

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8

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

July 6, 2015

9  
10  
11

**PRESENT AT CONVENING**

12  
13  
14

9 Mayor Robert C. Willey	12 Councilmember Pete Leshar
10 Council President John Ford	13 Councilmember Ron E. Engle
11 Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein	14 Councilmember Megan M. Cook

15  
16  
17  
18

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

19  
20

**CALL TO ORDER.**

21  
22

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

23  
24

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

25  
26

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

27  
28

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 15 AND JUNE 26, 2015 MEETINGS.**

29  
30  
31

Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes of the June 15 and June 26, 2015 meetings were approved as written.

32  
33  
34

**MR. THOMAS ALSPACH TO ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING PENDING COUNTY PLAN REVISIONS THAT COULD/WOULD IMPACT EASTON'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.**

35  
36  
37

Mr. Alspach, representing Talbot Preservation Alliance introduced Mr. Josh Hastings from Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. Mr. Alspach discussed plans related to the Shared Vision of Growth with Talbot County.

38  
39  
40  
41

Mr. Josh Hastings, ESLC discussed focusing on community designs. He stated that the McCord's building will be transformed into a thriving hub of learning and collaboration for regional nonprofits. He stated that the hub will bring approximately 50 jobs to downtown Easton.

42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47

Mr. Alspach discussed the interaction between the Talbot County Comprehensive Plan and the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Alspach stated that he wants to ensure that the municipalities maintain their own sense of individuality. He discussed issues of concern regarding new proposals for the county's Comprehensive Plan which includes strategically selected new growth areas, proposed PUD ordinance, mini wastewater treatment plants around Talbot County, and the relaxation of the prohibition on strip malls on county roads.

48  
49  
50

Mr. Alspach discussed the permanent conservation easement that protects a 53 acre parcel west of Waterside Village.

51  
52

**ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.**

53  
54

Mayor Willey introduced Mr. Geoff Oxnam, Easton Utilities Vice President of Operations.

55  
56  
57  
58

Mr. Oxnam discussed the Maryland Smart Energy Community recognition plaque awarded at the recent MML Convention for a smart energy program which offers grant funding to increase efficiency for municipal owned facilities. He stated that the Town of Easton has replaced street lights with efficient LED street lights.

59  
60  
61

Mayor Willey discussed the Building Code Department receiving the Certificate of Accreditation and stated that the Town of Easton is the only municipality in Maryland to receive the accreditation.

62  
63  
64

Mayor Willey stated that next week, the first of the workforce housing homes will be placed on Chapel Road with the intent for the home to be saleable around Labor Day.

65  
66  
67

Mayor Willey advised that the Town Engineer would be advertising for bids for concrete contractors for repairs to sidewalks and storm drains.

68  
69

**COUNCIL CONFIRMATION FOR BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS.**

70 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the reappointment of Mr. Dave  
71 Bishop to the Waterfowl Festival Commission for a three year term expiring September 2017 was approved.

72  
73 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, the appointment of Mr. William  
74 B. Frost to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the remainder of a five year term expiring December 31, 2017  
75 was approved.

76  
77 President Ford introduced Mr. Duane Hilghman, a recent appointee to the Affordable Housing Board.

78  
79 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

80  
81 Mr. Karge discussed the Special Council meeting which was held June 26 to approve the Department of Natural  
82 Resources Open Space lease for the rails to trails and the Resolution for the grant match for Aphena Pharma for  
83 water and sewer extension.

84  
85 Mr. Karge stated that the Town's tax bills have been mailed.

86  
87 Mr. Karge discussed Easton Fire Department's attendance at the State Maryland Fire Convention in Ocean City  
88 and stated that their trophies are displayed in the lobby at Town Hall.

89  
90 **PUBLIC ASSEMBLY EVENT.**

91  
92 Mr. Karge discussed the Public Assembly Event approved by Chief David Spencer:

93  
94 **EVENT:** AKA Kappa Theta Omega Chapter 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Fair and School Supply Giveaway

95 **APPLICANT:** AKA Kappa Theta Omega Chapter/ Mary Taylor Acree

96 **LOCATION:** Idlewild Park

97 **DATE/TIME:** August 15, 2015 – 1000 to 1400 hrs.

98  
99 Mr. Karge asked for approval for the following Public Assembly event:

00  
01 **EVENT:** Plein Air

02 **APPLICANT:** Avalon Foundation/Marie Nuthall

03 **LOCATION:** South St. between South Harrison St. and Talbot Lane on 7/16/15.

04  
05 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the Public assembly Event as  
06 submitted by Easton Police Department was approved.

07  
08 Mayor Willey stated that the town is in receipt of one million dollar grant for infrastructure at Talbot Commerce  
09 Park with bidding to occur sometime later this month and work to occur in September.

10  
11 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

12  
13 Mrs. VanEmburch asked the President of the Council to set two public hearings.

14  
15 President Ford set Candlelight Cove PUD Amendment July 20 at 7:15 p.m.

16  
17 President Ford set the Plum Street PUD Amendment for August 3 at 7:15 p.m.

18  
19 **RESOLUTION NO. 6048, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING RESOLUTION**  
20 **5924 REGARDING THE RULES FOR THE TOWN PARKS TO SPECIFICALLY MODIFY THE PARK**  
21 **HOURS AT NORTH EASTON SPORTS COMPLEX."**

22  
23 President Ford stated that the Public Hearing to modify the park hours at North Easton Park will be July 20 at 7:30  
24 p.m.

25  
26 **RESOLUTION NO. 6051, "A RESOLUTION OF THE EASTON TOWN COUNCIL ADOPTING**  
27 **AMENDMENTS TO THE APPROVED TOWN OF EASTON SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLAN**  
28 **(THE "SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY"), PURSUANT TO THE ATTACHED REVISED SUSTAINABLE**  
29 **COMMUNITY MAP AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION AS MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE**  
30 **MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (THE**  
31 **DEPARTMENT").**

32  
33 Mr. Thomas gave background information on Resolution No. 6051. He stated that the plan is to amend the map  
34 and remove Mistletoe Hall Farm and include the former Black and Decker property. He stated that it is a boundary  
35 map amendment.

36  
37 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Leshar and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6051 was  
38 approved.

39  
40 **RESOLUTION NO. 6052, "A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT A PROJECT TO SUPPORT THE**  
41 **ORGANIZATION'S PROGRAM OF VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES TO THE POOR."**  
42

43 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6052 was  
44 approved.

45  
46 **ORDINANCE NO. 662, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO AMEND SECTION 2-22**  
47 **OF THE TOWN CODE FOR THE PURPOSE OF MODIFYING THE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS**  
48 **FOR EMPLOYEES AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS."**  
49

50 The Town Attorney discussed Ordinance No. 662. She stated that all employees will be required to file the  
51 disclosure form. Mrs. VanEmburch stated that she does not see any problem with the amended form as it is beyond  
52 what the state requires. She stated that it is a reminder to employees about gifts and potential conflicts of interests.  
53

54 President Ford brought Ordinance No. 662 to the floor for a first reading.  
55

56 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**  
57

58 Mr. Silverstein stated that he recently had the opportunity to attend the MML Convention in Ocean City and  
59 participated in several interesting classes. He discussed the cancellation of fireworks and stated that the fireworks  
60 company recognized the safety issues. He stated that the Town of Easton was the sponsor but the Avalon actually put  
61 on the firework's activities. Mr. Silverstein thanked the volunteers.  
62

63 Mr. Leshner stated that he also had attended the MML Convention. He stated that the public safety sessions with related  
64 liabilities was very informative.  
65

66 Mr. Engle stated he attended the MML Convention as well. He discussed the Easton Utilities software being made  
67 available to other municipalities.  
68

69 Mrs. Cook discussed the dig at Bethel Church. She suggested attendance at the site and stated that there are volunteers  
70 there to answer questions.  
71

72 **ADJOURN.**  
73

74 At 7:54 p.m., upon Mr. Leshner motion by seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, President Ford  
75 adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.  
76  
77

78  
79  
80 \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk