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3 **TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND**
4 **Easton Town Hall**
5 **14 S. Harrison Street**

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October 7, 2013

PRESENT AT CONVENING

9 Mayor Robert C. Willey
10 Council President John Ford
11 Councilmember Megan M. Cook
12 Councilmember Kelley K. Malone
13 Councilmember Pete Leshner
14 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 MR. LESHER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2013 MEETING.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, minutes of the September 16, 2013 meeting were approved.

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.

Mayor Willey stated he is in receipt of a letter from the State regarding funds to be allocated in the amount of \$24,327 for the sidewalk retrofit program on Chapel Road. He stated that the program could possibly occur on Bay Street as well.

Mayor Willey discussed a recent meeting with County Manager John Craig and Angela Lane, Talbot County Finance Director regarding tax differential.

Mayor Willey stated that the Mid Shore Board of Realtors has submitted Daphne Cawley for an appointment to the Town of Easton Board of Appeals pursuant to Ordinance No. 627.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

Mr. Karge stated that Talbot County has submitted a request for abatement for real estate property taxes in the amount of \$388.96. He stated that the parcels are being held aside for future hospital construction. Mr. Karge recommended abatement.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mrs. Cook carried unanimously, approval was granted for the real estate abatements.

Mr. Karge discussed a conference that occurred recently regarding rising seas and potential climate change. He stated that there is not a pressing problem at this time that is projected to impact the Town of Easton. He stated that the Town of Easton is more focused on providing appropriate storm drainage. Mr. Karge displayed the University of Maryland map projections of the potential impacts of rising sea levels with three variations including up to 10' of sea rise with minimal impact within the Town of Easton boundaries.

Mr. Karge discussed a recent community meeting held with Sgt. Coleman and Sgt. Patrone with community residents that felt that a developer has not done much in the way as Children at Play signs. Mr. Karge discussed a false sense of security with the signs and stated that they are not recognized in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Mr. Karge requested an Executive Session for: § 10-508(7) advice of counsel, § 10-508(8) potential litigation and § 10-508(3) real estate.

Mr. Wendowski discussed a letter from MEBA regarding the decrease of American Flag Ships.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.

Mrs. VanEmburch, the Town Attorney stated that she will brief on Ordinance No. 634.

69 **MS. JENNIFER ALLARD AND MR. JOHN DYNAN TO UPDATE COUNCIL ON EASTON**
70 **DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP.**

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72 Mr. John Dynan introduced Ms. Jennifer Allard as the Manager of Easton Downtown Partnership.

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74 Mr. Dynan stated that the website went live in July and the brochure has been distributed.

75
76 Ms. Allard stated she had recently attended a bi-monthly tourist meeting at Dorchester Arts Center.

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78 Mr. Dynan stated that in August, they starting looking for Board of Directors and confirmed Ramon Graus and Bill
79 Hall.

80
81 Ms. Allard discussed organizing the Ole Tyme Christmas Parade. She discussed activities to engage other
82 businesses that are not in downtown Easton.

83
84 Mayor suggested Jennifer meet with Jeff Schneider, representative to Talbot County Tourism Board.

85
86 Ms. Allard and Mr. Dynan discussed their intention and hope for the development of the organization in a year
87 from now.

88
89 **ORDINANCE NO. 634, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING SECTION 11-5**
90 **OF THE TOWN CODE MINIMUM LIVABILITY CODE PROVISIONS REGARDING HISTORIC**
91 **STRUCTURES."**

92
93 Mrs. VanEmburch stated that Historic Provisions were deleted from Ordinance No. 628. She stated that Ordinance
94 No. 634 addresses the changes.

95
96 President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 634 for a first reading.

97
98 President Ford scheduled a Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 634 for the next meeting October 21, 2013 at 7:15
99 p.m.

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01 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$665,423.36.**

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03 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, invoices totaling \$665,423.36
04 were approved for payment.

05
06 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.**

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08 Mr. Wendowski stated that he will forward to the Council an Economic Development Commission report.

09
10 Mayor Willey asked for an Executive Session to discuss Personnel (Maryland Annotated Code State Government
11 Article § 10-508(a)(ii).

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13 At 7:33 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously; President Ford adjourned
14 the regular meeting into Executive Session.

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16 At 8:11 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously; President Ford convened
17 the meeting into Open Session.

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19 **ADJOURN**

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21 At 8:11 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously; President Ford adjourned
22 the regularly scheduled meeting.

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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk