

1 **TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND**
2 **Easton Town Hall**
3 **14 S. Harrison Street**
4

5 December 21, 2015
6

7 **PRESENT AT CONVENING**
8

9 Mayor Robert C. Willey 12 Councilmember Ron E. Engle
10 Council President John Ford 13 Councilmember Megan M. Cook
11 Councilmember Pete Leshner

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15 Mr. Silverstein was excused.
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17 **CALL TO ORDER.**
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19 At 7:00 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order.
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21 President Ford stated that a Closed Meeting had been held at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regularly
22 scheduled meeting to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters
23 directly related thereto (§ 3-305(b) (3)).
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25 **OPENING REMARKS BY MR. LESHER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**
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27 Mr. Leshner gave opening remarks and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
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29 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2015 MEETING.**
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31 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes of the
32 December 7, 2015 meeting were approved.
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34 **ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.**
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36 Mayor Willey stated that a luncheon meeting has been scheduled for December 28 with the
37 Eastern Shore Delegation. He stated he wanted to let the Delegation know of Easton's wishes
38 before the upcoming legislative session.
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40 **RE-APPOINTMENT CONFIRMATION OF MR. DON COCHRAN TO THE PLANNING**
41 **& ZONING COMMISSION.**
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43 Upon motion by Leshner seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, Mr. Don Cochran's
44 reappointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a five year term was approved.
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46 **LETTER FROM EASTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC. ASKING**
47 **APPROVAL OF THE ELECTION OF CHARLES R. (CR) CHANCE, JR. TO THE**
48 **OFFICE OF CHIEF FOR THE YEAR 2016.**

49 Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, the election of
50 Charles (CR) Chance, Jr. to the office of Chief for the year 2016 was approved.

51 Mayor Willey stated that flowers and best wishes have been sent to Mayor Gene Butler. He
52 stated that Mr. Butler recently suffered a stroke and is in Easton hospital.
53

54 Mayor Willey wished everyone a Happy Holiday.
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56 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**
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58 Mr. Karge stated that all departments are functioning at a high level. Mr. Karge discussed the
59 Christmas decorations completed by Public Works.
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61 On behalf of the staff, Mr. Karge wished everyone happy holidays and happiest of New Year's.
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63 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

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Mrs. VanEmburch wished everyone a happy holiday.

LETTER FROM ZACHARY A. SMITH, ARMISTEAD, GRISWOLD, LEE & RUST, P.A. REQUESTING CONSIDERATION AND REFERRAL OF A PETITION FOR ANNEXATION ROUTE 33, LLC AND STANDARD FUSEE CORPORATION TO THE EASTON PLANNING COMMISSION.

President Ford referred the annexation request to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review and recommendation.

RESOLUTION NO. 6064, "A RESOLUTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN LANDS OWNED BY ROUTE 33, LLC AND STANDARD FUSEE CORPORATION (FORMERLY KNOWN AS MCLAUGHLIN ACQUISITION CORPORATION), LOCATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF MARYLAND ROUTE 33 AND CONSISTING OF 13.025 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, INTO THE TOWN OF EASTON AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ANNEXATION."

ORDINANCE NO. 676, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO APPLY AN ORIGINAL ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF GENERAL COMMERCIAL (CG) TO CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND ANNEXED TO THE TOWN OF EASTON BY RESOLUTION NO. 6064 LOCATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF MARYLAND ROUTE 33 AND CONSISTING OF 13.025 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS."

President Ford brought Resolution No. 6064 and Ordinance No. 676 to the floor for a first reading.

The Town Attorney discussed the process and the proposed zoning. The Town Attorney stated that the request for zoning will have to go before the county council to request a waiver for the zoning classification.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the request for annexation was forwarded to the Planning & Zoning Commission for review and recommendation.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PARK PROJECT.

President Ford stated that the discussion of the proposed park project on Port Street will be postponed until a future meeting. He stated that the park project concept has had previous council approval.

ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Mr. Leshar wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

President Ford stated that First Night Talbot's Crab Drop has been discussed as one of the top 15 drops. Easton's Crab Drop was listed as No. 8 in Coastal Living Magazine.

President Ford echoed good wishes for the holidays.

7:15 PM PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ORDINANCE NO. 675 WHICH PROPOSES AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN'S ZONING ORDINANCE.

ORDINANCE NO. 675, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND ADOPTING A NEW OFFICIAL TOWN OF EASTON HISTORIC DISTRICTS BOUNDARIES MAP."

President Ford brought Ordinance No. 675 to the floor for a first reading.

At 7:15 p.m., President Ford opened the scheduled Public Hearing.

County Attorney Mr. Michael Pullen was present on behalf of Talbot County.

Mr. Pullen stated that the county filed the zoning amendment request May 5 to the Historic District Commission. Mr. Pullen discussed the application. He stated that the Attorney General stated that the application should be treated like a comprehensive rezoning request.

125 Mr. Pullen stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission unanimously voted to remove the
126 property from the Historic District Commission. Mr. Pullen cited the Design Standards and
127 Guidelines adopted by the Town of Easton.

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129 President Ford discussed citizens' concern in letters submitted to the council. He stated that their
130 concern was that without Historic District designation, there may not be the review that may
131 occur should the property remain in the Historic District.

132 The Town Attorney discussed the process of applications that may be proposed for that property.

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134 President Ford asked for any comments or questions.

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136 Mrs. VanEmburch stated that the request is to adopt a new Historic District map.

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138 Mr. Pullen thanked the council and wished everyone a happy holiday.

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140 At 7:33 p.m., President Ford closed the public hearing. He left the record open for written
141 comments until the close of business Friday.

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143 **ADJOURN.**

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145 At 7:34 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously,
146 President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

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150 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk