

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

November 16, 2015

**PRESENT AT CONVENING**

Mayor Robert C. Willey  
Council President John Ford  
Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein

Councilmember Pete Leshar  
Councilmember Ron E. Engle  
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 MRS. COOK AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2, 2015 MEETINGS.**

Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Leshar and carried unanimously, minutes of the November 2, 2015 meetings were approved.

**FIRE BOARD.**

Trustee Morris (Sonny) Jones, Jr. discussed totals Easton Fire Department statistics. He stated that the Department had responded to 790 fire rescue calls in or around the Town of Easton.

Mr. Jones discussed fire prevention efforts and upcoming fundraisers. He thanked the public for their support with donations and encouraged safety measures during the holiday season.

Mr. Jones discussed the Annual Train Garden at the Firehouse which he stated is free of charge with 300 feet of tract. Mr. Jones stated that the Train Garden will be open nightly starting November 27.

Mr. Jones discussed working on a grant to update the hydraulic tools on the EVFD rescue truck.

**MS. JULIE CORSON, EASTON BUSINESS ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ON ACTIVITIES.**

Ms. Corson discussed the mission of Easton Business Alliance and the Membership Program as well as marketing highlights. Ms. Corson recapped 2014-2015 events and upcoming lineups. She stated she is co-hosting on WCEI on Tuesday and Thursday 6:00 to 9:00 a.m. and conducting member interviews while on the air. Ms. Corson discussed future marketing efforts.

President Ford stated he is extremely pleased to see so many things going on. President Ford congratulated Ms. Corson on all her hard work.

**ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.**

Mayor Willey stated that he is meeting with the group from the Hill Project and finalizing contracts to acquire property. Mayor Willey stated that the council may need to meet in a work session or authorize the committee to sign necessary documents.

It was the consensus to allow Mayor Willey to sign the necessary contract.

Mayor Willey discussed a meeting with Aphenia Pharmaceuticals. He stated that Aphenia is looking forward to bringing in another packing line and have the contractors necessary for the addition.

Mayor Willey stated that the ground breaking for the infrastructure at Talbot Commerce Park is scheduled for Tuesday November 24 at 10 a.m.

**ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

Mr. Karge reported that the council meeting this evening is not being broadcasted.

Mr. Karge asked the council if they had any thoughts on how they would prefer to deal with the AIRBNB issue.

President Ford recommended that Don Richardson forward to the council for review how the county treats short term rentals. He stated that the town could mirror the regulations the county has implemented.

It was the Council consensus to draft legislation and receive public comments.

**ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

Mrs. VanEmburch informed the council about something coming. On planning agenda request from Talbot County for town to amend Historic District boundaries. On P&Z agenda. Been reviewed and recommended removed from Historic District boundaries.

**LETTER FROM EASTON LIONS CLUB TREE CHAIRMAN JACK STUECKLER REQUESTING PERMISSION TO HOLD THEIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE SALE ON TOWN PROPERTY NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 23, 2015.**

Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, permission was granted to the Easton Lions Club for their Annual Christmas Tree Sale on town property November 28 thru December 23, 2015.

**MEMO FROM TOWN ENGINEER RECOMMENDING CHANGES IN THE VICINITY OF TURNERS LANE TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW.**

Mr. Karge briefed on the recommendation from the Town Engineer Mr. VanEmburch. He stated that there have been a number of complaints regarding traffic in that vicinity with drivers stating that it is impossible for two vehicles to travel. Mr. Karge stated that the Town Engineer has looked at the situation and made a recommendation including a three way stop.

Mr. Silverstein stated that he is familiar with the area and he thinks it is a good solution.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Leshar and carried unanimously, the changes as recommended by the Town Engineer were approved.

**ORDINANCE NO. 672, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO AMEND THE TOWN OF EASTON ZONING ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR DONATION BINS AS ACCESSORY USE AND TO PROVIDE REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS ON THE DONATION BINS.”**

President Ford brought Ordinance No. 672 to the floor for a first reading. He set the public hearing for December 7, 2015 at 7:15 p.m.

**ORDINANCE NO. 673, AMENDMENT TO THE TOWN OF EASTON CODE, ARTICLE V; SNOW EMERGENCY REGULATIONS.**

President Ford brought Ordinance No. 673 to the floor for a first reading. He set the public hearing for December 7, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

**RESOLUTION NO. 6063 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO FORMALIZE AN AGREEMENT WITH TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND REGARDING POLICE DISPATCHERS.**

Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, Resolution No. 6063 was approved.

**7:15 PM PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 670, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO PURCHASE LOT 9C BRYAN DRIVE IN TALBOT COMMERCE PARK IN THE TOWN OF EASTON.”**

At 7:51 p.m., President Ford opened the public hearing.

President Ford asked for public comments.

Mr. Karge discussed the proposal to purchase the lot adjoining the Public Works Department property. He stated that the Public Works building has been an amazing resource. He discussed building additional facilities and stated that there is a long term planning prospective for another entrance/exit. Mr. Karge stated that the lot is listed for \$425,000 but the owner will sell the property to the Town for \$412,250. Mr. Karge stated that the Superintendent of Public Works and the Town Engineer fully support the acquisition.

Mr. Karge stated that the bulk of the funds will come from savings realized from the state contract rate for the 700 MHz radios and the remainder from the impact fee transportation fund.

The President of the Council asked for public comments. There being none, President Ford closed the public hearing at 7:56 p.m.

**ORDINANCE No. 670, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO PURCHASE LOT 9C BRYAN DRIVE IN TALBOT COMMERCE PARK IN THE TOWN OF EASTON."**

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 670 was approved.

**ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.**

Mrs. Cook wished everyone a Happy Holiday next week.

President Ford congratulated the Waterfowl Festival staff and volunteers for another successful event.

**ADJOURN.**

At 7:57 upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, President Ford closed the regularly scheduled meeting.

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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk