for free.

Ms. Libby Dawkins, 11 N. Thorogood Lane, Easton, discussed concerns with single stream recycling.

President Ford closed the public hearing at 8:32 p.m.

President Ford stated he is a strong proponent. He stated that there are details that still need to be worked out but he suggested moving forward with the ordinance.

Mrs. Cook wants to include multi-family that may not be participating.

President Ford stated that recycling in Easton is long overdue.

Ms. Malone discussed citizens in her ward demanding her to work on recycling. She commended the town for instituting once a week recycling.

Mr. Wendowski stated that he is a strong proponent of recycling. Mr. Wendowski discussed once a week trash collection. He asked that commercial businesses also be looked at for recycling. He stated that commercial businesses generate a lot of waste. Mr. Wendowski stated that he is concerned about another charge on the tax bill.

Mayor Willey discussed the increased costs to citizens. He stated that a six month review of the town's financial position may make the charge more palatable.

Mr. Leshar stated that there is significant public demand from the citizens of the community. He stated that we may not get this right at first but we need to move forward.

ORDINANCE NO. 594, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON ESTABLISHING A REHABILITATION ZONE IN THE TOWN OF EASTON AND PROVIDING FOR TAX CREDITS AND FEE WAIVERS FOR REHABILITATION PROJECTS WITHIN THE REHABILITATION ZONE."

President Ford stated that there is a scheduled meeting of the Affordable Housing Coalition of Talbot County and he prefers to table Ordinance No. 594 until after that meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 595, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON GRANTING THE APPLICATION OF HH LAND, LLC FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE EXISTING PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT KNOWN AS “LOCUST COMMONS” UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE EASTON ZONING ORDINANCE.”

Mr. Karge advised that he conferred with the Town Attorney and was advised that there may be need to reopen the public hearing if new material is submitted.

Mr. Leshner stated that he feels strongly about the project and is in favor of moving forward.

Ms. Malone thanked Mr. Milburn for addressing concerns. She stated that she feels this is a quality project.

Mr. Wendowski stated that he does not believe eight residents can sustain and pay for improvements; especially road improvements.

Mr. Leshner moved approval of Ordinance No. 595 seconded by Ms. Malone and carried with Mr. Wendowski voting no.

ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Ms. Malone stated that she enjoyed the Easton Volunteer Fire Department’s Appreciation Banquet.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

At 8:57 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, President Ford convened the regularly scheduled meeting into Executive Session to discuss personnel and real estate.

ADJOURN.

At 9:12 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Wendowski, seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk