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

June 6, 2016

PRESENT AT CONVENING.

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

IN ATTENDANCE.

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

CONVENING.

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

OPENING REMARKS BY MR. SILVERSTEIN AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mr. Silverstein opened the meeting with remarks and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 16, 2016 MEETING.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes of the May 16, 2016 meeting were approved.

ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.

Mayor Willey stated that he had received an e-mail asking for support of a government grant to help fund repairs to the Masonic Temple building.

Mayor Willey stated that with reluctance, he has accepted a letter from Robert Karge, Town Manager stating his intent to retire, effective on his normal retirement date, September 19, 2016. Mayor Willey stated that he will have an organizational chart as well as duties to forward to the council regarding the position.

Mr. Ford stated that Mr. Karge's retirement would change the face of Easton.

Mr. Silverstein stated that as a new council member, Mr. Karge had been extremely helpful.

Mr. Karge stated that there had been no higher honor than to be the town manager in the town he grew up in and was home for a large part of his life. He stated that his retirement from the Town of Easton will be on his normal retirement date and he is looking forward to doing some other things.

Mayor Willey stated that he is accepting volunteer applications for an opening on the Historic District Commission.

Mayor Willey advised the council of an Open House at the Easton Volunteer Fire Department June 20 at 6:00 p.m. for a demonstration of the self-contained breathing apparatus.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

APPROVAL OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY EVENTS.

62 Mr. Karge asked for council approval for the Hospice Drag Race September 25, 2016 from 2:00 p.m.
63 to 5:00 P.M.

64
65 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, the Hospice Drag
66 Race as outlined was approved.

67
68 **ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.**

69
70 Mr. Leshner encouraged everyone to take the opportunity to view the Ruth Star Exhibit which is at
71 the Waterfowl Building until Sunday, June 19.

72
73 Mrs. Cook reminded everyone to be mindful of children because Friday June 10 is the last day of
74 school.

75
76 President Ford stated that Mayor Willey, Mr. Silverstein, Mr. Engle and himself recently attended
77 the Girl Scout Troop 190 dedication project at the rails-to-trails which is a bench, picnic table and
78 landscape. He thanked Troop 190 for a terrific job.

79
80 **ITEMS FROM THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

81
82 Mrs. VanEmburch stated that the Galloway Meadows PUD is not on the agenda but will be back
83 before the Council after revisions.

84
85 **RESOLUTION NO. 6067 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF CDBG APPLICATIONS INCLUDING THE**
86 **UPDATED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN AND THE RESIDENTIAL ANTI-DISPLACEMENT PLAN.**

87
88 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, Resolution No.
89 6067 was approved.

90
91 **PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE FISCAL YEAR 2016/17 BUDGET.**

92
93 At 7:10 p.m., President Ford opened the public hearing to consider the 2016/2017 Budget
94 Public hearing.

95
96 Mayor Willey discussed the proposed fiscal year 2016/17 budget. He stated that the budget
97 is balanced and if any additional requests are granted, revenue has to be identified. He
98 stated that the budget totals \$19,812,735 which is a decrease of 7.5% from the previous
99 budget. He stated that there are no furloughs or layoffs. He stated that the current tax rate is
100 \$.52 per \$100. He stated that this budget provides for a merit raise or step increase for
101 eligible employees. Mayor Willey discussed upcoming capital projects. He stated that the
102 pension funding is currently 84% which is significantly better than other towns and the state.
103 He discussed the Town of Easton bond ratings which Fitch changed to AA Outlook Stable
104 during FY2013/14; Moody's AA3 which is an increase from AA2.

105
106 Mr. Silverstein asked if other funding requests would be entertained.

107
108 Mayor Willey stated that as other requests are considered, funding sources must be
109 identified.

110
111 President Ford stated that the budget legislation is eligible to be voted on at the next
112 meeting. He asked that Mayor Willey and the staff take a look at the budget and recommend
113 any changes.

114
115 At 7:23 p.m., President Ford closed the Budget Public Hearing. He asked for public
116 comments. There was no audience present.

117
118 **ORDINANCE NO. 686, BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016/17.**

119

120 President Ford brought Ordinance No. 686 to the floor for a first reading.

121
122 **ORDINANCE NO. 687, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE RAISING BY TAXATION THE**
123 **AMOUNT NECESSARY TO PAY THE ORDINARY EXPENSES OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AND**
124 **TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON THE VARIOUS BOND ISSUES AND THE**
125 **REDUCTION OF CERTAIN BONDS AND NOTES FOR THE PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS AND**
126 **SETTING THE INTEREST AND PENALTY FOR DELINQUENT BILLS, COMMENCING ON JULY 1,**
127 **2016 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2017."**

128
129 President Ford brought Ordinance No. 687 to the floor for a first reading.

130
131 **CONT'D. PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 680, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF**
132 **EASTON MODIFYING THE RENTAL HOUSING LICENSE PROVISIONS TO EXTEND THE PROVISIONS**
133 **TO SHORT TERM RENTALS, TO PROVIDE CLEAR EXCEPTIONS TO THE REQUIREMENT FOR A**
134 **LICENSE, TO PROVIDE SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR OCCUPANCIES BY IMMEDIATE FAMILY**
135 **MEMBERS AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF ALL NON-OWNER OCCUPIED**
136 **PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF EASTON."**

137
138 President Ford stated that the Public Hearing on short term rentals is being continued this
139 evening.

140
141 The Town Attorney Mrs. VanEmburch stated that several jurisdictions are also struggling with
142 these same issues. She discussed a webinar she had participated in with the Town Planner and
143 stated that even the commentators had different opinions. She stated that she needs direction
144 from the Mayor and Council.

145
146 Discussion occurred regarding short term rentals and regulations as well as the ability to enforce
147 legislation.

148
149 President Ford suggested going back to the first draft, modifying that, then putting the proposed
150 legislation out for public comment.

151
152 Mr. Leshner stated that he supports permitting by special process, no commercial kitchen,
153 certificates of insurance, one renter at a time, owner occupied residences and requiring
154 inspections.

155
156 Mr. Silverstein added that accommodations tax should also be paid.

157
158 Mayor Willey asked if the legislation would be able to be enforced.

159
160 **PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ORDINANCE NUMBER 688 WHICH PROPOSES TO REPEAL AND**
161 **REENACT THE TOWN'S FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE.**

162
163 At 7:55 p.m., President Ford opened the Public Hearing to discuss Ordinance No. 688.

164
165 Town Planner, Mr. Lynn Thomas discussed the proposed legislation and stated that it proposes
166 to enact a new Floodplain Management ordinance which will take effect July 2016. He stated
167 that all jurisdictions are going through the same process and this will have little impact in the
168 Town of Easton. He stated that the Planning Commission considered the changes at their March
169 meeting and recommended approval of the Ordinance. Mr. Thomas stated that the Ordinance
170 needs to be effective by July 20.

171
172 President Ford stated that if the council has no questions and as there is no audience in
173 attendance, he will close the Public Hearing and vote on the proposed legislation.

174
175 At 7:59 p.m. President Ford closed the Public Hearing.

176
177 **ORDINANCE NO. 688, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON REPEALING AND**
178 **REENACTING THE TOWN OF EASTON FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE, THE SAME**

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BEING CHAPTER 9A OF THE EASTON TOWN CODE.”

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 688 was passed unanimously.

ADJOURN.

At 8:00 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk