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**TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND
EASTON TOWN HALL
14 S HARRISON STREET**

March 5, 2018

PRESENT AT CONVENING.

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

Also present was the Town Manager Mr. Don Richardson, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch, Town Planner Mr. Lynn Thomas, Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf and Manager Easton Business Alliance Mr. Ross Benincasa. Present from Talbot County was County Manager R. Andrew Hollis, Talbot County Economic Development Director Ms. Cassandra Vanhooser, Economic Development Coordinator Mr. Samuel Shoge and Easton Business Alliance Board of Director Chairman Mr. Jeff Schneider.

6:00 PM COUNCIL WORKSESSION TO DISCUSS WIFI PROJECT AND PRESENT BUSINESS PLAN.

At 6:03 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order.

Mr. Benincasa discussed the Wi-Fi initiative and how the project would be beneficial to the town. Mr. Benincasa stated that it is not just a tourism marketing machine. He stated that it will be sustainable in the long run for the town. Mr. Benincasa discussed researched models: General Fund, Public-Private Partnerships and Revenue Model. He stated that the Wi-Fi project would offer Talbot County students access with no time limits. Mr. Benincasa discussed a timeline. He stated that it would open immediately to Easton Utilities customers. Mr. Benincasa estimated the cost to be approximately \$283,830. He broke down the costs and outlined anticipated revenues. He stated that it is a significant benefit to the community.

President Ford asked for questions or comments. There were none.

Mr. Benincasa asked those interested in the St. Patrick's Parade, to get their registration to him.

Mr. Benincasa discussed bringing the proposal to the Town to designate an Arts and Entertainment District in the Town of Easton. He said he would be bringing that proposal to the council shortly.

MEETING.

At 7:00 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order and reconvened into the regularly scheduled meeting.

OPENING REMARKS BY MR. ENGLE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2018 MEETING.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes of the February 19, 2018 meeting were approved.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

APPROVAL OF LANDSCAPE BID FOR 2018/19 SEASON.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, the landscape bid in the amount of \$8,660 submitted by Marshall Property Management and recommended by staff was approved.

PUBLIC ASSEMBLY EVENT APPROVAL REQUESTS:

Easton Church of God Prayer Walk 4/1/18

Easton Farmers' Market 4/14/18 – 12/15/18

5k Fundraiser Walk/Run 5/6/18

58 5k Color Run Fundraiser 6/2/18

59 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the Public Assembly
60 Permits as recommended by staff were approved.

61 **ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.**

62 Mayor Willey discussed the Town of Easton having the ability to flag tags for past due parking tickets for
63 some time now. He stated that the Town would turn that function on officially for past due parking tickets
64 issued January 1 and thereafter. Mayor Willey stated that there are approximately 34 people that are
65 affected this year and if their parking fines are not paid, they won't be able to get their registration
66 renewed for new stickers on their vehicle tags.

67 **REQUEST FROM WATERFOWL CHESAPEAKE FOR GRANT SUPPORT LETTERS FROM**
68 **MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST CAPITAL GRANTS**
69 **PROGRAM FOR RESTORATION OF THE HISTORIC STEEL WINDOWS AT THE**
70 **WATERFOWL BUILDING.**

71 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, approval was granted
72 to draft support letters for a grant program for restoration of the historic steel windows at the Waterfowl
73 Building.

74 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

75 Town Attorney Mrs. VanEmburch stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission's meeting has been
76 rescheduled for March 22 at 1:00 p.m. It will be a regular meeting where zoning ordinance amendments
77 are discussed as well as a workshop for MXW.

78 **ORD. 719, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON GRANTING THE APPLICATION**
79 **OF MARLBORO PLAZA BUSINESS TRUST FOR AN AMENDMENT TO A PLANNED UNIT**
80 **DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE EASTON ZONING ORDINANCE."**

81 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Leshar and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 719
82 was approved.

83 **7:15 PM - PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ORDINANCE NO. 718 WHICH PROPOSES**
84 **AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN'S FOREST CONSERVATION ORDINANCE.**

85 At 7:15 p.m., President Ford opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 718.

86 Mr. Trevor Newcomb, Manager Planning & Zoning was present to discuss the proposed ordinance. He
87 discussed the payment in lieu of increase to .305 which is from the state model. He stated that moneys
88 held don't revert to the general fund but are to be used in the mitigation of lost forestation. He discussed
89 added definitions to the proposed ordinance. He stated that the current zoning code is also matched. Mr.
90 Newcomb stated that the state mandates that we follow their guidelines and consider their model
91 ordinance.

92 Town Attorney stated that the Town can be more restrictive but not less restrictive. Mrs. VanEmburch
93 clarified that this is a state unfunded mandate.

94 Mr. Thomas clarified that MML has also supported proposed changes to the state's forest ordinance.

95 President Ford asked if there are any comments from anyone in the audience. There were none.

96 At 7:21 p.m., President Ford closed the public hearing. He stated that written comments will be accepted
97 and disseminated to the council until the end of week.

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

99 Mr. Leshar stated that the Mulberry Station emergency vehicle situation needs a solution.

100 **ADJOURNMENT.**

101 At 7:34 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, President
102 Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk