

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

September 17, 2012

PRESENT AT CONVENING

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

Also present was Town Manager Mr. Robert Karge, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch, Town Planner Mr. Lynn Thomas and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.

OPENING REMARKS BY MS. MALONE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

Ms. Malone led the audience in opening remarks and the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2012 MEETINGS.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, minutes of the September 4, 2012 meeting were approved as prepared.

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.

Mayor Willey discussed forming a task force consisting of volunteers for discussion and review of LED signs. He asked the council to consider Al Silverstein, John Hurt, Steve Shearer, Patrick Fitzgerald, Zach Smith, John Sener, Megan Cook and possibly one additional person.

It was the council's consensus to approve the Mayor's task force committee.

Mayor Willey announced that there will be a Veteran's Service Nov. 12 at 7:00 PM at the Easton High School Auditorium. The NJROTC, VFW, American Legion and the Town of Easton will be sponsoring a Veteran's Day Ceremony with Major General James Adkins as the keynote speaker.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

Mr. Karge advised that the State of Maryland has relaxed normal requirements for mosquito spray. He stated that the town will cruise out twice a week to spray for mosquitos. He discussed conditions where the crews are prohibited from spraying.

Chief Spencer forwarded a request from Eastern Shore Land Conservancy for curbside No Parking request across from the courthouse on Friday September 21 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. for a Park(ing) Day to temporarily create an urban park out of the box. Mr. Karge advised that there was no recommendation from Chief Spencer. He stated that the No Parking may generate comments from adjoining businesses in the vicinity.

Mr. Wendowski suggested hearing from the business community.

Ms. Malone stated she is a fan of ESLC and a proponent of parks but this year may not be the right time to use parking spaces for a park.

Mr. Leshner is supportive of the concept with notification to the businesses.

Mr. Al Silverstein, President Talbot County Chamber of Commerce, discussed the impact to business of losing parking spaces and stated that there is a park nearby.

Ms. Sarah Abel, Director for Center of Towns, stated that they are flexible for alternative parking space. She stated that the event is typically held in parallel parking space.

Mr. Karge suggested a space in front of the Town office.

Upon motion by Ms. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, a space in front of the Town Hall was approved for the temporary park as requested by Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. The designation of the space is to be determined by the staff.

1 Mr. Karge stated that bids have been received for the automated waste truck. He stated that the lowest two bids
2 did not meet specifications.

3
4 Mr. Karge recommended approval of the bid by Elliott Wilson Trucks in the amount of \$228,540.

5
6 Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski, seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, the bid in the amount of
7 \$228,540 from Elliott Wilson Trucks was approved.

8
9 Mr. Karge discussed the capital repairs necessary at the Avalon Theatre. He asked for permission to re-bid the
0 scope of work with an alternate.

1
2 Mr. Karge stated that bids for Goldsborough Street repairs between Aurora and Harrison have been received.
3 The Town of Easton solicited bids to rebuild the road from the base. The engineer's estimate was for \$340,000
4 and the low bid was from Bramble in the amount of \$ 262,335.

5
6 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried, the bid from Bramble was approved as
7 recommended by staff.

8
9 MDE has requested a meeting to discuss a management plan for the airport tree project.

0
1 Mr. Karge discussed recent significant rainfall. He stated that there were reports of measured rainfall in the
2 amount of ten inches in a six hour period which under any circumstances could prevent problems.

3
4 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

5
6 Ms. VanEmburch stated that she is working with the applicant regarding the PUD amendment. She stated that
7 Planning & Zoning has a meeting on Thursday regarding the architecture.

8
9 **SHORE HEALTH SYSTEM PRESIDENT & CEO MR. KEN KOZEL, VP OF CORPORATE**
0 **COMMUNICATIONS MS. PATTI WILLIS AND DIRECTOR OF MARKETING MR. MIKE SILGEN**
1 **TO UPDATE ON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER.**

2
3 Mr. Ken Kozel was present and discussed filing the Certificate of Need. He thanked the staff and the Town
4 Attorney for the support.

5
6 Mr. Kozel discussed the location of the new medical facility and stated that it will be north of town limits off of
7 route 662 near Talbot County Community Center. The hospital will have 166 beds and 32 treatment units and
8 will cost approximately \$240 million to construct. Mr. Kozel discussed a capital campaign and a ground
9 breaking late spring as well as financing. He stated that they hope to occupy the facility in 29 months.

0
1 Mr. Kozel stated that there will be a Task Force formed to research options for the redevelopment of campus on
2 Washington Street. Mr. Wendowski suggested a nursing school or a veteran's hospital.

3
4 **EASTERN SHORE LAND CONSERVANCY'S CENTER FOR TOWNS TO PRESENT THE EASTON**
5 **POINT SCHEMATIC DESIGN PLAN.**

6
7 Ms. Sarah Abel was present to discuss the schematic design for the Easton Point Project.

8
9 Town Attorney stated that the design plan should go to the appropriate agencies. She stated that a resolution is
0 premature until it has been reviewed.

1
2 President Ford remanded the schematic design plan to Planning and Zoning and the Park Board for review and
3 recommendation.

4
5 **RESOLUTION NO. 6007, "A RESOLUTION OF THE EASTON TOWN COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF**
6 **THE PROPOSED EASTON POINT PROJECT; TO ENACT MOVING FORWARD ON THE**
7 **PROPOSED ELEVEN (11) ACRE PARK DESIGN TO ELEVATE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR**
8 **EASTON RESIDENTS."**

9
0 President Ford tabled Resolution No. 6007.

1
2 **ORDINANCE NO. 614 WHICH PROPOSES AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN'S ZONING**
3 **ORDINANCE WHICH WOULD AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE BY REVISING THE WAY IN**
4 **WHICH ELECTRONIC OR LED SIGNS ARE REGULATED.**

5
6 At 7:53 pm, President Ford opened the Public Hearing.

7

8 Mr. Thomas discussed the history of the ordinances.

9
0 The Town Attorney discussed the process. She stated that they have been introduced and are eligible for a vote.

1
2 At 7:56 p.m., President Ford closed the public hearing which would amend the Town's Zoning Ordinance.

3
4 **ORDINANCE NO. 613, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON ADOPTING A**
5 **TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE APPLICATION FOR, APPROVAL OF, CONSTRUCTION**
6 **OF, EXPANSION OF, PROCESSING OF, OR ISSUANCE OF BUILDING PERMITS FOR**
7 **ELECTRONIC SIGNS WITHIN THE TOWN OF EASTON FOR A PERIOD OF SIX (6) MONTHS**
8 **PENDING CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF REVISED ZONING ORDINANCE**
9 **PROVISIONS AS THE TOWN COUNCIL MAY CONSIDER ADVISABLE TO PROMOTE THE**
0 **PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE."**

1
2 Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 613 was
3 passed following a roll call vote.

4
5 **ORDINANCE NO. 614, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE TOWN**
6 **OF EASTON ZONING ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE THAT EXISTING ELECTRONIC SIGNS MAY**
7 **CONTINUE TO OPERATE FOR THE DURATION OF A MORATORIUM ENACTED TO FURTHER**
8 **REGULATE AND POSSIBLY PROHIBIT ANY NEW SUCH SIGNS AND AMENDING THE HOLD**
9 **TIME THAT IS APPLICABLE TO THE EXISTING SIGNS AND ESTABLISHING**
0 **GRANDFATHERING FROM SOME OF THE APPLICABLE PROVISIONS."**

1
2 Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 614 was
3 passed following a roll call vote.

4
5 Mayor Willey asked the council for consideration for the confirmation of Al Silverstein, John Hurt, Steve
6 Shearer, Patrick Fitzgerald, Zach Smith, John Sener, Megan Cook and one vacant appointment for the task force
7 to study LED signs.

8
9 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried the former confirmation of the LED Task
0 Force was approved.

1
2 **PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS RESOLUTION 6005 WHICH PROPOSES TO REPEAL AND**
3 **REENACT WITH AMENDMENTS, THE ENTIRE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF EASTON.**

4
5 At 7:59 p.m., President Ford opened the public hearing on Resolution No. 6005 which proposes to repeal and
6 reenact the Charter of the Town of Easton.

7
8 Ms. VanEmburch, the Town attorney discussed the proposed changes.

9
0 Mr. Wendowski discussed changes in the Charter regarding Easton Utilities.

1
2 Mr. Grunden, President & CEO discussed investments and hedging.

3
4 There being no further comments, President Ford stated that the record would be left open until close of
5 business Friday for written comments.

6
7 At 8:14 p.m., President Ford closed the public hearing.

8
9 **RESOLUTION NO. 6005, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON REPEALING AND**
0 **REENACTING WITH AMENDMENTS THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF EASTON."**

1
2 President Ford introduced Resolution No. 6005 for a first reading.

3
4 **ORD. 615, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE EASTON TOWN**
5 **CODE BY ADDING AN ARTICLE X. TITLED ELECTIONS TO SAID EASTON TOWN CODE."**

6
7 President Ford introduced Ordinance No. 615 for a first reading.

8
9 **RESOLUTION NO. 6008 AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE OFFICER TO ABATE HABITAT FOR**
0 **HUMANITY'S 2012-13 PROPERTY TAXES PURSUANT TO HB42.**

1
2 Mr. Karge discussed the history of the requested abatement. He stated that this action is requested and approved
3 on an annual basis.

4

5 Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski and seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6008
6 was approved following a roll call vote.

7
8 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$1,430,426.07.**

9
0 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, invoices totaling \$1,430,426.07
1 were approved for payment.

2
ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

There were no comments from the Council.

Mayor Willey stated that he has a scheduled meeting with downtown business owners Friday 8:00 a.m.
September 21.

ADJOURN

At 8:17 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, President Ford
adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk