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

March 21, 2011

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PRESENT AT CONVENING

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

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IN ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance were the Town Manager Mr. Robert F. Karge, Sr., the Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy Ruf.

CONVENING

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

Mrs. Cook opened the meeting with remarks and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 7 AND MARCH 14, 2011 MEETINGS.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, minutes of the March 7 and March 14, 2011 meetings were approved with an amendment as submitted by Mr. Leshner.

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.

Mayor Willey stated that the Town of Easton has received a grant in the amount of \$24,364 from the Maryland Clean Energy Center to put LED bulbs in the existing street lights.

Mayor Willey discussed the new sign at Station 66 that is part of Logan Prettyman's Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Mac Brittingham has resigned from the Historic District Commission. Mayor Willey asked the Council to advise of any prospective candidates for the Commission.

Mayor Willey congratulated Mr. Leshner on his new position as Vice President for Eastern Shore Association of Municipalities.

Ms. Malone asked for clarification regarding the lease for the RTC property and if it will be renewed annually. Mayor Willey stated that this year will be the last for the farming. He stated that the Town has entered into a five year lease for the parking lot.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

Mr. Karge advised that once a week garbage pickup with the automatic truck will expand for the Mecklenburg neighborhood, April 6.

Mr. Karge stated that a preliminary meeting took place this afternoon with property owners at Talbot Commerce Park to advise them that the Town intends to petition to the council to annex the current public works facility into the town limits.

Mrs. Gould, Director of Parks and Recreation has a partnership with Pickering Creek April 2 for a rails-to-trails cleanup from 9:00 a.m. until noon. He stated they will commence at the skate park and work northward.

President Ford asked about an ongoing investigation regarding noise and a survey for businesses about possible impacts for pickups/deliveries before 6 am. Mr. Karge stated that the staff has been in contact with businesses on Route 50 and discussed key drops. He stated that three businesses have reported that the possible ordinance would adversely impact their business.

President Ford stated that a public hearing may be scheduled for businesses to voice concerns.

President Ford stated that he would be interested to hear staff recommendations regarding if this ordinance should be town wide or only subject to the route 50 corridor.

69 Mr. Wendowski asked about parking permits for residents that live above stores in town.

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71 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

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73 President Ford asked how soon the parking recommendation would be sent to the council.

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75 Mr. Karge stated hopefully it will be available at the next meeting

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77 President Ford asked if legislation will be forwarded to review that will facilitate the Chesapeake Film Festival.

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79 The Town Attorney stated that she will reduce the Waterfowl Festival ordinance to reflect the needs of the
80 Chesapeake Film Festival and will forward to the Council for review before the event in September.

81
82 The Town Attorney stated that they are making tweaks to the hospital's Development Rights and
83 Responsibilities agreement. She stated that she will update the council soon pending the outcome of the
84 county's traffic study.

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86 **PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION FOR ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH.**

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88 Mr. Gary Pearce, Executive Director, Talbot Partnership was present to receive the Proclamation for Alcohol
89 Awareness Month presented by Councilmember Malone.

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91 Ms. Malone thanked Mr. Pearce for the important work Talbot Partnership does in the community.

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93 **RESOLUTION NO. 5974 FY2010/2011 BUDGET TRANSFER.**

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95 Mr. Karge discussed the reason for the budget transfer.

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97 Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 5974 was
98 approved.

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100 Mr. Wendowski asked for a copy of the lease with Talbot County School Board for the RTC park parking lot.

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102 **LETTER FROM MR. TIM KAGAN, PRESIDENT EASTON ROTARY CLUB REQUESTING**
103 **CONSIDERATION FOR GATEWAY SIGNAGE WITH MAJOR CIVIC ORGANIZATION**
104 **EMBLEMS.**

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106 Mr. Karge stated that verbiage needs to be constructed on what constitutes a civic organization.

107
108 President Ford stated that he would appreciate advice from staff regarding parameters.

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110 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$544,317.40.**

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112 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, invoices totaling
113 \$544,317.40 were approved for payment.

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15 **ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

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17 Mrs. Libby Dawkins, 11 Thoroughgood Lane, questioned why the town would spend money building a parking
18 lot on county property that the town does not own.

19
20 Mrs. Dawkins asked that funds from town property taxes be used for road repairs on West Earle Avenue which
21 she states, is in deplorable condition. She stated that there is also a section on North Thoroughgood Lane which
22 is also in need of repairs.

23
24 Mayor Willey discussed scheduled updates on roads in town and street rebuilds.

25
26 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:**

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28 Ms. Malone discussed priorities and the need for open space for children to play and stated that she is thankful
29 for the Board of Education's collaborative work. She stated that she attended the Eastern Shore Land
30 Conservancy Conference recently at the Tidewater Inn. Ms. Malone stated that there will be a neighborhood
31 meeting March 24; 7:00 pm at Presbyterian Church.

33 Mr. Wendowski updated on repairs to Dutchman's Lane. He stated that the money is there for the repairs and
34 work will commence May or June with no loss of trees along Dutchman's Lane. He stated that they will not bury
35 wires.

36 Mrs. Cook stated that the East End Neighborhood Association cleanup will occur April 9 with everyone meeting
37 at the garden.

38
39 President Ford reminded everyone of the April 11 and 12 budget workshops with the public hearing scheduled to
40 occur April 18.

41
42 **ADJOURN**

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44 At 8:02 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously; President Ford
45 adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

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48 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk
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