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

5 May 5, 2014

6
7 **PRESENT AT CONVENING**
8

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.

15
16 Also present was the Town Manager Mr. Robert F. Karge, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch, Town
17 Planner Mr. Thomas and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy Ruf.

18
19 **OPENING REMARKS BY MR. LESHER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

20
21 Mr. Leshner gave opening remarks and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

22
23 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 24, MARCH 25, APRIL 21 AND APRIL 24, 2014 MEETINGS.**

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25 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, minutes of the March 24, March
26 25, April 21 and April 24, 2014 meetings were approved as written.

27
28 **ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.**

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30 Mayor Willey informed the council that the budget may be finalized next week and discussion could occur at the
31 next meeting.

32
33 **TOWN OF EASTON 2013 EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS.**

34
35 The following employees were present to receive their Employee Service Awards:

36
37 Alan L Conaway 06/13/83 - 30 years
38 Howard S Maxwell 12/15/03 - 10 years
39 Brenda G Ramage 05/19/03 - 10 years
40 Zachary A Smith 06/04/03 - 10 years
41 Mark R Waltrup 08/19/93 - 20 years

42
43 **PRESENTATION OF THE EASTON UTILITIES CENTENNIAL PROCLAMATION.**

44
45 Mr. Hugh Grunden, President and CEO was present to accept the Easton Utilities Centennial Proclamation.

46
47 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

48
49 Mr. Karge stated that Ordinance No. 640 exempting all remaining personal property used in manufacturing from
50 taxation has been sent to the State.

51
52 Mr. Karge discussed reports of inappropriate driving at the RTC Park. He stated that drivers have been going
53 around barriers.

54
55 **APPROVAL OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY EVENT INAUGURAL HASLUP HUSTLE.**

56
57 Discussion occurred regarding the Haslup Hustle event and if a recommended \$4 per participant for the event
58 would be beneficial. Mr. Karge stated that he does not recommend volunteers for the event due to liability issues.

59
60 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, approval was granted for the
61 Haslup Hustle.

62
63 **APPROVAL FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE BID.**

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65 Mr. Karge discussed the Living Eco Systems property maintenance bid. He stated that the Code Enforcement
66 Department has recommended approval.

67
68 Upon motion by Ms. Malone, seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, the bid as submitted by Living
69 Eco Systems and recommended by the Coded Enforcement Department for property maintenance was approved.

70
71 **POLICE BOARD REPORT.**
72

73 Chief Spencer and Capt. Waltrup were present for the Police Board update.
74

75 **Personnel:**

- 76 • Police Officer:
77 • Rec. Toby Hafer is on schedule to graduate June 17, 2014.
78 • We have three open positions for the July 2014 Academy Class which begins 7/7/14.
79 • We have given a conditional job offer to an applicant who is on active duty in the Marines – will be
80 discharged in April and will attend Academy in July.
81 • We received 20 applications for the other 2 positions.
82 • The written and PT test were held on 4/16/14. Ten applicants showed up and five were disqualified before the
83 \testing started.
84 • Four applicants remain in the process. We have started their background investigations.
85 • Meter Enforcement Officer:
86 • MEO Carol Miller retired on April 4th and we held a luncheon in her honor that day at the PD.
87 • We have received 11 applications for this position and interviews were held 4/23/14. We have started
88 background investigations on the top 4 candidates.
89

90 **Up Coming Events:**

- 91 • Special Olympics Fundraiser at Doc's on May 28, 2014.
92 • Annual Torch run will be held on June 4, 2014 starting at the PD at 0800 and ending at the Fire House.
93

94 **Awards and Recognition:**

- 95 • Cpl. Eric Kellner was recognized as Officer of the 1st Quarter.
96 • Pfc Jason Dyott was recognized by the Maryland Municipal League – Police Executive Association as a
97 finalist for their Police Officer of the Year Award.
98

99 **CAD/RMS Project:**

- 00 • April 1 – EPD went live.
01

02 **Specialized Training:**

- 03 • Top Gun School: Pfc. Jason Dyott has been accepted to attend a one week specialized Federal drug training
04 school in Indian Town Gap, PA.
05

06 **STATS:**

- 07 • The January – December Activity Report was discussed.
08

09 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**
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11 Mrs. VanEmburch requested scheduling a Public Hearing on the Mistletoe Hall trees for May 19. Mrs.
12 VanEmburch stated that a resolution for a license agreement will be drafted and in the council's next packet.
13

14 President Ford scheduled the Public Hearing for Mistletoe Hall Farm trees for May 19 at 7:15 p.m.
15

16 Discussion occurred on the Forest Conservation Ordinance.
17

18 The Town Attorney stated that for information, at the last meeting legislation was passed exempting personal
19 property tax. She stated that she is preparing a Charter Amendment relative to the legislation.
20

21 **RESOLUTION NO. 6026, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON MAKING FORMER**
22 **APPOINTEES OF THE EASTON UTILITIES COMMISSION THAT HAVE SERVED IN THAT**
23 **CAPACITY FOR AT LEAST TWELVE YEARS AND THEIR SPOUSES ELIGIBLE FOR INCLUSION**
24 **IN THE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN AVAILABLE TO EASTON UTILITIES RETIREES."**
25

26 Mr. Grunden discussed the incentive post-retirement medical benefit. He stated that it is fully contingent on 12
27 years of service on the Commission. Mr. Grunden stated that there are no tax dollars supporting the incentive. He
28 stated that the Commissioners receive a small stipend. He discussed the Commissioner's commitment to the
29 community.
30

31 President Ford justified the consideration for their stipend and extended benefits.
32

33 Mr. Leshar asked that the public have an opportunity for input. Mr. Leshar proposed action at the next meeting.
34

35 Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6026 was
36 tabled.
37

38 **MS. JULIE CORSON, EASTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MANAGER OF OPERATION TO**
39 **ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING BUDGET REQUEST.**
40

41 Ms. Corson distributed copies of EBA's proposed budget. She discussed their 2014/15 budget request. She stated
42 that they intend to be the sole promoter for the Town of Easton. Ms. Corson stated that they intend to infiltrate an
43 advertising campaign and partner with Talbot Tourism.
44

45 President Ford stated that their budget request is a bit of a surprise. He discussed ending the staff position at the
46 town. He stated that the Town would be back to the funding level where we were prior to making this move.
47

48 Ms. Corson stated that there are no membership dues for the businesses. She stated that they intend to focus on
49 independent merchants.
50

51 Mr. Wendowski stated that it is not for taxpayers to support the merchants.
52

53 President Ford stated that he has trouble assigning taxpayer money for use of advertising. President Ford stated
54 that they do not intend to make decision tonight.
55

56 Mr. Wendowski stated that there are three groups branding Easton. He stated that it should be a cohesive effort.
57

58 Ms. Corson discussed perceived parking problems and the lack of customers and merchants wanting to walk.
59

60 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:**
61

62 Mr. Wendowski discussed a recent telephone call from a concerned resident regarding ivy killing trees.
63

64 Mr. Wendowski stated that all the candidates will be present at the Easton Volunteer Fire Department Wednesday at
65 7:00 for questions.
66

67 President Ford stated that there is potential for a great day on May 10 for Easton Utilities Centennial Celebration.
68

69 **ADJOURN.**
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71 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, President Ford adjourned the regularly
72 scheduled meeting at 8:05 p.m.
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75 _____
76 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk
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