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3 **TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND**  
4 **EASTON TOWN HALL**  
5 **14 S HARRISON STREET**  
6

7 **October 16, 2017**  
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10 **PRESENT AT CONVENING.**  
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12 Mayor Robert C. Willey  
13 Council President John Ford  
14 Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein  
15 Councilmember Pete Leshner  
16 Councilmember Ron E. Engle  
17 Councilmember Megan M. Cook  
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19 Also present was the Town Manager Mr. Don Richardson, Town Attorney Mrs. Sharon  
20 VanEmburch, and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.  
21

22 Mr. Ross Benincasa, Easton Business Association Manager, County Council members Mr. Chuck  
23 Callahan and Mr. Dirck Bartlett and County Manager Mr. R. Andrew Hollis were present as well.  
24

25 **MEETING.**

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

27 **6:00 PM WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS DOWNTOWN WI-FI.**

28 Mayor Willey discussed the proposed Wi-Fi program for the Town of Easton.

29 Mr. Benincasa discussed the benefits of the program. He stated that it could be a large marketing  
30 resource for the Town of Easton and the downtown area. Phase 1 would encompass the post office  
31 to the courthouse to the historic area. EBA would have the ability to collect information regarding  
32 town visitor demographics, emergency alerts, and growth potential. He stated that it will enhance  
33 the visitor experience and make the town more marketable for conferences and events.

34 Mr. Benincasa stated that the Wi-Fi solution is proposed to be a high quality wireless build out to  
35 better our community. The setup proposed will be using Cisco Meraki hardware and Purple Wi-Fi  
36 software and will allow the Town economic advantages as a fiber city to be evident to visitors,  
37 residents, and prospective businesses. There will be a three year licensing fee of \$28,000. Mr.  
38 Benincasa stated that he is pursuing funding opportunities with the State of MD DHCD.

39 Mr. Benincasa stated that growth can be included in the proposal. With one access point \$280;  
40 software costs would be \$210 every three years.

41 Mr. Silverstein stated that we need to look at this as the proposal has real value. He stated that  
42 Easton Utilities will be a big component. Mr. Silverstein stated that he appreciates the information.

43 President Ford asked about the grant applications.

44 Mr. Leshner stated that this is an enormous competitive asset for Easton and he is very encouraged  
45 to see us pursuing the endeavor.

46 **ADJOURNMENT.**

47 At 6:49 p.m., President Ford adjourned the workshop.

48 **7:00 PM OPENING REMARKS BY MR. LESHER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

49 At 7:00 p.m., President Ford reconvened into the regularly scheduled meeting.

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

51 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2, 2017 MEETING.**

52 Upon motion by Mr. Leshner seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, minutes of the  
53 October 2, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

54 **ITEMS BY THE MAYOR.**

55 **PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION TO MRS. MARIE U'REN.**

56 President Ford presented Mrs. Marie U'Ren a Proclamation for her dedication and enthusiasm in

57 the work for this community. Mayor Willey presented Mrs. U'Ren a key to the city.

58 **CDBG GRANT APPLICATIONS.**

59 Mayor Willey stated that the Town has been asked to submit grant applications on behalf of  
60 Critchlow Adkins and Talbot Interfaith Shelter. He stated that the Town will ask for  
61 reimbursement of administrative fees and associated audit costs in the grant applications.

62 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the submission  
63 of the Critchlow Adkins and Talbot Interfaith Shelter grants were approved.

64 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN MANAGER.**

65 **APPROVAL OF YMCA TURKEY TROT PUBLIC ASSEMBLY EVENT.**

66 **EVENT:** YMCA Turkey Trot

67 **APPLICANT:** Easton Family YMCA / Derrick White

68 **LOCATION:** YMCA, Peachblossom, Easton Bypass South and South Washington St.

69 **DATE/TIME:** 11/23/17 @ 0830

70 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, the Public  
71 Assembly Permit for the YMCA Turkey Trot was approved.

72 **LETTER FROM TALBOT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUESTING WAIVER FOR**  
73 **ALL BUILDING PERMITS FOR EASTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT**  
74 **PROJECT.**

75 Mayor Willey stated that there are approximately \$243,000 in associated costs for the permits.

76 Mr. Leshar asked if inspections would be accomplished with existing staff. He stated that the  
77 construction of the school may require contracting outside sources for inspections.

78 Mr. Richardson stated that the permits are intended to cover the costs of services are not a revenue  
79 source.

80 Mayor Willey stated that the plans are still under review and issuing the permits are at least two  
81 months away. Mayor Willey asked that the permit waiver request be tabled until a future meeting.

82 **REQUEST FROM EVFD FOR RESERVED PARKING.**

83 Mr. Richardson discussed a request from the Fire Department for 12 reserved parking spaces at the  
84 Easton Volunteer Fire Department for first responders.

85 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, 12 reserved  
86 parking spaces for members of the Easton Volunteer Fire Department was approved.

87 **MAYOR COMMENTS.**

88 Mayor Willey stated that the Town is in receipt of a letter dated October 11, 2017 regarding  
89 Maryland Department of Environment's inspection seven years ago on the property at Port Street  
90 and it has been confirmed that the property can be used as a park.

91 Mayor Willey stated that the Town has received notification of the issuance of the permit for a  
92 pedestrian bridge across Tred Avon. He stated that this is an integral part of Rails-to-trails and he  
93 is pleased that the project is moving forward.

94 **ITEMS BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY.**

95 The Town Attorney Mrs. VanEmburch stated there will be an upcoming meeting regarding the  
96 MXW Mixed Use Waterfront Zoning for Easton Point Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

97 The Town Attorney stated that there will also be a meeting Wednesday November 1 at 1:00 p.m.  
98 to discuss the Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

99 **MR. JIM BENT, CHAIRMAN EASTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO ADDRESS**  
100 **COUNCIL REGARDING RENOVATION PROJECT.**

101 Mr. Bent was present to discuss the full roof replacement renovation project for Ms. Ruth Jenkins'  
102 property. He stated that the contractor had encountered some additional needed repairs and the  
103 invoice totals \$11,985. Mr. Bent asked for authorization to have NCF Home Improvements, LLC  
104 paid for the repairs to 302 Glenwood Avenue.

105 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Leshar and carried unanimously, approval was  
106 granted for payment of the invoice for renovation.  
107

108 **ORDINANCE NO. 714, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON AMENDING**  
109 **THE TOWN OF EASTON ZONING CODE TO PROHIBIT NEGATIVE USE**  
110 **RESTRICTIONS AND/OR RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS THAT PROHIBIT OR HAVE**  
111 **THE ECONOMIC OR PRACTICAL EFFECT OF PROHIBITING THE USE OF A**

112 **PROPERTY FOR GROCERY STORE PURPOSES AFTER A GROCERY STORE HAS**  
113 **TERMINATED GROCERY STORE OPERATIONS ON THE PROPERTY.”**

114 Upon motion by Mrs. Cook, seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, Ordinance No. 714  
115 was approved.

116 **APPROVAL OF WATERFOWL FESTIVAL 2017 FOOD VENDORS.**

117 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, the 2017  
118 Waterfowl Festival Food Vendors were approved.

119 **APPROVAL OF INVOICES TOTALING \$829,286.53.**

120 Upon motion by Mr. Engle seconded by Mr. Leshner and carried unanimously, invoices totaling  
121 \$829,286.53 were approved for payment.

122 **ADJOURNMENT.**

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

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126 \_\_\_\_\_  
127 Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk