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4 **TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND**  
5 **Easton Town Hall**  
6 **14 S. Harrison Street**

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September 15, 2014

**PRESENT AT CONVENING**

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

Also present was the Town Manager Mr. Robert F. Karge, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch, Town Planner Mr. LynnThomas and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy Ruf.

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

Mrs. Cook gave opening remarks and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2 MEETING.**

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, minutes of the September 2, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

**INTRODUCTION OF DELEGATE ADELAIDE ECKARDT.**

Delegate Adelaide Eckardt was present and stated that she is trying to attend municipal meetings. She stated that she is looking forward to working with the Mayor and Council. Del. Eckardt stated that she wants to remain cognizant of the issues. She thanked the council for serving the citizens of Talbot County.

**ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.**

Mayor Willey stated that Dutchman's Lane work is continuing. He stated that there will be an update meeting October 8 at 5:00 at the Easton HS Cafeteria.

Mayor Willey discussed the SHA road show which will take place October 14 at 5:00 p.m. at the Talbot County Library.

Mayor Willey discussed upcoming events:

- o October 24, Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at the Tidewater Inn.
- o Nov 10, 7:00 p.m. Veteran's Ceremony at Easton Auditorium.

**CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION AND TREE BOARD.**

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, Ms. Natalie A. Costanzo and Ms. Ginna M. Tiernan were confirmed as members of the Tree Board.

Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, Mr. William Wieland's appointment on the Historic District Commission was confirmed.

**REQUESTS FROM COUNCILMEMBER WENDOWSKI.**

Mr. Wendowski asked for clarification regarding the three potential inquiries about Mistletoe Hall Farm. Mayor Willey stated they were the Food Hub, Easton Utilities and Easton Fire Department.

Mr. Wendowski stated he had two requests. He stated that constituents have asked for a light at the entrance at Oxford Road and a crosswalk for pedestrians that walk or bike into town near the YMCA.

Mr. Karge stated that the light request has been forwarded to SHA as the light is on a SHA maintained roadway.

**ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

**APPROVAL OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PERMITS.**

70  
71 Mr. Karge asked for approval for a Public Assembly Permit request for September 27, 11:00 – 4:00 pm for the  
72 Frederick Douglass Ceremony. He stated that the Police Department has recommended approval for the parade and  
73 ceremony.

74  
75 Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, approval was granted for the  
76 Public Assembly Permit.

77  
78 Mr. Karge stated he has received a request for abatement in the amount of \$388.96 from Talbot County for the  
79 parcel which is slated for future use of Easton Hospital. Mr. Karge requested approval.

80  
81 Upon motion by Ms. Malone, seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, approval was granted to abate the  
82 taxes in the amount of \$388.96.

83  
84 Mr. Wendowski discussed private landscapers taking advantage of town. He stated that yard work is being done  
85 and the contractors are leaving large bags of yard waste for town pickup.

86  
87 Mr. Karge stated that yard waste pick up is supposed to be waste generated by residents.

88  
89 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

90  
91 Ms. VanEmburch stated that she is working on the Talbot Commerce Park annexation. She stated that she will  
92 bring the resolution to the council.

93  
94 Ms. VanEmburch stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission will hear the Brant Court/Penguin Ventures  
95 application Thursday at 6:00 p.m. She stated that the meeting will be televised.

96  
97 **MR. JIM BENT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM TO DISCUSS RENOVATION PROGRAM.**

98  
99 Mr. Bent addressed the council regarding the Affordable Housing purchase program and the renovation program.

00  
01 Mr. Bent stated that Ashby Commons has townhomes for sale for qualified applicants for \$159,900; approximately  
02 \$950/month which includes escrows and taxes.

03  
04 Mr. Bent detailed the renovation program. He stated that at this time it is centered on the west side of town. He  
05 stated that three projects have been funded for homeowners and they are currently working on an additional three  
06 applications. Mr. Bent stated that the Town of Easton Affordable Housing Program has approximately \$100,000  
07 earmarked for that program. He stated that a meeting will be held tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. at the Union Baptist  
08 Church on Glenwood Avenue. Mr. Bent stated that applications would be available at that meeting or can be  
09 obtained at the Easton Town Office from Mrs. Rice. He stated that the Affordable Housing Program is promoting  
10 energy, safety and livability.

11  
12 **PRESENTATION BY TRACY WARD REGARDING EASTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
13 CORPORATION.**

14  
15 Ms. Tracy Ward updated on the Easton Economic Development Corporation.

16  
17 Mr. Doug Keeton, Vice Chair and Ms. Margaret McLemore, Secretary were also present. Mrs. Ward stated that  
18 they recently voted two new members on the Board.

19  
20 Ms. Ward reviewed the EDC's vision, mission and goals. She stated that she has been on board since April 15.

21  
22 Ms. Ward discussed the 3D printing demo at Talbot County Library Tuesday at 3:00.

23  
24 Ms. Ward stated that there has been interest in a hydroponic growing operation for lettuce in Talbot County.

25  
26 Ms. Ward stated that a small area master plan for Port Street will be developed and presented to the Town Council  
27 in the near future.

28  
29 **PRESENTATION BY JULIE CORSON REGARDING EASTON BUSINESS ALLIANCE.**

30  
31 Ms. Julie Corson updated on the organization of Easton Business Alliance. She discussed upcoming events and  
32 fundraisers.

33  
34 **CONSENSUS FOR DRAFT LEASE FOR MISTLETOE HALL FARM FOR PROPOSED FOOD HUB.**

35  
36 President Ford stated that a consensus for the food hub at Mistletoe Hall Farm will not be taken tonight.  
37

38 Mrs. VanEmburch updated on questions and concerns raised from the community regarding the Food Hub and the  
39 town's property. She stated that representatives from the Food Hub would like to meet to answer concerns and  
40 questions.

41  
42 Ms. VanEmburch stated that part of the process will involve a public hearing.

43  
44 Ms. Malone stated that she would like to have Talbot County weigh in on the concept.

45  
46 It was suggested that the council forward concerns to Tracy Ward.

47  
48 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$596,653.24.**

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50 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, invoices totaling \$596,653.24  
51 were reviewed for payment.

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53 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

54  
55 Ms. Malone stated that it was very nice to attend the Quality Health Strategies ribbon cutting event.

56  
57 Mr. Leshar stated that he wants to get back on the issue of sidewalk repair costs. He stated that his constituents want the  
58 town to take on more than 40% of the repairs.

59  
60 Mr. Wendowski discussed the town's budget.

61  
62 Mrs. Cook thanked the Easton Volunteer Fire Department and Mayor Willey for the fire truck dedication on September  
63 14.

64  
65 President Ford stated that Quality Health Strategies have constructed a beautiful building. He stated that he applauds  
66 them for expanding and staying in Easton.

67  
68 President Ford asked the council where they stand on the sidewalk issue.

69  
70 Mr. Karge discussed the current process of inspecting and repairing sidewalks.

71  
72 Mr. Ford stated that he feels the town should pay for non-cosmetic repairs to the sidewalks.

73  
74 Mr. Karge stated that it would be necessary to prioritize those non-necessary repairs.

75  
76 President Ford stated that there is nothing in the budget this year for additional repairs.

77  
78 Mr. Wendowski stated that the town is already \$200,000 over budget.

79  
80 Mr. Karge stated that a revision to the Code could be drafted for consideration.

81  
82 It was the consensus of the Council to amend the Town Code to state that the repairs would be paid 100% by the  
83 town.

84  
85 **ADJOURN.**

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87 At 8:22 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, President Ford  
88 adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

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92 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk  
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