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

September 8, 2015

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PRESENT AT CONVENING

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

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

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CALL TO ORDER.

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

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OPENING REMARKS BY MR. LESHER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 17, 2015 MEETING.

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Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, the minutes of the August 17, 2015 meeting were approved.

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MS. JULIE CORSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EASTON BUSINESS ALLIANCE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING REGIONAL ADVERTISING/MARKETING CAMPAIGN.

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Ms. Julie Corson, Executive Director and Jeff Schneider, Chairperson Easton Business Alliance discussed the proposed regional marketing campaign. He stated the last campaign was in 2008. Step 1 is to do an awareness campaign mostly in Baltimore and Washington DC. Ms. Corson discussed tracking and measuring the results of the proposed campaign.

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Mr. Silverstein stated that he has some questions he will refer to Ms. Corson.

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President Ford stated he is supportive of the campaign but questions where the funds will come from.

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Ms. Corson stated that 75% of the downtown merchants are members of the Easton Business Alliance.

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Mayor Willey suggested funding for the campaign in stages with reports of evidence regarding how the campaign is working.

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Ms. Corson stated that they are currently funded over \$90,000 by the Town of Easton.

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REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT TO MD DHCD FOR DELAWARE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY'S PROPOSED GALLOWAY MEADOWS PROJECT FOR 72 WORKFORCE HOUSING UNITS CLOSE TO THE ROUTE 50 CORRIDOR.

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Mayor Willey discussed the request for the letter of support.

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Mayor Willey stated that the letter could say how the Town supports workforce housing in the Town of Easton and supports the concept for the apartments.

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Mayor Willey suggested having the applicant discuss the project at an upcoming town meeting.

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COUNCIL CONFIRMATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO TALBOT COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY AND PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.

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Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, Ms. Brenda Wooden's appointment for a five year term expiring June 15, 2020 on the Housing Authority was approved.

68 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, Mr. Don Cochran's appointment for
69 the remainder of a five year term expiring December 31, 2016 on the Planning and Zoning Commission was
70 approved.

71
72 Mayor Willey discussed upcoming events. He stated there will be a 911 Commemoration at 8:30 a.m. at Dover &
73 West Street on September 11.

74
75 The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will be held October 23 at 7:00 a.m. at the Tidewater Inn.

76
77 There will be a Veteran's Day Ceremony by ROTC November 10 7:00 p.m. at the Talbot Auditorium.

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79 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

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81 **APPROVAL OF BID FOR PUBLIC WORKS 2015 ½ TON PICKUP TRUCK.**

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83 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the bid submitted by Fred
84 Frederick in the amount \$19,825 for the Public Works 2015 ½ ton pickup truck was approved. Mr. Karge stated
85 there is \$32,000 in the FY2016 budget for this item.

86
87 **APPROVAL OF BID FOR PUBLIC WORKS MINI EXCAVATOR.**

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89 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Leshar and carried unanimously, the bid for the Public Works
90 mini excavator in the amount of \$73,850 from Chesapeake Supply was approved. Mr. Karge stated that there is
91 \$90,000 in the FY2016 budget for this item.

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93 **APPROVAL FOR GENERAL AND TRENCHLESS STORMDRAIN CONTRACTS.**

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95 Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Leshar and carried unanimously, the bid for General and Trenchless
96 Stormdrain Contracts in the amount of \$4,315.00 per day from Southside Land Management were approved.

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98 **APPROVAL OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY EVENTS.**

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00 Upon motion by Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, public assembly events as outlined
01 by the Town Manager were approved.

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- September 12, 2015 Multi-Cultural Block Party, Bethel AME Church
 - September 26, Frederick Douglass Day, Dover St and Federal Street
 - October 2, Homecoming Parade from EHS, Idlewild Park to the High School
 - October 10, Wellness Committee 5K Run, EHS to Brookletts rails-to-trails and back
 - November 27, YMCA Run for Hospice, YMCA parking lot to North Easton Sports Complex
- 08

09 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar, seconded by Mr. Silverstein the council granted permission for Mr. Karge to submit a
10 letter of support to Maryland Rural Development for a two million dollar grant which can be used for mortgage
11 down payments and rehabilitations.

12
13 President Ford stated that he is completely in support of the letter.

14
15 Mr. Karge stated that the storm drain has failed at five corners. He stated that work is being accomplished around
16 the school's transportation schedule.

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18 Mr. Karge advised that the Talbot Commerce Park project is out to bid.

19
20 Mr. Karge discussed a resident's concern about an alleyway that runs behind the hospital near Earle Avenue. He
21 stated that in fact, it is a public street. He stated that the resident alleges that the alleyway used to be marked No
22 Parking. Mr. Karge advised that the staff does not have a position on this. He asked the Council to give some
23 thought regarding No Parking on this alleyway. He stated that the location is approximately ½ block from Biery
24 Street.

25
26 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, a waiver was approved for the
27 permit fees for the 911 center.

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29 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

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31 The Town Attorney requested a date for a Public Hearing for Zoning Ordinance amendments.

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33 President Ford set the Public Hearing for October 5 at 7:15 p.m.
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35 **ORDINANCE NO. 665, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO AMEND CHAPTER 24 OF**
36 **THE TOWN CODE FOR THE PURPOSE OF MODIFYING THE PROVISIONS REGARDING**
37 **SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS THEREFOR."**
38

39 President Ford brought Ordinance No. 665 to the floor for a first reading.

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41 Mr. Karge discussed the scenarios for payment for sidewalk repairs.

42
43 It was the consensus of the Council to have a public hearing.

44
45 President Ford set the public hearing for September 21, 2015 at 7:15 p.m.

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47 **ORDINANCE NO. 666, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON GRANTING THE**
48 **APPLICATION OF WALBRIDGE REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS, LLC FOR AN AMENDMENT TO**
49 **THE EXISTING PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT AT 22 PLUM STREET, EASTON UNDER THE**
50 **PROVISIONS OF THE EASTON ZONING ORDINANCE."**
51

52 President Ford brought Ordinance No. 666 to the floor for a first reading.

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54 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 666 was
55 approved.

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57 **ORDINANCE NO. 667, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN**
58 **OF EASTON TO SELL 129 CHAPEL ROAD IN EASTON AS PART OF THE TOWN'S AFFORDABLE**
59 **HOUSING PROGRAM."**
60

61 President Ford brought Ordinance No. 667 to the floor for a first reading.

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63 President Ford set the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 667 for September 21, 2015 at 7:45 p.m.

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65 **RESOLUTION NO. 6057 MODIFYING THE SCHEDULE OF FEES.**
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67 Mr. Karge discussed the changes recommended in Resolution No. 6057.

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69 President Ford suggested putting the draft schedule of fees on the Town's website. He asked that questions be
70 referred to the council. President Ford stated that Resolution No. 6057 can be passed at the next meeting.

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72 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.**
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74 Mr. Silverstein discussed new entrepreneurs in the community. He stated there are at least five properties who have put
75 homes up for rent as a B&B. Mr. Silverstein stated that they have not registered as rental properties and should be
76 notified that they are not in compliance. He stated that by not registering, the town is unable to collect lodging tax. Mr.
77 Silverstein asked the staff to contact them and let them know they are in violation of current codes. He stated that they
78 must be brought into compliance.
79

80 **ADJOURN.**
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82 At 8:13 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, President Ford adjourned
83 the regularly scheduled meeting. Leshner, Engle
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186 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk