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

June 16, 2008

PRESENT AT CONVENING

8 Mayor Robert C. Willey
9 Mr. John F. Ford
10 Ms. Maureen Scott-Taylor
11
12 Mr. Leonard E. Wendowski, Sr.
13 Ms. Moonyene Jackson-Amis

IN ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance were the Town Attorney Mr. Kehoe, Town Manager Mr. Karge and Town Clerk Ms. Ruf.

CONVENING

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

Ms. Jackson-Amis opened the meeting with prayer and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 2008 MEETING

Upon motion by Ms. Scott-Taylor seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried; minutes of the June 2, 2008 meeting were approved with corrections as submitted by Ms. Jackson-Amis.

TOWN OF EASTON EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

Mayor Willey presented service awards to the following employees:
Eugene Lewis, Public Works – Ten years service
Brian Hause, Assistant to the Town Engineer -10 Years Service
Sgt. George Paugh, Easton Police Department – 10 Years Service
Lt. Greg Wright, Easton Police Department – 20 Years Service
Kay Spence, Easton Police Department – 20 Years Service
John Garlick, Building Inspection Dept. – 20 Years Service
Major David Spencer, Easton Police Dept. – 30 Years Service
Jerome Pierce, Public Works – 30 Years Service
James Willoughby, Easton Fire Department Maintenance – 30 Years

Mayor Willey requested the Council look favorably on the appointment of Councilmember Maureen Scott-Taylor as liaison between the Town Council and the Avalon Theatre.

Ms. Jackson-Amis asked for clarification regarding the liaison to the Avalon Theatre.

Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mr. Ford and carried, Ms. Scott-Taylor's appointment was approved.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Karge asked for approval for the following public assembly awards as recommended by Easton Police Department:

June 14, Idlewild Park Celebration
June 29, Elk's Parade
July 1 – 5, Independence Week Carnival and Fireworks

Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Ms. Scott-Taylor and carried, the public assembly permits were approved.

Mr. Karge discussed proposed sanitation change regulations provided by the Superintendent of Public Works. He discussed the proposed schedule of fees and stated that these proposed changes are incorporated into the new schedule. He discussed pre-scheduling to get the maximum utilization possible and the most effective scheduling of employees.

1 Ms. Jackson-Amis discussed the instance when residents do not call to schedule a pickup or if they do
2 not have the funds to pay. Mr. Karge stated that this would be looked at on a case by case basis and
3 may actually constitute a lien on the property.

4
5 Ms. Scott-Taylor stated that going to \$0 to \$50 for a large pile of tree clippings is a bit steep. She
6 stated that she thinks the fees are lopsided.

7
8 Mr. Ford suggested obtaining additional information for the council to digest.

9
10 Ms. Jackson-Amis asked for the public works department information regarding employment service.
11 She asked for the time period of work the employees had.

12
13 **LETTER FROM AFFORDABLE HOUSING BOARD REQUESTING WAIVER OF**
14 **BUILDING PERMIT FEES FOR NEW HOUSING CONSTRUCTION FOR HOUSES BUILT**
15 **FOR THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM**

16
17 Mr. Ford stated that it is the feeling of the Affordable Housing Board that the Town is attempting to
18 establish and promote an Affordable Housing Program and we shouldn't be imposing the building
19 permit fees on those houses that we are trying to keep the cost down on. He stated that they are not
20 suggesting that impact fees be waived.

21
22 Ms. Jackson-Amis stated that she does not support the waiver of the fees and the building permit fees
23 are part of the responsibility of the developer as they are getting the benefit. She stated that this should
24 be part of the negotiations with the developer.

25
26 Mr. Ford stated that the fees will just be added on to the non affordable housing units in the
27 subdivision and in effect, this will be raising the price of the market homes.

28
29 Mr. Wendowski stated that they are only asking for exemption for the non-profits like Habitat.

30
31 Mr. Ford stated that this would include houses going into the program such as the nine units going into
32 Ashby Commons or construction of homes by the registered non-profits.

33
34 Ms. Scott-Taylor stated that we implemented this program in recognition of the need for affordable
35 housing in the community and we need to demonstrate that we are in support of the agency aiding us.
36 She stated that she has no problem waiving the fee.

37
38 Mr. Ford stated that we do not have the consensus of the council which we do not have. He stated that
39 this request would be tabled until there is a full council.

40
41 **LETTER FROM HONORABLE BROUGHTON M. EARNEST REQUESTING TWO**
42 **PARKING SPACES ON WEST STREET FOR JUDGES AND TO HAVE SIGNS CHANGED**

43
44 Discussion occurred regarding the current spaces and the request for two additional spaces.

45
46 Mr. Ford asked for clarification and if they could designate hours to alleviate parking during the
47 evening near the library.

48
49 Ms. Scott-Taylor asked for an inventory of the spaces near the library and District Court.

50
51 Mr. Ford tabled the request until more information is gathered.

52
53 **RESOLUTION NO. 5928, THE BUDGET FOR THE TWELVE MONTH PERIOD FROM**
54 **JULY 1, 2008**

55
56 Ms. Scott-Taylor asked that the resolution be tabled until Mr. Jensen's arrival.

57
58 **APPROVAL OF INVOICES TOTALING \$938,095.81**

59
60 Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Ms. Scott-Taylor and carried unanimously, invoices
61 totaling \$938,095.81 were approved for payment.

62
63 **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

64

1 Ms. Katherine Duehrssen, 107 East Earle Avenue discussed putting garbage out before five o'clock
2 and inquired about fines. She stated she has a handicapped mother and it is necessary sometimes to put
3 the trash out when someone is there to help her and it is usually before 5:00 p.m. She stated that she
4 has asked public works to come onto the property and pick it up two steps from the curb and has been
5 told that different people go the route at different times and they could not be responsible. Ms.
6 Duehrssen asked what exceptions can be made.

7
8 Mr. Karge discussed the ordinance prohibiting placing garbage out before 5 pm. He stated that the fine
9 has rarely been enforced. He stated that there is also a policy that prohibits going on private property
10 due to a number of issues. Mr. Karge suggested a meeting with Ms. Duehrssen to see what can be
11 worked out. He said that what Public Works has stated is consistent with what the policies are.

12
13 (Mr. Jensen arrived at 7:49 p.m.).

14
15 **EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 535, "AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN**
16 **OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A PROMISSORY**
17 **NOTE IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$2,000,000 PAYABLE TO EASTON BANK AND**
18 **TRUST FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF PROVIDING REFINANCING CAPITAL**
19 **PROJECTS FOR THE TOWN OF EASTON AND PLEDGING THE FULL FAITH AND**
20 **CREDIT AND TAXING AUTHORITY OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO THE REPAYMENT**
21 **OF SAME."**

22
23 Mr. Karge stated that the loan is on a taxable basis to Easton Bank & Trust at 5 ¼% interest, five years,
24 fixed interest and principal payable quarterly.

25
26 Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Ms. Scott-Taylor and carried, Emergency Ordinance
27 No. 535 was passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

28
29 **DISCUSSION OF STREET TREES**

30
31 Mr. Jensen discussed sycamore trees on August Street. He discussed how to take precautions for street
32 trees during construction; especially the proposed reconstruction on Goldsborough Street. Mr. Jensen
33 stated that he would like to put together a group that will get back to this council to offer some
34 suggestions on what procedures need to be put in place regarding street trees. He stated that he is in
35 hopes for participation from Mr. Hause and Mr. Grunden as well as a representative from DNR. Mr.
36 Jensen stated that he will get a committee together and get back to the Mayor and Council for review.

37
38 Mr. Hause discussed previous community input in order to get Tree City status. He stated that the Tree
39 Board is where the weak link is now.

40
41 Mr. Jensen stated that he thinks this is separate from what he is trying put together. He stated that if
42 there are community members interested, they should contact him or e-mail Mrs. Ruf.

43
44 Mr. Ford confirmed that Mr. Jensen is to take the initiative regarding trees and put together an advisory
45 group.

46
47 **RESOLUTION NO. 5928, THE BUDGET FOR THE TWELVE MONTH PERIOD FROM**
48 **JULY 1, 2008.**

49
50 Mayor Willey stated that he has received two additional requests for funding; \$2,000 for Talbot
51 County Arts Council and \$25,000 for Be A Star for a part time director but no revenue stream was
52 submitted.

53
54 Ms. Jackson-Amis discussed salaries. She asked what the percentage increase is for the administrative
55 staff.

56
57 Mayor Willey stated that a 4% increase for employees in good standing was figured into the budget.

58
59 Mr. Jensen asked that a \$70,000 allotment be considered for tourism and be placed on the priorities for
60 funding especially if an increase in the hotel/motel tax is received from Talbot County.

61
62 Mayor Willey stated that amendments would be considered to the budget if additional revenues are
63 received.

1 Ms. Scott-Taylor asked for clarification on the accommodations tax. She asked if additional revenue
2 funds are received, would it be earmarked for tourism.

3 Mayor Willey stated that it would be up to the Council to prioritize the list of requests to be funded.
4

5 Mr. Wendowski discussed the \$36,000 budget request from Talbot County Tourism that the mayor and
6 council received two years ago to put Easton on the map.
7

8 Ms. Scott-Taylor stated that the numbers for the accommodations tax and the tourism expenditure are
9 conservative on both ends. She discussed marketing Easton as a destination.
10

11 Discussion occurred regarding the business owners' contribution to the marketing plan.
12

13 Ms. Jackson-Amis stated that if there is a list of programs and opportunities for the entire community
14 that want to have access to available funds, there has to be an opportunity for an advocacy for that
15 rather than to agree that the tourism request should be funded. She stated she objects to the tourism
16 department's increase in salary as well as the budget allotment. She stated that there should be an
17 evaluation of what has happened to the money investment such as the return on the revenue which was
18 supposed to help in branding the area.
19

20 Ms. Scott-Taylor stated that she feels very strongly that the money that is brought in by that tourism
21 industry should go back into reinvesting into tourism in order to bring more people into Easton and to
22 boost up the economy.
23

24 Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mr. Ford and carried, Resolution No. 5928 was passed
25 with Ms. Jackson-Amis voting no because of the items included. She stated that all of the salaries
26 should have been frozen where they are and the events coordinator frozen or eliminated and the
27 \$40,000 should not have been paid to the Avalon. She stated we should look at ways to save money.
28

29 Mr. Jensen stated that he feels the salary increases included in the budget are a very good thing.
30

31 Ms. Scott-Taylor stated that she is in favor of a merit increase.
32

33 **ORDINANCE NO. 533, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE RAISING BY**
34 **TAXATION THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO PAY THE ORDINARY EXPENSES OF THE**
35 **TOWN OF EASTON AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON THE**
36 **VARIOUS BOND ISSUES AND THE REDUCTION OF CERTAIN BONDS AND NOTES FOR**
37 **THE PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS AND SETTING THE INTEREST AND PENALTY**
38 **FOR DELINQUENT BILLS, COMMENCING ON JULY 1, 2008 AND ENDING JUNE 30,**
39 **2009."**
40

41 Upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, Ordinance No.
42 533 was approved following a roll call vote.
43

44 **ORDINANCE NO. 534, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING**
45 **THE ACQUISITION OF PARK LAND LOCATED AT 215 SOUTH STREET AND**
46 **AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A DEED OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT**
47 **THEREON."**
48

49 Mr. Wendowski discussed his concerns with the current sign on the property.
50

51 Upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Ms. Scott-Taylor and carried unanimously, Ordinance No.
52 534 was approved following a roll call vote.
53

54 **RESOLUTION NO. 5929, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON REVISING THE**
55 **TOWN'S LICENSE, PERMIT, INSPECTION, REVIEW AND OTHER FEES."**
56

57 Ms. Scott-Taylor asked that Resolution No. 5929 be tabled in light of previous discussion regarding
58 public works fees, loader charges and vegetative bulk, seconded by Ms. Jackson-Amis.
59

60 Mr. Wendowski asked that Resolution No. 5929 be amended to increase the off street parking permits
61 from \$75 to \$87.50 for January to June and increase the replacement permit to \$15. On the Blue
62 Permits, increase fees from \$87.50 to \$100 and full year from \$175 to \$200.
63

64 Mr. Ford suggested passing part of the resolution and taking the part in question out of Resolution
65 5929.

1 Ms. Scott-Taylor stated that if Resolution No. 5929 is to be amended, she would withdraw her motion
2 to table.

3
4 Mr. Ford stated that the motion to table is not carried.

5
6 Ms. Scott-Taylor asked for clarification on loader charge non-vegetative bulk.

7
8 Mr. Ford suggested omitting the last four items under the public works fees on Resolution No. 5929
9 until more information is received and voting on the rest of the Resolution.

10
11 Upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Ms. Scott-Taylor and carried unanimously following a roll
12 call vote, Resolution No. 5929 was approved as amended omitting the last four items in the Public
13 Works Fees portion of Resolution No. 5929; Loader Charge Vegetative Bulk, Loader Charge Non
14 Vegetative Bulk, Scrap Metal Service Charge and Scrap Tire Disposal Fees. Upon motion by Mr.
15 Jensen seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried, Resolution No. 5929 was amended to include the
16 parking fee changes as proposed by Mr. Wendowski.

17
18 Ms. Jackson-Amis requested that when the fees are reviewed; see if the appliance pick up charge can
19 be kept as reasonable as possible such as \$5.

20
21 Mr. Karge stated he will ask Mr. Dickerson to provide additional information for clarification.

22
23 Mr. Karge clarified the Judge's request for parking space restrictions at District Court.

24
25 Mr. Ford stated that the Council will receive more information.

26
27 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

28
29 Mr. Jensen asked for the policy to put a refrigerator out for pick up. He suggested the Easton Ice House
30 put locks on their outside refrigerators.

31
32 Ms. Jackson-Amis questioned whether a memorial service can be had at the Memorial Walk Park for a
33 service person that lost their life in Iraq.

34
35 Mayor Willey stated that coordination should be done with the Parks and Recreation Director Mrs.
36 Gould.

37
38 Ms. Scott-Taylor asked what it would take to change the order of the votes and asked that it be moved
39 forward.

40
41 **ADJOURNMENT**

42
43 Upon motion by Ms. Scott-Taylor seconded by Mr. Jensen and carried unanimously; President Ford
44 adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting at 8:53 p.m.

45
46 _____
47 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk