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2 **TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND**
3 **EASTON TOWN HALL**
4 **14 S. Harrison Street**
5

6 January 4, 2016
7

8 **PRESENT AT CONVENING.**
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10 Mayor Robert C. Willey 13 Councilmember Pete Lesher
11 Council President John Ford 14 Councilmember Ron E. Engle
12 Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein 15 Councilmember Megan M. Cook

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17 Also present were the Town Manager Robert F. Karge and Town Clerk Kathy M. Ruf
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19 **CALL TO ORDER.**
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21 At 6:00 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order.
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23 **6:00 PM WORKSESSION TO HEAR UPDATES ON AN APPLICATION FOR A MEDICAL CANNABIS**
24 **LICENSE FROM ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE MARYLAND.**
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26 Present on behalf of AMM: Mr. John Pica, Legal Counsel; Dr. Greg Daniel, President; Mr. Jack
27 Robertson, Director of Logistics; Mr. Doug Radebaugh, Horticulturist; Mr. Gagy Irving, Investor;
28 Ms. Maggie Kuchy, CIO; Mr. Chris Jerzewski, COO; Dr. Marie Schutz, Medical Director; Ms.
29 Jennifer Stevens, Chief Marketing Officer and Ms. Andrea A. Tarshus, Esq.
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31 Mr. Pica introduced members of their team. Mr. Pica stated that they are excited about the
32 opportunity to update the council on their request for a state permit for a medicinal marijuana
33 facility in Easton.
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35 Senator Adelaide Eckhardt joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m.
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37 Dr. Daniels discussed growing, processing and the prospect of a distribution hub for
38 pharmaceutical grade medical cannabis. He stated the cannabis would be environment free of
39 pesticides and extremely sterile. Mr. Daniels stated that the processing company ProVerde
40 provides the highest quality testing in the marketplace. Security measures were discussed. Dr.
41 Daniels discussed bringing high paying jobs to the facility; 52 jobs within the first 12 months
42 expanding to 58 jobs at full operation. Dr. Daniels discussed community engagement
43 opportunities.
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45 Mr. Jack Robertson, Director of Logistics stated he has been a resident in Talbot County since
46 1974. He stated that he intends to assist and work with Alternative Medicine to help manage
47 the security aspects of the business. Mr. Robertson stated that he also works with personnel
48 security. He discussed understanding how to be responsible to the employee and the
49 community.
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51 President Ford asked what production means.
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53 Dr. Daniels stated that as the plants are grown they have to be formulated based upon the
54 percentage of the compound. Through the distribution process, tablets are created as well as
55 vap pens. He stated that production is moving away from the dried plant. He stated that
56 different formulations are used for different treatments. Dr. Daniels stated that nothing will be
57 sold directly to the patients from the Easton facility but will be shipped to dispensaries for
58 resale. He stated that their facility differentiates between recreational marijuana and medicinal
59 cannabis.
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61 President Ford asked about timing of the awards.
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63 Mr. Pica discussed the State of Maryland awarding the permit somewhere between March and
64 early summer.
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66 President Ford adjourned the regular meeting at 6:50 p.m.

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7:00 PM OPENING REMARKS BY MR. ENGLE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Town Attorney Mrs. VanEmburch joined the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

President Ford called the meeting back to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 21, 2015 MEETINGS.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes of the December 21, 2015 meetings were approved.

MR. GEOFF OXNAM, EASTON UTILITIES VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING ANNUAL CABLE TV PROGRAMMING COST ADJUSTMENT.

Mr. Oxnam presented the cable programming cost adjustment. He stated that the increase is necessary strictly due to the increase in the cost of programming. Mr. Oxnam discussed the increases in the packages offered by Easton Cable as well as the new pricing.

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.

Mayor Willey discussed the untimely death of former Mayor C. Eugene Butler. He stated that the viewing is scheduled for 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Easton Volunteer Firehouse and the funeral will be Friday morning at St. Mark’s Church at 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Willey stated that the budget worksheets show revenues exceeding projections on the property tax side. He discussed the Town’s departments working within their budget.

Mayor Willey discussed upcoming projects that the town is currently working on.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

Mr. Karge expressed on behalf of the staff, deepest condolences to the family of former Mayor C. Eugene Butler.

President Ford stated that Mr. Butler was probably the strongest advocate for youth in the Town of Easton. President Ford stated that Mayor Butler made North Easton Park happen.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.

The Town Attorney stated that she will have the short term rental regulations for review.

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

President Ford welcomed Mr. Mike Pullen on behalf of the council.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 675 was approved.

Mr. Pullen thanked the council for the process.

7:15 PM PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ORDINANCE NO. 674 WHICH PROPOSES AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN’S ZONING ORDINANCE.

At 7:22 p.m., President Ford opened the public hearing.

Town Planner Mr. Thomas discussed the use of ground mounted solar panels as an accessory use and to possibly allow the solar panel arrays by special exception.

There were no public comments.

130 President Ford closed the public hearing at 7:26 p.m. and stated that the record will be left
131 open until close of business Friday.

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133 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.**

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135 Mr. Leshner echoed remarks about Former Mayor Butler.

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137 President Ford congratulated folks putting on First Night Talbot.

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139 **ADJOURN.**

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141 At 7:28 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously,
142 President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk