

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

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January 18, 2012

**PRESENT AT CONVENING**

7 Mayor Robert C. Willey  
8 Council President John Ford  
9 Councilmember Kelley K. Malone  
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11 Councilmember Pete Leshner  
12 Councilmember Leonard E. Wendowski, Sr.  
13 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 Ms. VanEmburch, Superintendent of Public Works Michael Dickerson, Town Planner Mr. Lynn Thomas, Chief of Police David Spencer and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy Ruf.

**CONVENING**

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

**OPENING REMARKS BY MRS. COOK AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Ms. Malone opened the meeting with remarks and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 3, 2012 MEETING.**

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, minutes of the January 3, 2012 meetings were approved as prepared.

**ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.**

Mayor Willey stated it is not too early to start thinking about the budget. He stated that he will forward an e-mail to the department heads.

Mayor Willey stated that Governor O'Malley released Maryland's budget this morning.

Mayor Willey exited the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

**ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

Mr. Karge stated that leaf collection will continue until the end of January.

**ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

Ms. VanEmburch discussed LED signs. She stated that Planning & Zoning Commission will review the LED sign provision in the Zoning Ordinance tomorrow and report back to the Council their recommendation. The Town Attorney stated that an ordinance should be before the Council the first meeting in February or March.

**MR. TERRY WRIGHT, STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR DISTRICT ENGINEER TO DISCUSS RT. 322 STUDY, PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK AND IMPROVEMENTS.**

Mr. Wright was present and thanked the council for their partnership with the crosswalk at Route 322. Mr. Wright introduced Mr. Jeff Wentz, Mr. Henry Deets, Mr. Charlie Coppage, Mr. Gee Williams and Ms. Jessica Lamberson.

Mr. Wentz presented a slide presentation regarding speed and how limits are determined.

President Ford asked Mr. Wentz about re-evaluating the situation and reporting again to the public and Council.

Mr. Leshner discussed Plan Maryland. Discussion occurred regarding modification of signals, and signals to create a walkable community.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 589, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING ARTICLES II AND III OF CHAPTER 11 PERTAINING TO GARBAGE REFUSE, AND RECYCLING AND REFUSE AND RECYCLING DISPOSAL CHARGES.**

At 7:33 p.m., President Ford opened the Public Hearing.

President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 589 for a first reading.

Mr. Karge stated that recycling has been discussed for more than 20 years. He discussed the estimated cost to the residents. Mr. Karge explained that the cost will not be determined until bids are received from vendors.

President Ford opened the floor for public comments.

Mr. Ryan Ewing, 304 Elm Avenue commended the council on a great ordinance. He stated that he as well as Recycle Talbot is very supportive and in favor of curbside recycling. Mr. Ewing applauded the council and staff for their efforts.

Mr. George E. Mayer, 637 Goldsborough Street read a letter into the record from neighbor Dixie Caulk, 717 Howard Street regarding the difficult of elderly residents having to place cans and recycle receptacles on the curbside. Ms. Caulk asked to be given the option whether to recycle. Mr. Mayer stated that for years he has been a recycler. Mr. Mayer stated that there should be options for those that already do recycling.

Mr. Herman Espenhorst, 406 Arbor Place stated that he wondered what took the Town of Easton so long to get into recycling. He stated that he thinks there is a lot of fine tuning to be done. Mr. Espenhorst asked the council to keep going and stated that 20 years have been wasted.

Ms. Hilda Cannon, 405 Port Street stated that she is a widow on a fixed income. She stated that she has been at that location for 47 years. Ms. Cannon read a letter into the record from her landlord regarding rent. Ms. Cannon stated that she can barely make ends meet and shouldn't have to pay fines and be obligated to do mandatory recycling.

Mr. Hassan Wilson, 420 N. Washington Street, stated he is in support of the ordinance. He discussed the benefits of recycling. He stated that he is definitely willing to pay a fee. Mr. Wilson discussed the positive impacts of recycling on families.

Ms. Diane Welty, 28700 Hope Circle, stated that she is in favor of recycling. She asked the council what they intend to do about recycling in Cooke's Hope.

Mr. Karge advised that the proposal is for services for residents that currently have garbage service which Cooke's Hope does not.

Mr. Andrew Koslow, 118 Goldsborough Street; also a member of Choptank River Keeper commended the council for moving in this direction. He stated that he thinks curbside single stream is the best opportunity. Mr. Koslow offered his support.

Ms. Martha Suss, 131 S Harrison Street stated that she is really excited that the town has gotten to this point. She stated that there are great benefits to recycling.

Ms. Sarah Brophy, 216 South Street stated she is in favor of recycling.

Mr. David Valliant, landlord that owns property in Easton questioned if each unit would be given a receptacle or have a centralized location.

Mr. Michael Dickerson, Superintendent of Public Works stated that it would be more in line of the size of a dumpster but will be set up a little differently.

Mr. Steve Wheeler, landlord in Easton stated he shares some of Mr. Valliant's concerns. He stated there are three concerns the landlords have: 1) savings then why a fee; 2) \$75 proposed fee can be adjusted; 3) policing agent for mandatory recycling and fees that are given to the landlords. Mr. Wheeler asked the Council to look at costs and who will be billed for recycling.

Mr. David Hopwood, 219 S. Harrison Street stated that he does a lot of recycling. He stated that the stations are successful. Mr. Hopwood asked the council if they have looked at other options such as expanding stations. He stated that everyone is for recycling but he wants personal accountability not mandatory participation; voluntary recycling.

Mr. Steve Hershey, not a resident of the town but lives in Talbot County and is also an Easton landlord. He stated that he has affordable and workforce housing that is clean, safe and well maintained in places people want to live in. Mr. Hershey discussed fines related to his tenants. He stated that the costs will be passed along to his tenants; the people that can least afford it. He is an advocate for recycling spots. Mr. Hershey discussed costs rising and enforcement issues.

Mr. Pete Howell, 311 S. Aurora Street, commended Easton electeds for moving forward. He stated that the recycling ordinance will require fine tuning. He expressed his agreement with Mrs. Brophy that Easton elected leaders are to be commended for moving forward on the recycling initiative. He stated that the ordinance will require fine tuning over time. Mr. Howell addressed the claim of financial hardship of people living on fixed on incomes.

Mrs. Jane Bollman, 221 S Hanson Street stated that she is fully in support of curbside recycling. She stated that there are a lot of people that will not go to igloos. She asked the council to proceed with this.

Ms. Jennifer Dindinger, 363 Glebe Road stated she is present in support of curbside recycling. She stated she is in favor of igloos as well. Ms. Dindinger encourages fencing and asked for a cardboard recycling container at the igloo center.

Mr. Dave Thompson, Bozman, owns property here and has practiced law in Easton for over 30 years. Mr. Thompson asked the Council to fine tune the ordinance to help reduce fees. One of the provisions of the ordinance says that it shall be unlawful for any person, firm, business or company not authorized by the town to collect recyclable materials from single family dwellings or multi-family housing. Mr. Thompson respectfully submitted that the council consider deleting that provision from the ordinance as there are benefits to competition. He thinks competition in providing this service should be encouraged as opposed to creating a monopoly which may create legal issues.

Mr. Ken Court, 213 Brookletts Avenue, stated he is fully in favor of the ordinance. Mr. Court asked that details regarding how to deal with paper versus the cans and bottles should be worked out.

Mr. David Ewing, 926 Chapel Road, owns properties in Easton. He stated that one size does not fit all. He discussed fixed incomes and single mothers. He stated that everyone is in favor of recycling. Mr. Ewing asked the council to consider how much landlords can tolerate. He asked for more igloos. Mr. Ewing stated that mandatory is not necessary.

Mr. Walter Johnson, 308 Spring Drive stated that he is in favor of recycling.

Ms. Lisa Marvel, owns properties in Easton. She stated that she would be interested in getting prices from vendors. Ms. Marvel stated that there are a lot of restaurants in Easton and they should be considered for recycling.

Ms. Libby Dawkins, 11 N Thorogood Lane, discussed the impacts of recycling on the town.

Mr. Dave Douglass, owns rental property and Wishing Well Liquors, stated that he is for recycling but has a few concerns. He discussed commercial property that has an abundance of recyclables. Mr. Douglass asked the council to give more thought on how issues will be dealt with especially multi-unit properties.

Ms. Joan Johnson, 306 W Oak Avenue stated she is an avid recycler. She discussed recycling efforts already in place at the Avalon Theatre. Ms. Johnson asked that businesses be included in the plan.

Mr. Steve Hershey discussed construction sites being robbed especially of copper. He stated he has a concern regarding what will keep items from being rummaged through.

Ms. Maria Douglass, landlord suggested contacting landlords to discuss how to make recycling work for everyone.

Mr. David Ewing asked how the material will be categorized.

Ms. Libby Dawkins, 11 N Thorogood Lane, asked the council to work their way through the problems and just get it done.

President Ford stated that he will leave the public record open and stated that he needs staff reaction to the comments.

At 8:56 p.m., President Ford recessed the meeting.

At 9:00 p.m., President Ford called the meeting back to order.

**ORDINANCE NO. 594, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON ESTABLISHING A REHABILITATION ZONE IN THE TOWN OF EASTON AND PROVIDING FOR TAX CREDITS AND FEE WAIVERS FOR REHABILITATION PROJECTS WITHIN THE REHABILITATION ZONE."**

President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 594 for a first reading. He stated that this is targeted for the Joint Opportunity Initiative.

Mr. Leshar stated that he is willing to give this a try. He stated that he was not in favor of opting out of the Historic District Guidelines.

Mr. Wendowski stated that he does not want to make the landlords adhere to standards that may put a burden on them that eventually will be passed on to tenants.

Ms. Malone stated that she does support moving forward.

**ORDINANCE NO. 595, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON GRANTING THE APPLICATION OF HH LAND, LLC FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE EXISTING PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT KNOWN AS "LOCUST COMMONS" UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE EASTON ZONING ORDINANCE."**

President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 595 for a first reading.

Ms. VanEmburch discussed Home Owners documents that will be provided to buyers of properties.

Mr. Milburn was present at the Council meeting earlier and stated to the Town Attorney that he supports the ordinance as worded.

Mrs. Cook asked about language regarding prohibiting parking on one side of the street only.

Ms. Malone requested that a reserve study be done to better assess the costs incurred by the homeowners association for road maintenance, etc.

Mr. Ford stated that he would support the legislation as drafted.

It was the consensus of the council to modify the ordinance.

**REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$508,336.94.**

Upon motion by Ms. Malone, seconded by Mr. Leshar and carried unanimously; invoices totaling \$508,336.94 were approved.

**ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Mrs. Cook discussed the Martin Luther King Basketball tournament and thanked everyone for their participation.

**ADJOURN**

Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting at 9:35 p.m.

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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk