

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

4 July 2, 2012
5
6

7 **PRESENT AT CONVENING**
8

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

15
16 Also present was Town Manager Mr. Robert F. Karge, Assistant Town Attorney Mr. Patrick Fitzgerald, Town
17 Planner Mr. Lynn Thomas and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.

18
19 **CLOSED SESSION**
20

21 At 6:35 p.m., President Ford called the regularly scheduled meeting to order.
22

23 Upon motion by Ms. Malone, seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, President Ford convened
24 into Executive Session to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.
25

26 At 6:56 p.m., upon motion by Mrs. Cook seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, President Ford closed
27 the Executive Session and re-convened into Regular Session.
28

29 **OPENING REMARKS BY MR. WENDOWSKI AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**
30

31 At 7:00 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order.
32

33 Mrs. Cook led the audience in opening remarks and the Pledge of Allegiance.
34

35 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2012 MEETINGS.**
36

37 Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the minutes of the June 18, 2012
38 meetings were approved.
39

40 **ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.**
41

42 Mayor Willey discussed the Marlboro Road rebuild. He stated that the contract has been approved with a
43 preconstruction meeting this week. The reconstruction will include a left turn only lane and is expected to be
44 complete in approximately 120 days.
45

46 A request has been received from Jamie Merida for the Annual Blue Moon Sale with a request to erect tents and
47 hang a banner at Talbottown.
48

49 Mayor Willey stated he will pass the request to staff for review.
50

51 Mayor Willey stated that the Town has received a grant award for the Joint Opportunity Initiative for \$25,000
52 which was half of the request.
53

54 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**
55

56 Mr. Karge discussed further the JOI Grant. He stated that he has received no specifics other than the amount
57 funded.
58

59 Mr. Karge advised that the tipper can pick up will be starting in a portion of the town between Aurora Street and
60 Washington Street, Idlewild and North Street. Mr. Karge stated that recycling has begun. He stated that the map
61 has been re-designed on the web page and will be included with this year's tax bill. A bilingual insert will also be
62 distributed.
63

64 The recycling schedule has been changed due to the July 4th holiday.
65

66 Mr. Karge advised that some of the LED lights have been installed throughout town.
67

68 Mr. Karge updated on the problems related to inclement weather on Friday night.
69

70 Mr. Karge updated on the timeline for pedestrian crossings.

71
72 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

73
74 Assistant Town Attorney Fitzgerald requested introduction of Res. 5990 & Ordinance 598, Spring Annexation.

75
76 President Ford introduced Res. 5990 and Ordinance No. 598 for a first reading.

77
78 **EASTON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION 2012 ANNUAL REPORT.**

79
80 Mr. Thomas, Town Planner discussed the 2012 Annual Report included in tonight's Council packet. He stated it is
81 a requirement of Article 66B and must be adopted by July 1 by P&Z then forwarded to Mayor and Council and
82 MD Department of Planning.

83
84 Mr. Leshner thanked Mr. Thomas for efforts made by the staff. He asked that the 2012 Annual Report be available
85 on the Town's website after it has been forwarded to state.

86
87 **PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ORDINANCE NO. 609 WHICH PROPOSES AMENDMENTS TO**
88 **THE TOWN'S ZONING ORDINANCE. THE PROPOSAL WOULD AMEND ARTICLE XI OF THE**
89 **ZONING ORDINANCE BY REVISING THE WAY IN WHICH ELECTRONIC OR LED SIGNS ARE**
90 **REGULATED.**

91
92 At 7:24 p.m., President Ford opened the Public Hearing.

93
94 Town Planner Mr. Thomas discussed Ordinance No. 609 and what is proposed.

95
96 President Ford opened the floor for public comments.

97
98 Mr. Terry John, 1600 Thorton Road, Royal Oak, owner of Mid Atlantic Tire requested that existing LED signs be
99 grandfathered with the original 4 second hold time. He stated that the use of the sign and its benefits are greatly
00 diminished. Mr. John stated that the cost of the sign was approximately \$10,000.

01
02 Mr. Allen Silverstein, 300 Dixon Street, Talbot County Chamber of Commerce discussed another community's
03 regulations. He suggested that the current signs be grandfathered for regulations passed when the signs were
04 approved.

05
06 Mr. Ray Glasser, 10375 River Road, Greensboro, business: Sparkle Pools on Teal Drive stated that he purchased
07 the LED sign for \$30,000. He asked that the council be fair and grant regulations that were in place when sign was
08 approved. He stated that the LED sign increases traffic coming into the business and promotes sales.

09
10 Mr. Dave Douglass, Wishing Well Liquors asked for clarification. He thanked the Council for including his
11 business in the recycling efforts. Mr. Douglass stated that he understands the request for grandfathering previously
12 erected signs. He stated that he advertises community events. He discussed making a large investment in the sign.
13 Mr. Douglass asked that regulations be considered that were in place when signs were erected.

14
15 Mr. Brad Hopkins, 112 N Hanson Street, stated that he has a small business in the Town of Easton; Coffee for a
16 Cause. He stated that he was offended that businesses have to ask for a grandfather clause.

17
18 President Ford asked for additional comments. There being none, he closed the public hearing at 7:55 p.m. and
19 stated that the Town will accept written public comments until close of business Friday.

20
21 **MR. CHUCK COOK FROM GOVERNOR'S OFFICE**

22
23 Mr. Chuck Cook, from Governor's office introduced himself and stated that he was hired for Rachel McCullough's
24 replacement from Salisbury. He stated that he is a liaison between Governor's office and municipalities and is here
25 as a resource for the Town of Easton.

26
27 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

28
29 Ms. Malone stated that she regretted missing the RTC park festivities but was happy to see Ms. Lorraine Gould
30 receive recognition from the State for her efforts.

31
32 Mr. Leshner discussed his attendance at the MML Conference. He stated he received great training which included
33 the Public Information Act.

34
35 Mr. Ford stated that the meeting on July 16 will include public hearings for the Spring Annexation and
36 redistricting.

37
38 **ADJOURN**

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Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk