

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

June 20, 2016

PRESENT AT CONVENING.

Mayor Robert C. Willey	15	Councilmember Pete Leshner
Council President John Ford	16	Councilmember Ron E. Engle
Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein		

Councilmember Megan M. Cook was excused.

IN ATTENDANCE.

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

CONVENING.

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

OPENING REMARKS BY MR. LESHER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mr. Leshner gave opening remarks and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 6, 2016 MEETING.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes of the June 6, 2016 were approved as written.

NANCY ANDREW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AND JIM BENT, CHAIRMAN AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING PROPOSED PROJECT.

Ms. Andrew was present and discussed the agreement with Elm Street development regarding the Affordable Housing program.

Discussion occurred regarding the proceeds from the sales of the affordable houses. Ms. Andrew stated that the proceeds will be used for additional houses.

Discussion occurred regarding the possibility of a property swap.

The Town Attorney stated that the agreement previously agreed upon was a condition of the PUD and would have to be amended by legislation. She stated that she would need the particulars of the project to draft legislation.

Mr. Silverstein suggested a site visit.

ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.

Mayor Willey stated that interviews are still being conducted for the Historic District Commission appointment.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

APPROVAL OF TREE WORK BID FY2017.

Mr. Karge asked for approval for the tree bid as recommended from staff.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the tree bid from M. Savage was approved.

APPROVAL OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY EVENTS.

- **EVENT:** Easton’s Carnival and 4th of July Celebration
APPLICANT: Avalon Foundation/Scott Milligan
LOCATION: Marlboro Rd. next to Target and St. Michaels Rd.
DATE/TIME: 6/28 to 7/3/16 - 1800 to 2300 hrs., 7/4/16 - 1500 to 2300hrs.

Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, approval was granted for the Carnival and the 4th of July Celebration. However, the councilmembers requested that these be received in sufficient time that would allow modification if need be.

ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.

The Town Attorney advised that the short term rental draft legislation is not before the council this evening due to special exception advertising requirements. She stated that there would be a public hearing on July 5 with two ordinances; one to amend the Code and one ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 686, BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016/17.

Mayor Willey stated that the budget is still balanced. He discussed changes that had been incorporated and stated that they were not substantive. Mayor Willey stated that he now has a contingency fund due to savings realized with the health insurance rates.

Mr. Leshner commended Mayor Willey and the staff.

President Ford brought Ordinance No. 686 to the floor.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 686 was approved.

ORDINANCE NO. 687, “AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE RAISING BY TAXATION THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO PAY THE ORDINARY EXPENSES OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON THE VARIOUS BOND ISSUES AND THE REDUCTION OF CERTAIN BONDS AND NOTES FOR THE PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS AND SETTING THE INTEREST AND PENALTY FOR DELINQUENT BILLS, COMMENCING ON JULY 1, 2016 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2017.”

President Ford brought Ordinance 687 to the floor.

Mr. Leshner thanked Mayor Willey for holding the line on the property tax rate.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 687 was approved.

PUBLIC HEARING ON RESOLUTION 6064, (“ANNEXATION RESOLUTION”) WHICH WAS INTRODUCED AT THE MARCH 21, 2016 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING. THE REQUEST IS TO ANNEX APPROXIMATELY 13.025 ACRES, MORE OR LESS LYING CONTIGUOUS TO THE EXISTING BOUNDARIES OF THE TOWN OF EASTON PURSUANT TO THE TERMS OF A PROPOSED ANNEXATION AGREEMENT.

At 7:23 p.m., President Ford opened the Public Hearing. He stated that there have been changes in the annexation request.

The Town Attorney discussed the status of the annexation request. She stated that the applicant had been given three conditions for consideration of approval; 1) access road 2) no development for 5 years and 3) BC Zoning.

Mr. Smith, on behalf of the applicant asked that they maintain the current county zoning. He stated that they were having trouble getting the access road. He asked that the council consider the existing zoning and no development for five years in order to proceed with council consensus.

Mr. Leshner asked if the annexation agreement might be revised.

The Town Attorney stated that the documents could be revised. She stated that the public hearing may be continued.

President Ford stated that due to Mrs. Cooke's absence, there will be no consensus this evening. He stated that negotiations will be discussed and the public hearing will be continued.

Mr. Smith, present on behalf of the applicant stated that they had sent a proposal to Remco and it had been rejected.

Mr. Showalter, Remco's representative, stated that there may be room for negotiations.

President Ford opened the floor for public comments.

Mrs. Jane Bollman, 221 S. Hanson Street stated she was present to support Mr. Alspach's letter previously submitted to the council in opposition of the annexation request. Mrs. Bollman asked the council not to proceed with the annexation without the easement road thru Waterside Village shopping center.

Mr. Charlie Bohn, 7881 Fort Stokes Lane; President of Ratcliffe Farms Home Owners Association urged the council to keep their decision.

Ms. Grace Saltus, 28330 Village Lake Way stated that she is disappointed this is being reopened and she would like the council to be more decisive. She asked the council not to modify their decision in any way.

Mr. Philip C. Foster, 15 Willis Avenue, stated that the applicant was given three conditions and they could not be met. He stated that those standards should not be changed.

Mr. James Brennan, 28330 Village Lake Way stated that he does not want any more commercial businesses in the area.

Mr. Ryan Showalter stated his applicant has no position on the annexation. He discussed competing commercial businesses and stated that they do not have sufficient information at this time.

At 7:54 p.m., President Ford closed tonight's opportunity for testimony. He stated that the public hearing for the request for annexation would be continued at the next council meeting.

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."

No action taken.

ORDINANCE NO. 676, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO APPLY 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."

No action taken.

REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$951,721.75.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, invoices totaling \$951,721.75 were approved.

ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Mr. Silverstein discussed the council's recent visit to the fire station to learn about the breathing apparatus. He stated that the department has a high rating which helps the community keep

1 insurance costs down.
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3 President Ford stated that the Easton Volunteer Fire Department is a tremendous asset to the
4 Easton.
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6 Mr. Engle stated he had the privilege of attending the bicycle rodeo next to the police
7 department. He stated that young children had the opportunity to learn riding skills and the use
8 of proper equipment.
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0 Mayor Willey thanked the council for passing the budget this evening. He stated that there are
1 significant funding problems on the horizon.
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3 **ADJOURN.**
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5 At 8:00 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously,
6 President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting.
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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk