

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

September 19, 2011

PRESENT AT CONVENING

Mayor Robert C. Willey
Council President John Ford
Councilmember Kelley K. Malone

Councilmember Pete Leshner
Councilmember Leonard E. Wendowski, Sr.
Councilmember Megan M. Cook

IN ATTENDANCE

Also in attendance were the Town Manager Mr. Robert F. Karge, Sr., the Town Attorney Ms. 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 SEPTEMBER 6, 2011 MEETING.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, minutes for the September 6, 2011 meetings were approved as prepared.

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY

Mayor Willey extended an invitation from the YMCA to the Chesapeake Family Adventure Dash on October 1.

Mayor Willey is in receipt of a letter from Ms. Myra Goldgeier, Pinehurst Circle Easton who requests a crosswalk with signals at the intersection of Route 322 and Oxford Road.

Mayor Willey extended condolences to family and friends of William Robert Coleman, a long time employee of the Town of Easton employee who recently passed.

Mayor Willey stated that sidewalk construction has commenced on the south side of Marlboro Road. He stated that additional crosswalks on Route 50 near Dutchman's Lane, Goldsborough Street and Dover Street are being considered.

Mayor Willey stated that he is still in need of a volunteer for the Historic District Commission.

Mayor Willey discussed a visit to Saints Peter and Paul School for a youth rally. He commended the youth of Talbot County and introduced a participant; Nicholas Underwood.

NICHOLAS UNDERWOOD PRESENTS PETITION TO COUNCIL TO REMOVE R WORD FROM SOCIETY

Nicholas Underwood was present to discuss the medical term retarded and how it is used in society. He discussed his sister's diagnosis and challenges which have occurred since 2005.

Nicholas discussed Special Olympics which have enabled his sister Leah's success.

Nicholas distributed a petition to the Council and staff for their support to remove the "R" word (retarded) from society due to the offensiveness and impact.

The Council signed the petition supporting Nicholas' campaign.

ITEMS BY TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Karge discussed Mr. Robert Coleman's recent passing and his long term dedication and efforts for the Town of Easton. He sent out condolences to his family from the staff.

Mr. Karge updated on the Public Works cleanup progress of Hurricane Irene. He stated that the Public Works Department has picked up in excess of 250 tons of storm debris.

The next neighborhood to be implemented with tipper can collection will be Easton Club East with an anticipated start date of November 8.

Mr. Karge stated that the Public Works Department is making progress on the installation of sidewalks on Marlboro Road.

The RTC parking lot project has been pushed back from the scheduled completion date.

Mr. Karge stated that progress is being made on the sidewalks on Marlboro Road.

Mr. Karge asked for approval for the following Public Assembly Permit request:

- ❖ Chesapeake Film Festival parade
 - South St. and Hanson St. west to South St. and Washington St. north to Washington St. and Dover St. to the Avalon
 - Date: 9/24/11 - 1530 to 1600 hrs.
 - Attendance: approx. 50
 - Purpose: Celebrate a film "Band Together"
 - Special Requests: Temporary street closure and traffic control
 - Recommendation: Council discretion. This will require schedule changes and overtime.

Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, the Chesapeake Film Festival Parade was approved.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.

Ms. VanEmburch discussed the State mandated Ethics provision. She stated that she has requested an exemption from the state. State Ethics Commission will be reviewing in the next couple months.

Ms. VanEmburch discussed the street name change in Chapel Farms. She stated she has spoken with Town Planner Mr. Thomas about the name change should Laurel Street be connected.

SCOTTI OLIVER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TALBOT COUNTY FREE LIBRARY TO UPDATE COUNCIL ON LIBRARY RENOVATION PROGRESS.

Robert Horvath, Director Talbot County Library was present to discuss the progress on the renovation of the Talbot County Free Library.

Mr. Horvath stated that the intent is to move back into the facility in January 2012.

RESOLUTION NO. 5983, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE PUBLIC STREET KNOWN AS BEECHWOOD DRIVE LOCATED IN THE EASTON CLUB EAST NEIGHBORHOOD TO SETH DRIVE."

Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 5983 was approved following a roll call vote.

REQUEST FROM HARRY D. SLAUGHTER, III; FINANCE MANAGER HABITAT FOR HUMANITY REQUESTING ABATEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES.

Mr. Karge discussed the History of Maryland HB 42 and the council's ability to abate real property taxes.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, the request for abatement of real property taxes for Habitat was approved.

REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$1,252,089.39.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, invoices totaling \$1,252,089.39 were approved for payment.

ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Ms. Malone reminded those present that St. Aubins will be having their block party on September 24.

Mr. Wendowski discussed attending the Economic Symposium at the Tidewater Inn.

Mr. Wendowski stated that there is defense contract work occurring at MEBA.

Mayor Willey stated that there is a business that participated in the Economic Symposium reception that is looking for approximately 12,000 square feet of space.

Mr. Ford reminded the Council that there is an Impact Fee workshop scheduled for Monday September 26 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk