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

November 4, 2013

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PRESENT AT CONVENING

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

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

OPENING REMARKS BY MRS. COOK AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mrs. Cook led those present in opening remarks and the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21, 2013 MEETING.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, minutes of the October 21, 2013 meetings were approved.

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.

Mayor Willey reminded those present of the following upcoming events:

- Veteran's Program at the Talbot Auditorium Tuesday November 5 at 7:00 p.m.
- Informational meeting regarding the proposed construction of the Dover Bridge at the Easton High School on November 12 at 5:30 p.m.
- Dedication of new Veteran's Affairs Office 11 S Harrison Street, November 15 with a reception to follow.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

Mr. Karge discussed the solicited bids for snow removal and other weather events. He stated that Public Works recommends the award to RL Ewing.

Charges per hour for services from RL Ewing were discussed.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, the bid from RL Ewing was approved.

Mr. Karge asked for abatement of \$1,974.44 for Habitat for Humanity properties that are primarily five houses. He stated that they have six other properties scattered around town.

Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski, seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, the abatements were approved.

Mr. Karge reminded the listening public about leaf collection. He asked the public to not place leaves in or near storm drains or on the street.

POLICE BOARD.

Chief David Spencer and Capt. Mark Waltrup were present on behalf of the Police Board.

Chief Spencer asked for approval of a Public Assembly Permit for the Easton Christmas Parade scheduled for December 7 at 6:30 p.m. He stated that the parade will stage on Creamery Lane and end up at Middle School.

Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, approval was granted for the Christmas Parade Public Assembly Permit.

Chief Spencer discussed:

Personnel:

- Rec. W. Lyons is scheduled to graduate from the Academy on 12/17/13
- Sgt. Anthony Thomas Retired 9/1/13 after 25 years –testing is occurring now for his position
- PCO Lynzie Chalfant resigned 10/1/13
- Pfc. Gannon Lyons resigned 10/4/13 to join the CCSD
- Robert Jones and Christopher Westerfield, both from Easton were hired 10/9/13 as dispatchers.

Promotions 9/1/13:

- Cpl. Clint Bordley was promoted to Sgt. and serves as a patrol supervisor
- Pfc. Lisa Phillips was promoted to Cpl. and serves as an assistant patrol supervisor

Up Coming Events:

- Nov. 8 - 10 – Waterfowl Festival
- Dec. 7 – Christmas Parade
- Easton Police Department Toy Drive

Past Events:

- Polar Plunge Law Enforcement Photo Shoot was Oct 8. The plunge event will occur Friday January 24th at 1100 hours for the Special Olympics
- Honor Guard Training - 25 Officers attended representing 9 Maryland agencies; Greenbelt PD, Hurlock PD, Howard County PD, MD Natural Resources Police, University of MD PD, MD Transportation Authority Police, Annapolis PD, Frederick County Police and St. Mary's County Sheriff.

Awards and Recognition:

- Pfc. Joshua Merrick recognized as Officer of the 3rd Quarter
- Pfc. Joshua Merrick – recognized by the Maryland Highway Safety Office as the top producer for the Dept. as part of the “Smooth Operator” Aggressive Driving Campaign
- Cpl. Lisa Phillips and Pfc. Heather Hanson received a “DUI Award” from the State of MD Impaired Driving Coalition for Outstanding DUI Enforcement Efforts
- Pfc. Howard Maxwell and Pfc. Ashley Bayne received a “Meritorious Recognition Award” from the State of MD Impaired Driving Coalition for Outstanding DUI Enforcement Efforts

Chief Spencer discussed the activity report for the Department.

Chief Spencer stated that the public can now talk to EPD on Facebook and Twitter.

Chief Spencer discussed proactive measures resulting in the decline in crime.

Ms. Malone thanked the Chief for the department's presence at the Ashby Commons neighborhood meeting.

Mrs. Cook thanked the Chief for the department's presence at the East End Neighborhood meeting.

COUNTY MANAGER JOHN CRAIG TO ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING TREES AT THE AIRPORT.

County Manager John Craig addressed the council regarding the trees and discussed the history of the Easton/Newnam Field Airport.

Mr. Craig discussed the grants received by FAA and the requirements to continue the funding. He discussed the requests of the Town of Easton by Talbot County to remove trees on the town-owned Mistletoe Hall property with required property mitigation. He stated that the necessary Forest Conservation Act requirements must be completed on this land. He asked the Council's permission to comply with the requirements of the MDE wetlands mitigation permit and expand the existing 25' wetlands buffer to 100' which impacts Town land and add an exception to the Town Code requiring compliance with the Forest Conservation Act to exclude compliance due to 14C.F.R.§77.25.

County Councilmember Dirk Bartlett stated that the airport is a resource that everyone enjoys. He stated that the grants received keep the burden off the Talbot County taxpayers. County Councilmember Bartlett stated that we are all in this together and that safety is something of value. He thanked the council for their consideration.

President Ford suggested asking the FAA what is required for the grants to continue.

It was the consensus of the Council to give the staff the opportunity to review the request for the expansion of the wetlands buffer.

38 Ms. Malone asked that a report be forthcoming outlining what the cost benefits would be and the economic impact
39 of airport. She asked that the county justify moving forward.

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41 President Ford stated that relative information should be distributed expeditiously so the County's request would
42 be acted on at the next Town Council meeting.

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44 **ORDINANCE NO. 634, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING SECTION 11-5**
45 **OF THE TOWN CODE MINIMUM LIVABILITY CODE PROVISIONS REGARDING HISTORIC**
46 **STRUCTURES."**

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48 Mrs. VanEmburch briefed on the change of language in the amended ordinance. She stated that the Ordinance is
49 consistent with state law.

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51 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 634 was approved
52 unanimously.

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54 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

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56 Mr. Wendowski stated that if trees are the property of town, what would the cost be to remove the trees at the Airport
57 and who would benefit from the timber.

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59 **ADJOURN**

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61 At 8:11 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mr. Leshar and carried unanimously; President Ford
62 adjourned the regularly scheduled council meeting.

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66 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk