

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

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December 7, 2015

PRESENT AT CONVENING

8 Mayor Robert C. Willey
9 Council President John F. Ford
10 Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein
11 Councilmember Pete Leshner
12 Councilmember Ron E. Engle
13 Councilmember Megan M. Cook

IN ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance were the Town Manager Mr. Karge, the Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch and Town Clerk Mrs. Ruf.

CONVENING

At 7:00 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order.

OPENING REMARKS BY MRS. COOK AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously; minutes of the November 16, 2015 meeting were approved.

MR. WILL COOK TO REQUEST COUNCIL APPROVAL FOR PORT STREET PARK REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

Mr. Will Cook was present to discuss the Port Street Project. Mr. Cook stated he was present representing Friends of Easton Point Park. Mr. Cook asked for approval of the Port Street Project as presented by Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. He stated that the concept has been approved by the Town of Easton's Park Board and now they are coming back to the Mayor and Council for approval. Mr. Cook presented information from the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy study. He stated that the area is 11.5 acres at the end of Glenwood Avenue; all town owned land. Mr. Cook discussed the need to remediate the Brownfield. He discussed a study accomplished by Department of Environment which identified certain problems in particular areas. He stated that it was noted that mitigating the Brownfield has to be done as well as restoring the shoreline and creating a habitat. Mr. Cook stated that accessing the waterfront is important as well to ensure passive uses. Mr. Cook discussed possible outdoor events and activities for the site. He stated that a public/private partnership could be established for the programs. He stated that the committee would try to make use of what is there and consider converting a Welcome Center out of one of the existing buildings. Education could occur so the community may learn how to create an environment and how to maintain their own properties. Mr. Cook stated that the plan was presented some time ago but has not been formally adopted.

President Ford asked what the process is and if the staff has reviewed the concept.

The Town Attorney stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission need to review the plan.

President Ford remanded the plan to the Planning & Zoning Commission for review and recommendation.

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.

Mayor Willey asked for consideration of Ms. Cario's appointment to the Tree Board.

Mayor Willey stated that there will be an Eagle Scout Ceremony with a Mayoral Proclamation to be presented to the recipient Sunday December 13.

Mr. Leshner stated he may be able to attend.

Mayor Willey stated that the past year has been another good year. He stated that he appreciates everyone's participation and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

69 Mayor Willey stated that Mr. Cook’s presentation on behalf of the Friends of Easton Point Park may
70 require additional review by the Park Board.

71
72 **APPOINTMENT CONFIRMATION OF MS. LESLIE CARIO TO THE TREE BOARD.**

73
74 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, Ms. Leslie Cario’s
75 appointment on the Tree Board was confirmed.

76
77 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

78
79 Mr. Karge stated that regarding the Easton Point project presentation, the Council should consider funding
80 resources when reviewing the concept.

81
82 Mr. Karge asked the council to look favorably on Ordinance No. 673 which changes snow emergency
83 provisions.

84
85 Mrs. Cook asked that the Public Works Department be commended for their holiday efforts throughout
86 town.

87
88 Mr. Engle asked if there are Public Works staff working on weekends to address the trash downtown.

89
90 Mr. Karge stated that during specific scheduled events, Public Works has worked weekends

91
92 **ORDINANCE NO. 674, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE**
93 **TOWN OF EASTON ZONING ORDINANCE” (SOLAR PANELS).**

94
95 President Ford brought Ordinance No. 674 to the floor for a first reading.

96
97 President Ford set the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 674 for January 4, 2016 at 7:15 p.m.

98
99 **PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ORDINANCE NO. 672 WHICH PROPOSES AMENDMENTS**
100 **TO THE TOWN’S ZONING ORDINANCE.**

101
102 At 7:23 p.m., President Ford opened the Public Hearing scheduled for 7:15 p.m. dealing with regulations
103 and restrictions on the donation bins for charitable organizations around town.

104
105 There was no one in the audience for public comments.

106
107 Mr. Silverstein stated that he feels the ordinance is a good compromise.

108
109 Mr. Leshner thanked the staff for their efforts.

110
111 At 7:25 p.m., President Ford closed the public hearing.

112
113 **ORDINANCE NO. 672, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO AMEND THE**
114 **TOWN OF EASTON ZONING ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR DONATION BINS AS AN**
115 **ACCESSORY USE AND TO PROVIDE REDGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS ON THE**
116 **DONATION BINS.”**

117
118 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 672 was
119 approved.

120
121 **ORDINANCE NO. 675, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND,**
122 **ADOPTING A NEW OFFICIAL TOWN OF EASTON HISTORIC DISTRICTS BOUNDARIES**
123 **MAP.”**

124
125 President Ford brought Ordinance No. 675 to the floor for a first reading.

126
127 President Ford stated that the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 675 has been scheduled for December 21 at
128 7:15 p.m.

129
130 Mrs. VanEmburch discussed the history of the request. She stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission
131 and the Historic District Commission have both recommended adopting new official Town of Easton
132 Historic District Boundaries. Mrs. VanEmburch stated that the county intends to speak to the Ordinance at
133 the Public Hearing scheduled for December 21.

135 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$1,754,036.57.**

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137
138 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, invoices totaling
139 \$1,754,036.57 were approved.

140
141 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

142
143 Mr. Silverstein stated that the tree lighting and Christmas parade held in Easton Saturday evening was
144 great. He expressed his gratitude to Easton Business Association.

145
146 Mr. Engle discussed an article in the Tampa Bay Times that talked about how they have incorporated rails
147 to trails in their community.

148
149 Mrs. Cook stated that the Step Team did a great job in the Christmas parade.

150
151 President Ford stated that the tree lighting and parade were wonderful.

152
153 **RECESS.**

154
155 At 7:39 p.m., President Ford recessed the regularly scheduled meeting until 7:45 p.m.

156
157 **RECONVENE.**

158
159 President Ford reconvened the regularly scheduled meeting at 7:45 p.m.

160
161 **PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ORDINANCE NO. 673 WHICH PROPOSES MODIFYING**
162 **THE SNOW EMERGENCY PROVISIONS OF THE TOWN CODE; CHAPTER 15, ARTICLE V.**

163
164 At 7:45 p.m., President Ford opened the public hearing scheduled for 7:45 p.m.

165
166 President Ford stated that Ordinance No. 673 has been introduced at a previous meeting.

167
168 President Ford asked for comments from the council.

169
170 There was no one present in the audience to give public comments.

171
172 At 7:48 p.m., President Ford closed the public hearing.

173
174 **ORDINANCE NO. 673, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON MODIFYING THE**
175 **SNOW EMERGENCY PROVISIONS OF THE TOWN CODE."**

176
177 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 673 was
178 approved.

179
180 **ADJOURN**

181
182 At 7:49 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, President
183 Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled Council meeting.

184
185 _____
186 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk