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**TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND
EASTON TOWN HALL
14 S. HARRISON STREET**

February 20, 2017

PRESENT AT CONVENING.

8 Mayor Robert C. Willey	11 Councilmember Pete Leshar
9 Council President John Ford	12 Councilmember Ron E. Engle
10 Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein	13 Councilmember Megan M. Cook

Also present was the Town Manager Mr. Donald J. Richardson, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon VanEmburch, Town Planner Mr. Lynn Thomas, and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.

CALL TO ORDER.

At 6:15 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order at the Easton Volunteer Fire Department.

Present from the Fire Department were:

Chief John Harrison, President Don Abbatiello, Trustee Morris (Sonny) Jones, Jr. Assistant Chief Drew Jensen, 1st Lt. Sol James, 1st Asst. Chief Engineer Jason Spies.

SPECIAL MEETING.

President Don Abbatiello discussed recent improvements at the Firehouse; new windows, landscaping, new doors, the apron, the meeting room and the lobby.

Discussion occurred regarding the Friday evening bingo fundraising and the proposed new boards.

Trustee Sonny Jones reviewed the self-contained breathing apparatus. He stated that 50 units had been purchased for members with an additional seven for training purposes. He stated that the units have a 15 year manufacturing warranty. He discussed testing mechanisms.

Mr. Jones on behalf of the Easton Volunteer Fire Department members thanked the council for their support.

CALL TO ORDER.

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

OPENING REMARKS BY MR. LESHER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mr. Leshar led those present in opening remarks and the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6 AND FEBRUARY 8, 2017 MEETINGS.

Upon motion by Mr. Leshar, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes were approved as corrected.

FIRE BOARD AT EASTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.

President Don Abbatiello discussed tonight's meeting at the Easton Volunteer Fire Department. He introduced the present trustees. Mr. Abbatiello discussed the upcoming wine fest fundraiser scheduled for May 13.

Asst. Chief Drew Jensen discussed statistics. He stated that new self-contained breathing apparatus is in service.

Trustee Sonny Jones stated that the renovations and landscaping at the Easton Volunteer Fire Department have been completed. He stated that they are working on the reduction of automatic fire alarms as well as looking at the ISO rating.

Mr. Silverstein stated that the demonstration and tour at the Firehouse were very impressive tonight.

President Ford stated that the community is very lucky to have the volunteers at the Easton Volunteer Fire Department.

ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF MR. PHILIP DINKEL AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE EASTON

53 **PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.**

54 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mr. Silverstein and carried unanimously, Mr. Dinkel’s
55 appointment as alternate to the Easton Planning and Zoning Commission for a term of five years
56 was approved.

57 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

58 **ACCEPTANCE OF BID FROM BELL CREEK FOR NEW ZERO TURN DIESEL POWERED TURF MOWER.**

59 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, Bell Creek’s bid in
60 the amount of \$13,881.23 was approved as recommended by staff. Mr. Richardson explained that
61 the low bid did not meet the specifications as prescribed in the bid.

62 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

63 Mrs. VanEmburch stated that the findings of fact for Mr. Stafford’s PUD application will be in the
64 next meeting packet.

65 President Ford asked about progress on the Port Street annexation.

66 Mrs. VanEmburch stated that the status is basically the same although there has been a meeting to
67 address some concerns.

68 **REVIEW OF INVOICES TOTALING \$1,006,622.66.**

69 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the invoices were
70 approved.

71 **7:15 PM PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS ORDINANCE NO. 703 WHICH PROPOSES AMENDMENTS TO**
72 **THE TOWN’S ZONING ORDINANCE.**

73 At 7:15 p.m., President Ford opened the scheduled public hearing.

74 Mr. Thomas was present and discussed the packet of amendments proposed.

75 Mr. Leshar asked for clarification on the homeless shelters.

76 Mr. Thomas stated that the intent is to make it a broader statement so more clients can be admitted
77 to the shelter.

78 President Ford asked for comments.

79 Mr. Zach Smith, 114 Bay Street stated he was present on behalf of the Art Academy Museum. He
80 spoke in support of the proposed amendment. Mr. Smith stated that the Academy is exploring
81 expansion and is in need of an amendment for property on Talbot Lane.

82 Mr. Joe Minnarick, president of East End Neighborhood Association stated that the Academy Art
83 Museum is within the EENA boundaries. He stated that they have met with the Academy regarding
84 the amendment. Mr. Minnarick stated that they support the zoning change to expand the museum’s
85 capabilities.

86 Mr. Leshar appreciates EENA making a stance on this amendment.

87 Mrs. Cook stated that the neighbors have expressed concern about how much the Academy
88 Museum will expand.

89 There being no further comments, President Ford closed the public hearing at 7:26 p.m.

90 President Ford stated that written comments can be sent to the Town Clerk for dissemination.

91 **ORDINANCE NO. 703, “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING CHAPTER 28**
92 **ZONING OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON.”**

93 Not acted on.

94 **RESOLUTION NO. 6076, “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON APPROVING THE 2017**
95 **ELECTRIC SERVICE RATE AND TARIFF REVISIONS PROPOSED BY THE EASTON UTILITIES**
96 **COMMISSION.”**

97 President Ford stated there has been no public comments regarding the rate increases except from
98 Mr. Valliant at the public hearing. He stated that the proposed rate increase is to be implemented
99 incrementally over a two year period.

100 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Leshar and carried unanimously, Resolution No.
101 6076 was approved.

103 **RESOLUTION NO. 6077, "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EASTON APPROVING THE 2017 GAS**
104 **SERVICE RATE AND TARIFF REVISIONS PROPOSED BY THE EASTON UTILITIES COMMISSION."**

105 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, Resolution No.
106 6077 was approved.

107 **CONT'D. PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON THE REQUEST TO ANNEX APPROXIMATELY**
108 **6.533 ACRES, MORE OR LESS LYING CONTIGUOUS TO THE EXISTING BOUNDARIES OF THE TOWN**
109 **OF EASTON.**

110 To be continued.

111 **RES. NO. 6071, "A RESOLUTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN LANDS LOCATED ALONG PORT STREET AND**
112 **CONSISTING OF 6.533 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, INTO THE TOWN OF EASTON AND TO**
113 **PROVIDE FOR THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ANNEXATIONS.**

114 Not acted on.

115 **ORD. NO. 690, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING**
116 **MAP OF THE TOWN OF EASTON TO APPLY THE GENERAL COMMERCIAL (CG) ZONING DISTRICT TO**
117 **CERTAIN LOTS OR PARCELS OF LAND ANNEXED TO THE TOWN OF EASTON BY RESOLUTION NO.**
118 **6071 LOCATED ALONG PORT STREET AND CONSISTING, COLLECTIVELY, OF 6.533 ACRES OF LAND,**
119 **MORE OR LESS."**

120 Not acted on.

121 **ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.**

122 **MR. SILVERSTEIN**

123 Mr. Silverstein stated he recently attended the Talbot County Economic Development Commission
124 meeting.

125 **ADJOURNMENT.**

126 There being to no further business, upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried
127 unanimously, President Ford adjourned the regularly scheduled meeting at 7:31 p.m.

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129 _____
130 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk