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

June 17, 2013

**PRESENT AT CONVENING**

Mayor Robert C. Willey  
Council President John Ford  
Councilmember Megan M. Cook  
Councilmember Leonard E. Wendowski, Sr.  
Councilmember Kelley K. Malone  
Councilmember Pete Leshner

Also present was Town Manager Mr. Robert Karge, Assistant Town Attorney Mr. Patrick Fitzgerald, and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy Ruf.

**OPENING REMARKS BY MR. WENDOWSKI AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Mr. Wendowski gave opening remarks and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 3, 2013 MEETING.**

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried with Mr. Wendowski abstaining, minutes of the June 3, 2013 meeting were approved as written.

**ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.**

Mayor Willey stated that work has started on the Dover and Harrison Street intersection.

Mayor Willey stated that for informational purposes, he advised the council that the proposed Rotary sign on Route 50 is on hold due to a stalemate reached with the State Highway Administration.

Mayor Willey discussed a recent meeting with Department of Housing and Community Development and the Attorney General's staff regarding rental housing inspection regulations. He stated that the state has submitted proposals for review. He stated that these are National codes that are being enforced. Mayor Willey stated that he has been advised that certain concessions can be made. The Town Attorney has been asked to draft an ordinance for consideration. Mayor Willey stated that the inspectors have been asked to continue inspections with no enforcements.

**CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO TALBOT TOURISM BOARD.**

Mayor Willey asked for the Council's consideration for the appointment of Mr. Jeff Schneider to the Talbot County Tourism Board.

Mr. Leshner moved for confirmation, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously.

**EASTON POLICE DEPARTMENT GRADUATION**

Mayor Willey said he recently attended the Police Academy Graduation where two officers graduated with honors for Easton.

The Economic Development Department is working on fulfilling the remainder of the appointments for their Board of Directors.

Ms. Malone asked if the council will be privy to their minutes. Mayor Willey stated that their meeting minutes will be distributed to the Mayor and Council.

The Assistant Town Attorney discussed the Economic Development Corporation and stated that they are not subject to the Opens Meeting Act. President Ford stated that he was sure that the Economic Development Corporation will be distributing minutes to the council.

Assistant Town Attorney Fitzgerald stated that the bylaws for the Economic Development Corporation do include reports for to the town.

**PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION TO THE EASTON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1963.**

Mayor Willey presented a Proclamation to the Easton High School Class of 1963 for the 50<sup>th</sup> Year Class Reunion.

70  
71 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**  
72

73 Mr. Karge discussed Operation Open Arms and the Town's participation. He stated it was an honor Friday  
74 afternoon to meet the Marines and present a proclamation on behalf of Mayor Willey and the Town of Easton.  
75

76 Mr. Karge stated that the RTC Grand Opening Ceremony is tentatively scheduled for July 11 at 10:00 a.m.  
77 He stated that the Little League District 6 Regional Championship will be held in Easton June 26 thru July 3.  
78

79 Mr. Karge advised that the annual maintenance paving throughout the town has been completed.  
80

81 Mr. Karge stated that with the Dover and Harrison Street project, there will be some closures but the bulk of the  
82 work will be completed prior to the Plein Air Festival.  
83

84 Mr. Karge stated that a request had been received to make alley way Elk Lane one way. He advised that he had  
85 received unanimous comments from the staff that the request should not be granted.  
86

87 Mr. Karge asked for approval for a Public Assembly Permit which includes a community parade for Elks Day  
88 June 30, 2013 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. with special request for no parking and street closures for the entire route. He stated  
89 that Easton Police Department has recommended that the portion of Washington Street included in the parade  
90 route be moved to go to West Street due to the traffic impacts.  
91

92 President Ford stated that if the south end of Washington Street is not blocked, the original route request should be  
93 honored. If Washington Street is still blocked, the route would need to be altered to not include Washington Street.  
94

95 Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously; the Public Assembly Permit and  
96 community parade was approved.  
97

98 **FARMERS MARKET**  
99

00 First Sgt. Thomas discussed the history of the Farmer's Market and what has previously been approved. She stated  
01 that the pedestrian crosswalks are generally not used. Although there have been no vehicular accidents yet, there  
02 are concerns with the traffic. First Sgt. Thomas recommended moving the Farmer's Market to Brewer's Lane.  
03

04 Mr. Wendowski suggesting moving the Farmer's Market to Brewer's Lane on Wednesday then maybe moving  
05 Saturday's Farmers Market next year.  
06

07 Ms. Carolyn Jaffe, Project Manager for Easton Farmer's Market discussed changing the time for Wednesday. She  
08 discussed the negative aspects of moving to Brewer's Lane.  
09

10 President Ford stated that he supports the requested time change this year.  
11

12 First Sgt. Thomas stated that if there is a change in time, the location should be moved to Brewer's Lane.  
13

14 Ms. Carolyn Jaffe stated that the Farmer's Market will go with the morning time in order to keep the location as is.  
15

16 **RESOLUTION NO. 6019 DESIGNATING THE TOWN OF EASTON AS A SUSTAINABLE**  
17 **COMMUNITY.**  
18

19 Mr. Thomas discussed the designation process.  
20

21 Upon motion by Leshar seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6019 was approved.  
22

23 **7:15 PM PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ORDINANCE NUMBER 626 WHICH PROPOSES TO**  
24 **REPEAL AND REENACT THE TOWN'S FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE.**  
25

26 At 7:50 p.m., President Ford opened the public hearing to discuss the Floodplain Ordinance.  
27

28 Mr. Thomas discussed the Floodplain Management Ordinance. He stated that the ordinance is basically a state  
29 model with administrative changes and updates to floodplain maps. Mr. Thomas stated that there has been an  
30 extensive public outreach process throughout Talbot County and the state of Maryland.  
31

32 Mr. Thomas stated that he will see that a link is placed on the town's website so property owners can determine if  
33 they are in the floodplain.  
34

35 President Ford opened the public hearing to the public. There were no comments.  
36

37 At 8:05 p.m., President Ford closed the public hearing. He stated that written comments will be accepted until  
38 close of business Friday.

39  
40 **ORDINANCE NO. 626, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON REPEALING AND RE-**  
41 **ENACTING THE TOWN OF EASTON FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE, THE SAME**  
42 **BEING CHAPTER 9A OF THE EASTON TOWN CODE."**  
43

44 President Ford brought Ordinance No. 626 to the floor for a first reading.  
45

46 **LETTER FROM MR. BRUCE BERRIER, BERRIER LTD. REQUESTING PERMISSION TO PLACE**  
47 **TENT IN PARKING LOT FOR JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> MERCHANTS SALE.**  
48

49 Mr. Karge advised that there are no concerns from staff. He advised that the Town will probably need to take a  
50 look at a prohibition against tents for events which are secured into the parking lot asphalt or into tree wells with  
51 large pegs due to their damaging affect on Town property.  
52

53 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously; the request was approved.  
54

55 **LETTER FROM MS. HARRIET E. PAGE REQUESTING THE CONSIDERATION OF A PET WASTE**  
56 **ORDINANCE.**  
57

58 President Ford brought a letter to the floor from Ms. Harriet Page regarding the possibility of a pet waste  
59 ordinance.  
60

61 President Ford suggested having the town attorney make a recommendation and look into the possibility of an  
62 ordinance.  
63

64 Ms. Malone agreed that this needs to be addressed.  
65

66 Mr. Karge was asked to survey what other towns are doing.  
67

68 **RESOLUTION NO. 6017, THE BUDGET FOR FY 2013-2014.**  
69

70 President Ford discussed the financial challenges with this year's budget and the problems beyond the mayor and  
71 council's control such as the drop in property assessments.  
72

73 President Ford stated that the Fire Department's custodian position is not funded at this time. He discussed the  
74 uncertainty of the hospital project. President Ford discussed the proposed changes to the budget and suggested  
75 putting the approximately \$85,000 into the Mayor's contingency fund which would balance the budget. He stated  
76 that if the spending proves to be prudent, the council may reconsider the custodial position.  
77

78 Mayor Willey stated that we should not come up short this year and there may be a small surplus. He reiterated the  
79 need for custodian at the firehouse.  
80

81 Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried, Resolution No. 6017 was approved 4 to 1  
82 with Mrs. Cook voting no.  
83

84 **ORDINANCE NO. 625, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE RAISING BY TAXATION THE**  
85 **AMOUNT NECESSARY TO PAY THE ORDINARY EXPENSES OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AND TO**  
86 **PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON THE VARIOUS BOND ISSUES AND THE**  
87 **REDUCTION OF CERTAIN BONDS AND NOTES FOR THE PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS AND**  
88 **SETTING THE INTEREST AND PENALTY FOR DELINQUENT BILLS, COMMENCING ON JULY 1,**  
89 **2013 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2014."**  
90

91 Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 625 was  
92 approved.  
93

94 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$1,090,409.02.**  
95

96 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, the invoices as presented were  
97 approved for payment.  
98

99 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**  
00

01 Ms. Malone discussed the recent funerals she has attended and encouraged everyone to take care of one another.  
02

03 Mr. Wendowski asked for a job description for the custodians at the Fire Department.  
04

05 **ADJOURN**  
06

07 At 8:30 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, President Ford  
08 adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

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10  
11 \_\_\_\_\_  
12 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk