

**TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND  
EASTON TOWN HALL  
14 S. Harrison Street**

January 19, 2016

**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

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2 Also present were the Town Manager Mr. Robert F. Karge, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon  
3 VanEmburch and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.

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5 **CALL TO ORDER.**

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7 At 6:00 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order.

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9 President Ford stated that Ms. Lisa Hodges will be present to update on the Hill Project.

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11 President Ford encouraged the council to listen carefully as some deadlines have been missed.

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13 **WORKSESSION: MR. ALAN GIRARD, EASTERN SHORE DIRECTOR CHESAPEAKE BAY**  
14 **FOUNDATION TO DISCUSS THE HEALTHY WATERS ROUND TABLE ACTION PLAN.**

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16 Mr. Alan Girard gave a presentation on Healthy Waters Round Table. He stated that their office  
17 is at the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy building. He stated that they are working with  
18 communities on water quality issues. Mr. Girard discussed Making Healthy Waters a reality;  
19 Eastern Shore Priorities in 2016. He discussed short term actions the team intends to address.

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21 Mr. Eric Fisher discussed joining with other jurisdictions to get things done faster and more  
22 efficiently such as funding and resources. He stated that they intend to reconvene the round  
23 table this summer to see if they are on track.

24  
25 Mr. Josh Hastings, ESLC; thanked the council for their work and outlined deadlines for reducing  
26 pollution.

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28 Mr. Rick VanEmburch, Town Engineer was present to answer questions on how the Healthy  
29 Waters Round Table apply to the Town of Easton.

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31 Mr. Girard discussed the participants of The Healthy Waters Round Table.

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33 **RECESS.**

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35 President Ford recessed the meeting until 7:00 p.m.

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37 **CALL TO ORDER.**

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39 President Ford reconvened the regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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45 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2016 MEETING.**

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47 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, minutes of  
48 the January 4, 2016 meetings were approved.

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50 **BRIEFING ON THE HOUSING ON THE HILL PROJECT.**

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Ms. Lisa Hodges, Principal, Hodges Development acknowledged the partners associated with the project. Ms. Hodges discussed their progress. She stated that the range for the purchase price of the houses should be \$140-165,000. She stated that they are looking for further gap grant funding and that she hopes to pin down funding in the next couple months. She stated that they are pending down money already received and allocated.

Ms. Hodges distributed The Housing on the Hill Market Study.

**ITEMS BY MAYOR WILLEY.**

Mayor Willey stated that he has received letters from Girls Scouts Troop 190 regarding emergency blue lights on the rails to trails. The Girls Scouts Troop 190 are considering the project in order to achieve their Bronze Award.

Mrs. Cook thanked Mayor Willey for his participation in Martin Luther King, Jr. Basketball tournament.

**ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

Mr. Karge stated that the forecast is calling for significant weather. He suggests that residents review their home emergency supplies. Mr. Karge stated that the Town staff have begun to prepare for the predicted storm. Mr. Karge reminded everyone that snow emergency issues have been changed. He stated that there have been signage changes and stated that the snow emergency plan is implemented with 2” of snow.

Mr. Karge stated that he has received a request from Historic Easton for waiver of all permit fees and zoning review fees for Asbury United Methodist Church.

Mr. Silverstein asked how much money is involved.

Mr. John Sener, Historic Easton stated that the construction related costs are approximately \$175,000.

The Town Manager stated that the estimated amount of the waiver if granted, would be approximately \$4,000.

Mrs. Cook, Mr. Ford and Mr. Leshar stated that they support the project.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the waiver of the permits was approved.

**ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

Mrs. VanEmburch discussed the Ordinances related to the purchase of the properties for The Hill Project.

**ORD. 677, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO PURCHASE 31 SOUTH LOCUST LANE IN THE TOWN OF EASTON.”**

President Ford brought Ordinance No. 677 to the floor for a first reading. He scheduled the public hearing for February 1 at 7:15 p.m.

**ORD. 678, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO PURCHASE 34-36 SOUTH LOCUST LANE IN THE TOWN OF EASTON.”**

President Ford brought Ordinance No. 678 to the floor for a first reading. He scheduled the public hearing for February 1 at 7:15 p.m.

**ORD. 679, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EASTON TO PURCHASE 308 SOUTH STREET IN THE TOWN OF EASTON.”**

113 President Ford brought Ordinance No. 679 to the floor for a first reading. He scheduled the  
114 public hearing for February 1 at 7:15 p.m.

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116 **ORD. 674, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE TOWN OF EASTON**  
117 **ZONING ORDINANCE."**

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119 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, Ordinance No.  
120 674 was approved.

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122 The Town Attorney stated that there may be some amendments to Ordinance No. 674.

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124 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$1,256,379.18.**

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126 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, invoices totaling  
127 \$1,256,379.18 were approved.

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129 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

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131 Mr. Silverstein discussed parking lot changes. He encouraged employees to use the free parking  
132 lots.

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134 Mr. Engle discussed the effectiveness of the parking changes.

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136 Mrs. Cook thanked the participants of the MLK Basketball tournament.

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138 President Ford reminded everyone that on Thursday, January 21 at 1:00 p.m., the Planning &  
139 Zoning agenda has the annexation of the Ryan property on their agenda. He encouraged  
140 everyone to get involved in the process.

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142 Mr. Karge expressed deepest condolences to Nancy Adams for the recent passing of her father  
143 and Yvonne Freeman for the passing of her brother.

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145 **ADJOURN.**

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147 At 7:29 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously,  
148 President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.

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152 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk