

1 **TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND**
2 **Easton Town Hall**
3 **14 S. Harrison Street**

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May 19, 2008

PRESENT AT CONVENING

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9 Mr. John F. Ford
10 Ms. Maureen Scott-Taylor
11 Mr. Scott Jensen
12 Mr. Leonard E. Wendowski, Sr.
13 Ms. Moonyene Jackson-Amis

IN ATTENDANCE

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

Mayor Willey was excused.

CONVENING

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

Mr. Jensen opened the meeting with prayer and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2008 MEETINGS

Upon motion by Ms. Scott-Taylor seconded by Mr. Jensen and carried unanimously, minutes of the May 5, 2008 meetings were approved as written.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Karge stated that Mayor Willey asked him to advise the Council that there will be two Historic District Commission members' terms that will expire. He asked interested participants or suggestions for nominations.

The Easton Police Department has recommended approval for the following Public Assembly Permits:

- June 6, 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., Block Party on Goldsborough Street
- Eight Summer Concert Series:
 - Sunday, June 1; South Harrison Street 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, June 28; South Harrison Street 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, July 12; South Aurora 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, July 19; Goldsborough Street 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, August 2, Washington Street 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, August 16, S. Harrison Street 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, August 23, Goldsborough Street 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, September 6, Washington Street 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Ms. Scott-Taylor and carried unanimously, the Public Assembly Permits as recommended by Easton Police Department were approved.

Mr. Karge advised of the public information meeting scheduled for May 22 6:00 p.m. at the Talbot County Library in regards to the Easton Police Department expansion.

Weather permitting, the paving contractor should complete the street paving around town this week.

Discussion occurred regarding the paving schedule on Marlboro Avenue near Waterside Village. Mr. Karge advised that this area is State Highway Administration's responsibility.

HUNTER OLSON TO DISCUSS PROPOSED EAGLE PROJECT ON RAILS-TO-TRAILS

Hunter Olson was present to request approval to build an informational center on the rails-to-trails. He stated that he is working on his Eagle Scout project and would like to make the community aware of the environment. He discussed the benefits of the trail and the litter that is affecting the habitat of animals. He stated that the seated informational center would encompass a Leave No Trace sign with other outdoor code policies. Mr. Olson is having an architect make professional architectural drawings.

1 Mr. Jensen suggested Hunter work with the Town office to make sure the design will work with the
2 lawn mowers.

3
4 Ms. Jackson-Amis asked if the informational center would be sufficiently supplied. Hunter stated that
5 he would like to put in new things.

6
7 It was the consensus of the council for Hunter to proceed with his Eagle Scout project.

8
9 **EASTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

10
11 Mr. Jamie McNeal was present on behalf of the Easton Fire Department. Mr. McNeal discussed the
12 monthly activities.

13
14 Mr. McNeal discussed the rising fuel costs and the Department's exploration of bulk purchase of fuel
15 with the county and EMS and possibly other companies in the county.

16
17 Mr. McNeal asked permission to take two pieces of Town of Easton equipment to the Maryland State
18 Firemen's Convention in Ocean City.

19
20 Upon motion by Ms. Scott-Taylor seconded by Mr. Jensen and carried unanimously, permission was
21 granted.

22
23 **SAMSONE PROPERTY**

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25 Ms. Jackson-Amis asked for an update on the Samsone property in Mulberry Station. Mr. Karge
26 advised that Mr. Hamilton has spoken with Mr. Stagg representing the developer and the project is
27 currently on hold due to the housing market. Mr. Stagg advised that the project will definitely be built
28 but they are waiting on the developer to respond to comments.

29
30 Ms. Jackson-Amis discussed the fees for the parks and recreation program for youth this summer. She
31 stated that there are children unable to participate. Ms. Jackson-Amis asked that the pricing for the
32 programs be reviewed.

33
34 Mr. Karge stated that the fees are set by the county and it is his understanding that there is a
35 scholarship program for those not able to afford the program.

36
37 Ms. Jackson-Amis asked Mr. Karge to see how many scholarships could be awarded to the town
38 citizens.

39
40 Ms. Scott-Taylor asked how many children Be A Star took care of last year that could not afford the
41 program.

42
43 Ms. Jackson-Amis stated that over and above the regular 35 participants, they had 15 additional young
44 people. She stated that the fee is \$15 for the entire summer for the Be A Star program.

45
46 Ms. Scott-Taylor asked Mr. Karge to find out if Talbot County's program is on a first come first serve
47 basis, the fee structure and the amount of scholarships available for Town residents.

48
49 **RESOLUTION NO. 5927, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING**
50 **EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TOWN OF**
51 **EASTON, TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND AND SHORE HEALTH SYSTEM, INC.**
52 **ADDRESSING THE POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF THE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AT**
53 **EASTON DESCRIBING PROCESSES THE PARTIES CONTEMPLATE IN CONNECTION**
54 **WITH PLANNING, ANNEXATION, ZONING, EXTENSION OF UTILITIES AND**
55 **NEGOTIATION OF A DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**
56 **AGREEMENT."**

57
58 Ms. VanEmburch discussed the history and the details of the Resolution. She stated that this is the
59 result of the cooperative efforts of the county and the town to negotiate with Shore Health System to
60 locate the hospital near the Talbot County Community Center. She stated that the Memorandum of
61 Understanding includes the terms of how that would be accomplished if Shore Health System chooses
62 that site. Ms. VanEmburch stated that this sets up the framework of what steps are going to be needed
63 for them to be able to build the hospital. She stated that all of these provisions have a lapse provision in
64 case Shore Health System does not go to the site.

65

1 A public hearing is scheduled at the County Council’s meeting in June.

2

3 Mr. Jensen commended the Town Attorneys office for their work on the relocation of the hospital.

4

5 Upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Ms. Jackson-Amis and carried unanimously, Resolution No.
6 5927 was approved.

7

8 **DISCUSSION OF PARK RULES**

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10 Ms. Jackson-Amis stated that she has determined that no other municipality has a rule like ours that
11 has an insurance requirement and some of the prohibitions on one park but not the others. She stated
12 that she is going to go through all the municipalities and also ask the Attorney General for an opinion.

13

14 Ms. Scott-Taylor asked what the Town’s responsibility would be regarding Ms. Jackson-Amis’ request
15 for an opinion from the Attorney General.

16

17 Ms. VanEmburch stated that generally the Attorney General would like to see the Town’s opinion
18 before they issue their opinion.

19

20 Ms. Scott-Taylor asked for clarification on the process.

21

22 **APPROVAL OF INVOICES TOTALING \$860,720.91**

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24 Upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, invoices totaling
25 \$860,720.91 were approved for payment.

26

27 **ITEMS FROM THE COUNCIL**

28

29 Mr. Jensen discussed the need for cones in the new development Ashby Commons behind Lowes.

30

31 Mr. Karge will contact the developer.

32

33 **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

34

35 Ms. Carolyn Jaffe, 412 August Street thanked the Council for approval of the Easton Main Street
36 Summer Concerts.

37

38 **ADJOURNMENT**

39

40 Upon motion by Ms. Scott-Taylor seconded by Mr. Jensen and carried unanimously; President Ford
41 adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting at 7:51 p.m.

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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk