

**TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND**  
**Easton Town Hall**  
**14 S. Harrison Street3**  
**Council Work Session**

November 2, 2015

**PRESENT AT CONVENING.**

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

Councilmember Pete Leshner  
Councilmember Ron E. Engle  
Councilmember Megan M. Cook

Also in attendance were Town Manager Mr. Robert F. Karge, Town Attorney Sharon VanEmburch, Code Official Don Richardson, Town Planner Lynn B. Thomas and Town Clerk Mrs. Kathy M. Ruf.

**MEETING.**

At 6:00 p.m., President Ford called the meeting to order to discuss AIRBNB and clothing bins.

The Town Attorney discussed the donation bins located around Easton. Ms. VanEmburch stated that Planning and Zoning Commission suggested licensing but the Town Attorney suggested permitting. There is some question if the merchandise is actually going to charity or if the organizations placing the bins are selling the contents for a profit. One of the requirements is if a permit is issued, that the merchandise has to go to a charitable organization. Size requirements and zoning requirements for the bins would have to be established.

Mr. Silverstein stated that the concern is to limit the amount of units around town as well as the number of units allowed on a particular property. He discussed sample ordinances.

If a permit is issued, the not-for-profit would be required to show proof that they have permission from the property owner for placement of the bin.

Mr. Leshner stated he would support a permit process as outlined by the Town Attorney with imposed size limits, emptying regulations and setbacks.

The Town Attorney suggested drafting an ordinance for council consideration then setting a public hearing for public comments.

The Town Attorney discussed short term rentals such as AIRBNB which she described as short term rentals of single family dwelling units whereby the owner rents all or part of the unit. She stated that a few of the common ones are AIRBNB, Vacation Rentals and Eastern Shore Vacation Rentals. Some specific uses could be excluded such as Hospice. The Town Attorney stated that the easiest way legislation would be to require a rental license.

Enforcement of proposed legislation was discussed.

Mr. Richardson stated that his department is already under constraints without any new legislation.

Mr. Leshner stated that he is not in favor of banning the use outright of AIRBNB.

Talbot County's short term rental license was discussed.

President Ford suggested checking with Talbot County to find out how they are handling the license.

**ADJOURN.**

President Ford adjourned the work session at 6:50 p.m.

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Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk