

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

March 5, 2012

PRESENT AT CONVENING

Mayor Robert C. Willey
Council President John Ford
Councilmember Kelley K. Malone

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance were the Town Manager Mr. Robert F. Karge, Sr., Town Planner Mr. Lynn B. Thomas, the Town Attorney Ms. Sharon VanEmburch, and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.

CONVENING

At 7:00 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order. President Ford stated that the Council met in closed Session prior to the regularly scheduled meeting to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; and to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

OPENING PRAYER BY MR. WENDOWSKI AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21, 2012 MEETING.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, minutes of the February 21, 2012 meetings were approved as prepared.

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.

Mayor Willey asked for Council consideration for the appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

MEMO FROM MAYOR REGARDING APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, Mayor Willey's recommendation to appoint Ms. Debbie Renshaw to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a five year term commencing December 31, 2011 was approved.

President Ford expressed gratitude to Mr. Dan Swann for his service on the Planning Commission.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

Mr. Karge asked to award the landscape bid for proposal B cutting the stormwater ponds to the low bidder. Mr. Karge asked to reject proposal A and accomplish this in house by hiring an additional Public Works employee which will virtually a wash effect on costs.

Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, permission was granted to award the proposal B portion of the landscape bid to the low bidder and hire an additional Public Works employee to accomplish the cutting of the parks.

Chief Spencer presented 2011 Annual Report.

President Ford reminded residents about the Phase 2 Waterside Village Public Hearing scheduled for March 19 at 7:15 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 597. THE PURPOSE OF THIS HEARING IS TO DISCUSS THE EASTON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION'S ANNUAL PACKAGE OF AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN'S ZONING ORDINANCE.

At 7:15 p.m., President Ford opened the scheduled Public Hearing.

Mr. Thomas discussed the Planning Commission's Annual Package of Amendments to the Town's Zoning Ordinance.

Mr. Thomas stated there are six changes with possibly additional changes to the Zoning Ordinance to come before the Council at a later date.

- 1) Definition of the Town Planner. Removes Town Engineer. Reflects that that Town Planner reports to the Town Manager.
- 2) Clarifies oversight in the language of the ordinance in the PUD section.
- 3) Change at the request from the Asst. to the Town Engineer regarding landscaping applications. Removes Bradford Pear. The Bradford Pear will not be banned but will not be proposed for required landscaping.
- 4) Maximum fence height exception as result of a variance the Board of Appeals heard. Would allow exception for barbed wire without respect to height limitations for security purposes and; ornamental additions to be included in overall fence height.

It was the consensus of the council to restrict the barbed wire to I-1.

- 5) Maximum permitted size of banners to a maximum 200 square feet which will reflect the actual practice for offsite non-profit organization banners.
- 6) Change proposes to establish two new zoning districts; Business Commercial BC and Industrial I District. Follows the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Thomas discussed the amendment to the Table of Zoning Uses.

Mr. Thomas stated that the changes are recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

At 7:35 p.m., President Ford closed the Public Hearing.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 597, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE TOWN OF EASTON ZONING ORDINANCE."

President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 597 for a first reading.

ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Mr. Wendowski reminded those present about the Ace Awards Breakfast Tuesday, 7:30 a.m. at the River House at the Easton Club.

Dr. Landy Cook, 113 S. Aurora Street, discussed a recent citation received for skateboarding on the street. Dr. Cook stated that the law is antiquated and asked that it be reviewed. Dr. Cook stated that the Council should support alternative means of transportation to alleviate driving around in a car.

Miss Charlotte Cook read comments into the record regarding bicycles vs. skateboards.

President Ford stated that he would like to ask the Police Department for their recommendation. He stated that he will get a response and get back to Dr. Cook.

ADJOURN

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled Council meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk

Kathy Ruf 3/5/12 7:52 PM

Comment [1]:

Kathy Ruf 3/5/12 7:53 PM

Comment [2]: ...n