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

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March 16, 2015

PRESENT AT CONVENING

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

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

CALL TO ORDER.

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

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 MARCH 2, 2015 MEETINGS.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, minutes of the March 2, 2015 meetings were approved.

MS. TRACY WARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EASTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO PRESENT QUARTERLY REPORT.

Ms. Ward updated on present activities of the Economic Development Corporation. She stated that they are working on a Master Plan and an Economic Analysis Report that they hope to have by May. She discussed outreach programs for the Chesapeake Harvest (formerly Food Hub). Ms. Ward discussed the impact of growing and buying local.

Mr. Herb Miller discussed the demand for high quality produce and seafood and the efforts of distribution.

ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.

Mayor Willey requested a Closed Session for the advice of attorney; General Provisions Article §3-305(b) (7).

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, the re-appointments of Mr. Robert Arnout and Mr. Adam Theeke to the Historic District Commission for a three-year term were approved.

Mayor Willey stated that he would ask for Council confirmation at the next meeting for the appointment of Mr. Rick VanEmburch as Town Engineer.

Mayor Willey stated that the youth sports groups in the town are bringing different tournaments to the Easton area. He stated that legislation will be drafted to consider that will allow lighting of two of the fields at North Easton Park. Mayor Willey stated that this will cause a change in the park rules for North Easton Park.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

Mr. Karge stated that two bids were received for paving with the low bid from American Infrastructure in Dover in the amount of \$359,027.30. He stated that this is over the budgeted amount due to the cost of asphalt but there are sufficient resources from other bids that have come in lower.

Upon motion by Ms. Malone, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried; the paving bid was approved with Mr. Wendowski opposing.

Mr. Karge stated that there is a Public Assembly Event that Chief Spencer has approved for a Waterboyz Christian Concert at Idlewild Park June 13.

Mr. Karge stated that the Town hopes to break ground May 1 for the Aurora Street Project. The Engineering staff will hold an informational meeting Thursday night in the Council's Chambers.

Mr. Karge discussed a project that entailed two Bio Retention construction areas. He asked to award the bids to the respective low bidders; Bryan and Sons and Environmental Concern.

Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, the low bids were approved.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.

Mrs. VanEmburch requested the scheduling of a public hearing for the Critical Areal Map Amendment on April 20. President Ford scheduled the Public Hearing for 7:15 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 6041, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE PUBLIC STREET CADMUS LANE TO SHORE DRIVE."

Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6041 was approved.

ORDINANCE NO. 649, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO CONVEY THE AVALON THEATER, BEING UNIT B AT 40 E DOVER STREET, EASTON, TO THE AVALON FOUNDATION, INC."

President Ford brought Ordinance No. 649 to the floor for a first reading and set a Public Hearing for public comments for April 6.

The Town Attorney discussed the history of the Town of Easton owning the Avalon Theatre. She stated that Ordinance No. 649 effectuates the agreement of sale.

ORDINANCE NO. 650, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO AMEND SECTION 18-10 OF THE TOWN CODE FOR THE PURPOSE OF MODIFYING THE PENALTY TO CONSUME ALCOHOL AND/OR POSSESS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN OPEN CONTAINERS IN CERTAIN PUBLIC PLACES."

President Ford brought Ordinance No. 650 to the floor for a first reading.

First Sgt. Thomas discussed the reason for the requested change. She discussed the Open Container penalty and the reasoning for the revision.

The Town Attorney stated that this Ordinance could be acted on at the next meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 6042, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON APPROVING THE 2015 WATER SERVICE RATE AND TARIFF REVISIONS PROPOSED BY THE EASTON UTILITIES COMMISSION."

At 7:56 p.m., President Ford opened the Public Hearing on the 2015 Water Service Rate. He stated that it is a continuation of the public hearing held March 2. He asked for additional public comments.

Mr. Geoff Oxnam, Easton Utilities Vice President of Operations was present to discuss the proposed rate increase. He stated that there has been no rate increase for the water service and wastewater since 2007. Mr. Oxnam stated that the legislation before the council tonight would phase in new rates and will keep Easton Utilities' rates the lowest in the region.

President Ford asked for public comments. There being none, he closed the public hearing at 8:11 p.m.

Upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6042 was approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 6043, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON APPROVING THE 2015 WASTEWATER SERVICE RATE AND TARIFF REVISIONS PROPOSED BY THE EASTON UTILITIES COMMISSION."

President Ford brought Resolution No. 6043 to the floor.

Upon motion by Mr. Wendowski seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6043 was approved.

REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$1,276,038.73.

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40 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, invoices totaling \$1,276,038.73
41 were reviewed.

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43 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

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45 Mrs. Cook reminded everyone that the East End Neighborhood Association cleanup day is scheduled for March 28 at
46 8:00 a.m. with a rain date of April 4. She asked the participants to meet at the Community Garden.

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48 **CLOSED SESSION.**

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50 At 8:14 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, President Ford adjourned
51 into Closed Session on the authority of General Provisions Article General Provisions Article §3-305(b) (7).

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53 At 8:28 p.m., upon motion by Ms. Malone seconded by Mr. Wendowski and carried unanimously, President Ford
54 adjourned the Closed Session and reconvened into Open Session.

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56 **ADJOURN.**

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58 At 8:29 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Ms. Malone and carried unanimously, President Ford adjourned
59 the regularly scheduled meeting.

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63 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk
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