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

September 15, 2008

**PRESENT AT CONVENING**

8 Mayor Robert C. Willey 11  
9 Council President John F. Ford 12 Councilmember Leonard E. Wendowski  
10 Councilmember Maureen Scott-Taylor 13 Councilmember Moonyene Jackson-Amis

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Also in attendance were the Assistant Town Attorney Ms. VanEmburch, Town Manager Mr. Karge, Town Planner Mr. Hamilton, Building Code Official Mr. Richardson and Town Clerk Ms. Ruf.

**CONVENING**

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

Ms. Ford opened the meeting with prayer and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2008 MEETINGS**

Minutes of the September 2, 2008 meeting were tabled until the next meeting.

(Mr. Jensen arrived at 7:04 p.m.).

**MR. GEOFF OXNAM, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS, EASTON UTILITIES ADDRESSES COUNCIL REGARDING GOVERNMENT ACCESS PROGRAMMING**

Mr. Oxnam discussed Channel 98 on Easton Cable, which will be dedicated for Government access programming as well as key information to local viewers about local government as well as notices from Easton Utilities and school closings. He discussed the partnership between Easton Cable and the Avalon.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5936, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON APPROVING AN "INTERIM AGREEMENT" BETWEEN THE TOWN AND MARYLAND BROADBAND COOPERATIVE"**

Ms. Jackson-Amis discussed her concerns regarding language that states that the recommendation is that fees be waived and MDBC will reimburse reasonable expenses.

Mr. Oxnam stated that fees are nominal for a project this size.

Ms. Van Emburch stated that reasonable expenses must be fees incurred related to this. She stated that the reasonable wording could be omitted.

Mr. Ford suggested striking the reasonable wording.

Upon motion by Ms. Jackson-Amis seconded by Mr. Jensen and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 5936 was approved.

**PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION FOR CROP WALK DAY.**

Ms. Jackson-Amis presented a Proclamation for CROP Walk Day.

**PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION FOR FAMILY DAY**

Ms. Scott-Taylor presented a Proclamation for Family Day.

**ITEMS BY MAYOR**

Mayor Willey discussed the budget constraints in the Town's cash balances.

1  
2 Mayor Willey discussed the Town of Easton 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee meeting. He stated that  
3 they will meet again the week before Thanksgiving.  
4

5 Mayor Willey stated that there is a MIA program planned for September 19, 5:00 p.m. at the Memorial  
6 Walk Garden sponsored by the Legion Post.  
7

8 Mayor Willey stated that 24 resumes have been received for the Economic Development Coordinator  
9 position.  
10

11 US Senator Ben Cardin recently visited the town and asked what he could do to help.  
12

13 Mayor Willey discussed his recent meeting with Mark Samsone and solutions to rectify his drainage  
14 problems.  
15

16 **ITEMS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER**  
17

18 September 24 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Sunday November 2, 2008 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Talbot  
19 County Right to Life-Prayer Vigil at Thompson Park  
20

21 September 27, 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., Talbot County Republican Central Committee – Federal Street  
22

23 Upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Ms. Scott-Taylor and carried, Public Assembly Permits as  
24 recommended by Easton Police Department were approved.  
25

26 Mr. Karge stated that the groundbreaking date for the Police Department expansion will be  
27 forthcoming.  
28

29 Mr. Michael Dickerson, Supt. of Public Works has reported that the south side of Goldsborough Street  
30 is moving along according to schedule.  
31

32 The parking signs for the judges came in the wrong color so they will be re-ordered.  
33

34 **LETTER FROM R. ANDREW HOLLIS, COUNTY MANAGER REQUESTING PERMISSION**  
35 **FOR THE TALBOT COUNTY COUNCIL TO USE THE ISSUED PARKING PERMITS IN**  
36 **THE TOWN'S SOUTH WEST STREET LOTS CLOSET TO THE COURTHOUSE**  
37

38 Mr. Karge advised that the Police Department has no objections.  
39

40 Upon motion by Ms. Scott-Taylor, seconded by Mr. Jensen and carried unanimously, permission was  
41 granted.  
42

43 **ENFORCEMENT OF TRAFFIC REGULATIONS IN COOKE'S HOPE**  
44

45 Discussion occurred regarding enforcement of speeders at Cooke's Hope. Mr. Ford stated that he  
46 recently had a letter from Ms. Karen Harrison. Mr. Karge stated that a monitoring machine had  
47 recently been placed to get a sample of speed and then additional action may take place. Ms. Harrison  
48 would take this information back to their board.  
49

50 **RESOLUTION NO. 5937, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON APPROVING AN**  
51 **AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MARYLAND STATE POLICE, THE EASTON POLICE**  
52 **DEPARTMENT AND OTHER STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**  
53 **PERTAINING TO THE TALBOT COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE."**  
54

55 Upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously; Resolution No.  
56 5397 was approved.  
57

58 **CONSENSUS ON THE REQUEST OF KELLER HOMES AT ASHBY COMMONS, LLC**  
59 **(THE OWNERS) FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE ASHBY COMMONS PUD GENERALLY**  
60 **LOCATED NORTH OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS FACILITY ON GLEBE**  
61 **ROAD BETWEEN THE EASTON MARKETPLACE SHOPPING CENTER AND ASHBY**  
62 **PARK SUBDIVISION. THE REQUEST IS TO AMEND THE ASHBY COMMONS PUD**  
63 **SUBDIVIDING OFF TWO SMALL PARCELS (TOTAL OF 1,508) SQUARE FEET) FROM**  
64 **THE OPEN SPACE LOT A (46,725 SQUARE FEET) WHICH IS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO**  
65 **AN ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER.**

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Mr. Showalter stated that both items do not need to be addressed this evening.

Mr. Jensen stated that he is ready to settle this and be done.

It was the consensus of the Mr. Jensen, Mr. Ford, Ms. Scott-Taylor and Mr. Wendowski to approve the PUD as well as close the road but the legislation should include an easement for the utilities.

Ms. Van Emburgh stated that there will be two separate pieces of legislation.

**ORDINANCE NO. 536, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING, REPEALING AND REENACTING WITH AMENDMENTS, AND RE-CODIFYING CHAPTER 14 OF THE TOWN CODE.”**

Mr. Don Richardson, Building Code Official was present to discuss Ordinance No. 536. He stated that this ordinance restructures the existing Chapter 14 and there are no substantive changes in this document other than re-numbering and reworking the organization of that chapter so there is an Administrative section under Article I and the rental housing section appears under Article II. He stated that it will restructure that chapter for future licensing provisions which need to be moved from other sections of the Town Code into this Chapter Licenses.

Mr. Joe Secrist, 11638 Longwoods Road (Talbot County Electrical Board), Easton stated that he does not object to Ordinance No. 536 and does not see it presenting a problem.

Mr. Jensen asked what the license structure currently is in Talbot County.

Upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Ms. Jackson-Amis and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 536 was unanimously approved.

**ORDINANCE NO. 537, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING CHAPTER 14 LICENSE AND PERMITS FOR LICENSING AND REGULATION ELECTRICIANS.”**

Mr. Richardson discussed what the county has enacted versus what the state requires for a license. He stated that this will bring the ability back to the town as we will physically handling the applications and we will know who is working in the Town of Easton and we will be able to better track their activities. Mr. Richardson stated that this is matching up in the way we do the Plumber’s License in the Town of Easton. He stated that his goal in the coming year is to better develop an application process and a permitting process for electrical work in the Town of Easton matching what we do for plumbing.

Ms. Jackson-Amis stated that the process seems onerous and may be able to be streamlined as to not have to purchase another permit.

Mr. Richardson stated that with the electricians working in the Town of Easton as they are now, it is a potential liability to the Town.

Ms. VanEmburch explained the ordinance as proposed.

Mr. Ford stated that references to the journey electrician and apprentice electrician will be stricken including 14-21B and 14-21C and any references above that and also the language under 14-23 would be clarified to clarify the Board’s issues.

Ms. Jackson-Amis stated that she does like the classifications because it makes it a requirement that someone is in control.

After discussion, Ordinance No. 537 will be revised and resubmitted for review.

**APPROVAL OF INVOICES TOTALING \$753,649.58**

Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Ms. Scott-Taylor and carried unanimously, invoices were approved for payment.

1 **ITEMS FROM COUNCIL**

2

3 Ms. Jackson-Amis discussed a letter from the Attorney General’s Office of Civil Rights in regard to a  
4 recent telephone call to the Town Attorney inquiring if charges were pending against Ms. Jackson-  
5 Amis in respect to afterhours work and meetings at the Town Hall.

6

7 Ms. Scott-Taylor read the letter for the record from Director Carl Snowden stating that the matter is  
8 closed with no adverse findings.

9

10 Mr. Jensen discussed the 76 unit PUD application before the Planning Commission in the vicinity of  
11 Calvert Street.

12 Mr. Jensen asked that discussion of trees be discussed at the next council meeting.

13

14 Mr. Wendowski asked if mailings for proposed projects are billed back to developers.

15

16 **CLOSED SESSION**

17

18 At 8:53 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Jensen seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, the  
19 President of the Council adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting into Closed Session to discuss real  
20 estate.

21

22 **ADJOURNMENT**

23

24 Upon motion by Ms. Scott-Taylor seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously; President  
25 Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting at 9:06 p.m.

26

27

28 \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk