

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

June 3, 2013

PRESENT AT CONVENING

Mayor Robert C. Willey
Council President John Ford
Councilmember Megan M. Cook

Councilmember Leonard E. Wendowski, Sr.
Councilmember Kelley K. Malone
Councilmember Pete Leshner

Also present was Town Manager Mr. Robert Karge, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch, and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy Ruf.

OPENING REMARKS BY MR. LESHER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mr. Leshner gave opening remarks and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 20 AND MAY 28, 2013 MEETINGS.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, minutes of the May 20 and May 28 meetings were approved as written.

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.

Mayor Willey stated that a resolution will be forthcoming at the next council meeting asking the council to approve Easton as a Sustainable Community.

Mayor Willey discussed the Flags for Heroes Project by Rotary Club and stated that Rotary has also been busy painting and patching holes in the pavilion at Idlewild Park.

Mayor Willey discussed the Boy Scout Eagle Ceremonies which were held Saturday and Sunday.

He discussed the bicyclists around the community Saturday and the Proclamation presented for the Multiple Sclerosis event.

Mayor Willey stated that he will be taking resumes for the Talbot County Tourism Board that is in need of a representative from the Town of Easton.

Ms. Malone asked if the Town has received an answer from the Attorney General's office regarding the recent meeting regarding code violations. She asked what the next step is and the process the town intends to take.

Mayor stated that he will get information back to landlords when it is received.

PRESENTATION OF TOWN OF EASTON EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS (10, 20 AND 30 YEARS).

Mayor Willey made presentations to the following Town of Easton employees for the years of service:

- Christopher M. Manno – Easton Police Department, 10 years
- Milton Orellano – Easton Police Department, 10 years
- Rhonda Thomas – Easton Police Department, 20 years
- Frederick C. Jarrell – Easton Police Department, 30 years

John Greene was not present from Public Works for his 10 years of service.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

Mr. Karge updated on current construction projects. He stated that the annual paving will be complete in about a week.

Mr. Karge requested approval of a Public Assembly request for the Farmer's Market Wednesday June 19 – August 28 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. He stated that the request is for 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. but the police do not advise a time change due to parking and traffic concerns. Mr. Karge recommended approving the permit but not changing the time. He stated that it could be problematic to remove cars to enable the Farmer's Market to commence.

Upon motion by Mr. Lesher seconded by Ms. Malone and carried, approval was granted for the permit to continue the Farmer's Market but not change the time.

The Town Council approved the request for the Farmer's Market but with the original hours of 0800-1300. The Town Council has not ruled out changing the hours to those requested but they want the PD to discuss this further with the Farmer's Market to address the concerns raised by the Police Department. The Council also raised the issue of whether or not another location might be better for the requested hours.

Mr. Karge will advise the Police Department to work the time change out with the Farmer's Market participants.

MS. JULIA FOXWELL, AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY TO ADDRESS COUNCIL TO DISCUSS WAYS FOR EASTON TO SUPPORT THE AMERICAN CANCER'S SOCIETY'S RELAY FOR LIFE OF TALBOT COUNTY.

Ms. Foxwell, Community Manager was present to discuss awareness for their event "Paint the Town Purple" week and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Talbot County scheduled for Friday, September 13. She discussed the support the American Cancer Society gives with monies and research.

Ms. Stephanie Giles, Chair Volunteer for American Cancer Society Relay for Life discussed the Relay for Life event at the Talbot County Hogneck Community Center from 6:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. to celebrate cancer survivors, raising money, awareness, treatment and patient support. Ms. Giles discussed free accommodations the American Society gives for family and patients at Hope Lodge. She stated that the money raised in Talbot County stays locally. She asked that a Proclamation be drafted and paint the town purple campaign be implemented the month before the event.

President Ford stated that he thinks the council will be in support of these efforts. He stated he would like information regarding who is putting the ribbons up and who will take the ribbon and signs down. President Ford asked that the information be submitted to the Town Manager with follow up in subsequent meeting.

MR. JIM BENT TO UPDATE COUNCIL ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM.

Mr. Bent, Chairman of Affordable Housing Program, introduced Ms. Leona Murray and Mr. Otis Sampson, members of the Affordable Housing Board. Mr. Bent stated that they have a full Board now. He discussed the purchase program and renovation program which was included in the council's packet.

Ms. Malone asked for an update regarding outreach for possible applicants.

Mr. Bent updated on the renovation program that focusses on the West End.

He stated that the next major project for the Affordable Housing Board to work on is an Inclusionary Zone and Density Bonus; guidelines for a developer.

President Ford thanked Mr. Bent for all their work which is about to bear fruit.

7:15 PM PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ORDINANCE NO. 623:

At 7:38 President Ford opened the Public Hearing to discuss Ordinance No. 623.

Mr. Mark Heckler was present to discuss the Economic Development Corporation.

Mr. Heckler gave an overview regarding the proposed corporation. He stated that there would be more flexibility, and more focus on economic development.

Mayor Willey stated that they have visited other communities that have implemented this program.

President Ford opened the floor open for comments. There were none.

At 7:49 p.m. President Ford closed the public hearing.

ORDINANCE NO. 623, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON REPEALING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 2 AND ENACTING A NEW ARTICLE IX IN CHAPTER 2 OF THE TOWN CODE TO PROVIDE FOR AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN THE TOWN."

Upon motion by Mr. Lesher, seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 623 was approved with Mr. Wendowski absent.

CONSIDERATION OF MAYORAL APPOINTEES TO EASTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

- Herbert S. Miller, Chairman
- Douglas Keeting, Vice-Chairman
- Margaret Barry McLemore, Secretary
- R. Michael S. Menzies, Treasurer

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously the appointees were approved.

7:30 PM PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ORDINANCE NO. 624 WHICH PROPOSES AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN'S ZONING ORDINANCE. THE PROPOSED CHANGES REPRESENT THIS YEAR'S PACKET OF ANNUAL AMENDMENTS AS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE EASTON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.

At 7:53 p.m., President Ford opened the Public Hearing to discuss Ordinance No. 624.

Mr. Thomas was present to discuss the proposed yearly amendments. He stated that there are five amendments proposed which are procedural in nature.

President Ford asked for audience comments. There were none.

At 8:04 p.m., President Ford closed the public hearing.

ORDINANCE NO. 624, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE TOWN OF EASTON ZONING ORDINANCE."

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 624 was passed with Mr. Wendowski absent.

CONT'D. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 BUDGET.

At 8:05 p.m., President Ford opened the Budget Public Hearing and recapped the workshop held Tuesday.

He stated that adjustments are proposed to the original drafted budget on the revenue and the expense side.

President Ford stated that on the expense side; the police overtime will be \$122,000; the typographical error on the recycling contract will be adjusted for \$341,000 which will have to be funded. The additional one month for the contractor for the hospital will be omitted as well as the custodian for the Fire Department.

On the revenue side, President Ford proposed reducing the discount for early payments on property taxes, which would add \$58,000, increasing recycling fee from \$32 to \$36 which would add \$47,000 to budget; and absorbing the good fortune from the state highway user taxes which would add \$156,000 and \$100,000 from state police aid. Although the letter from the fire department is compelling, now may not be the time to hire a custodian.

At 8:13 President Ford closed the Public Hearing. He left it open for written public comments until the end of the week.

ORDINANCE NO. 626, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON REPEALING AND RE-ENACTING THE TOWN OF EASTON FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE, THE SAME BEING CHAPTER 9A OF THE EASTON TOWN CODE."

President Ford set the public hearing for June 17 at 7:15 p.m.

REVIEW OF INVOICES 4/17/13-5/15/13 TOTALING \$1,690,056.42.

Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, invoices totaling \$1,690,056.42 were approved for payment.

Ms. Malone updated on the flag ceremony at the Richards Memorial Cemetery.

Mrs. Cook discussed the torch run June 5 ending at the Fire Department.

ADJOURN

At 8:18 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

