

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

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June 21, 2010

PRESENT AT CONVENING

8 Mayor Robert C. Willey
9 Council President John F. Ford
10 Councilmember Kelley K. Malone
11 Councilmember Pete Leshner
12 Councilmember Leonard E. Wendowski, Sr.
13 Councilmember Megan M. Cook

IN ATTENDANCE

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

CONVENING

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

OPENING PRAYER BY MR. LESHER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2010 MEETINGS

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously minutes of the June 7, 2010 meetings were approved.

ITEMS BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Assistant Chief Jamie McNeal presented the Easton Volunteer Fire Department May statistical report. He discussed the State Firemen's Convention in Ocean City. He stated that the Department won Best Appearing Company. Out of 19 years, the Department received the Chief Marvin Gibbons Award nine times.

Mayor Willey suggested displaying the trophies in the front lobby of the Town Hall for a few weeks.

Fundraising events were discussed.

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY

Mayor Willey stated that MDE will be present for a meeting July 29 to discuss the Easton Point property and their Environmental Study findings.

Mayor Willey discussed a proposed information marquee at the Easton Volunteer Fire Department substation to be erected as part of an Eagle Scout project. He stated that the Eagle Scout candidate will bear the cost. He stated that the Eagle Scout candidate will coordinate the project with the Town Planner and Building Code Official.

Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski, seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, approval was granted for the Eagle Scout candidate to construct the marquee.

Ms. Malone asked Mayor Willey the status of the Welcome to Easton signs.

Mayor Willey stated that the south end sign repairs have been completed; the north end clock is being repaired and the sign is currently being worked on.

President Ford discussed the request from Dixon Square residents to install a hedgerow along the rails-to-trails to delineate between the public and private areas along the trail due to significant impact from those using the trail. Maintenance of the hedge will remain with the Dixon Square Homeowner's Association.

It was the consensus of the Council to approve the residents' request.

68 The Town Attorney was directed to draft a license agreement for the Council's consideration for the town's
69 right-of-way.

70
71 Mr. Wendowski made a motion seconded by Ms. Malone to direct the town attorney to draft license
72 agreement for hedge.

73
74 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER**

75
76 Mr. Karge updated on the five corners intersection and the parking lot at Idlewild Park. He stated that new
77 lights will be installed Thursday.

78
79 Mr. Karge advised that the Westport Commons hearing with Planning and Zoning will continue July 1 at
80 7:00 p.m.

81
82 Mr. Karge discussed the new ceiling mounted projector and the regulations for its use in the Council room.

83
84 **APPROVAL OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY EVENTS**

85
86 Mr. Karge asked for approval for the following Public Assembly Permits as recommended by Easton
87 Police Department:

88
89 ○ CHURCH/FAMILY GATHERING, Sunday June 27, 2010 from 1400-1700 hrs.
90 LOCATION: Union Baptist Church Yard and Parking Lot directly Across Glenwood Ave. from Church
91 DATE/TIME: Sunday June 27th, 2010 from 1400-1700 hrs.

92
93 ○ Chautauqua Community Gathering, Monday July 12th, 2010 from 1900-2100 hrs.
94 LOCATION: Thompson Park
95 DATE/TIME: Monday July 12, 2010 1900-2100 hrs.

96
97 ○ Chautauqua Community Gathering, Wednesday July 14th, 2010 from 1900-2100 hrs.
98 LOCATION: Idlewild Park
99 DATE/TIME: Wednesday July 14, 2010 1900-2100 hrs.

100
101 Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously; the Public Assembly
102 Permits as recommended by Easton Police Department were approved.

103
104 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY**

105
106 Ms. VanEmburch asked for a Closed Session after the regularly scheduled meeting for the discussion of
107 two items [10-508(a)(8)] for Closed Session regarding litigation.

108
109 **MS. NANCY ADAMS, HUMAN RESOURCES TO DISCUSS PROPOSED CHANGES**
110 **REGARDING THE COMPENSATORY TIME OFF PLAN**

111
112 Ms. Adams was present to present to the Council a proposal regarding compensatory time off plan for
113 employees.

114
115 Ms. Adams stated that the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act has a cap for compensatory time off plan
116 which is 480 hours for Public Safety employees and 240 hours for civilians. Ms. Adams proposed lowering
117 the maximum balance to 100 hour limit.

118
119 She stated that we currently have one employee with 300 – 399 hours, eight personnel at 200-299 hours,
120 sixteen employees 101-199 hours.

121
122 President Ford asked that this subject be tabled to receive comments from employees at the next meeting.

123
124 President Ford stated that this would be acted on at next meeting.

125
126 **PUBLIC HEARING TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON**
127 **PROPOSED PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION FUNDING MECHANISM WHICH WILL**
128 **IDENTIFY A REVENUE-NEUTRAL MEANS TO MAINTAIN CURRENT SUPPORT PROVIDED**
129 **BY THE TOWN OF EASTON AND EASTON UTILITIES FOR PUBLIC ACCESS**
130 **PROGRAMMING. AS PROPOSED, THE EASTON CABLE BILL WILL INCREASE BY \$.32**
131 **PER SUBSCRIBER PER MONTH TO PARTIALLY FUND PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION**
132

133 At 7:30 p.m., President Ford opened the Public Hearing to provide the public an opportunity to comment
134 on proposed public access television funding mechanism to partially fund public access television.

135
136 Mrs. Cook recused herself due to a possible conflict.

137
138 Mr. Wendowski stated that the costs will be shifted to 80% of the subscribers. He stated that there should
139 be a sunset clause where he does not want to see it continued. Mr. Wendowski asked that this be reviewed
140 annually.

141
142 Mr. Wendowski stated that Easton Utilities gives MCTV broadband service which is approximately \$3,600
143 per month.

144
145 President Ford stated that this should be looked at like programming costs across the board.

146
147 Ms. Malone stated that she is very supportive for this to shift to a consumer driven entity.

148
149 President Ford opened the floor for public comments.

150
151 Mr. Al Bond, Executive Director Foundation, 40 E. Dover Street, stated that Avalon Foundation is in favor
152 of this shift.

153
154 Mr. Bond stated that the Town provided funding to MCTV through a grant source.

155
156 Mr. Bond discussed capital improvements and the inability to sunset the funding. He stated that he thinks it
157 is appropriate to charge customers for a service they are using.

158
159 Mr. Tom Hollingshead, 7081 Schoolhouse Lane, Cookes Hope, stated that he has been associated with
160 MCTV for approximately seven years. He stated that MCTV is totally community oriented. Mr.
161 Hollingshead stated that they are committed people running programming and they are on the road to
162 develop the station into broadcast media as the television station of Easton.

163
164 Mr. Hollingshead urged the council to vote to give Easton Cable the right to add \$.32 per month per
165 subscriber to fund public access television.

166
167 President Ford stated that he brought the proposal forward as he thinks public access is important in
168 programming and would be a real disservice to the community. He stated that \$.32 is a significantly small
169 amount of money compared to what MCTV provides.

170
171 President Ford discussed timing issues with legislation. He stated that the council can vote on the proposal
172 as early as July 6.

173
174 President Ford asked that the council conduct a straw vote tonight.

175
176 It was the Council's consensus to grant the funding mechanism for public access programming.

177
178 President Ford closed the public hearing at 7:58 p.m.

179
180 Mrs. Cook re-joined the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

181
182 Mr. Oxnam, Easton Utilities' Vice President of Operations discussed how the increase would occur in the
183 bills to their cable customers.

184
185 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$781,564.88**

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187 Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously invoices totaling
188 \$781,564.88 were approved for payment.

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191 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

192
193 Ms. Malone discussed the RTC Task Force meeting to be held June 23 at 5:00 p.m. at the town hall. She
194 stated that the meeting has changed and it is not a public meeting.

195
196 Ms. Malone suggested workshops this fall to update the Charter.

198 Mr. Leshar stated that he will be joining the Calvert Terrace Homeowner's Association for a meeting June
199 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center at Brookletts Avenue.

200 Mrs. Cook congratulated the Neighborhood Service Center for their recent fish dinner fundraiser.

201 President Ford stated that there are two scheduled public hearings at the next Council meeting. He
202 suggested that the staff be forth coming regarding their comments pertinent to the public hearings.

203 President Ford discussed the Comprehensive Plan recommendation for a 1% growth rate.

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208 **CLOSED SESSION**

209 At 8:06 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mr. Leshar and carried unanimously; President
210 Ford convened into Closed Session regarding litigation.

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213 **ADJOURN**

214 At 8:22 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook, President Ford adjourned the regularly
215 scheduled meeting.

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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk