

ORDINANCE NO. 613

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF EASTON ADOPTING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE APPLICATION FOR, APPROVAL OF, CONSTRUCTION OF, EXPANSION OF, PROCESSING OF, OR ISSUANCE OF BUILDING PERMITS FOR ELECTRONIC SIGNS WITHIN THE TOWN OF EASTON FOR A PERIOD OF SIX (6) MONTHS PENDING CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF REVISED ZONING ORDINANCE PROVISIONS AS THE TOWN COUNCIL MAY CONSIDER ADVISABLE TO PROMOTE THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

INTRODUCED BY _____

WHEREAS, the Town of Easton is authorized by Maryland Annotated Code Article 23A §2(a) to enact such ordinances as it deems necessary in order to assure the good government of the municipality, and to protect the health, comfort and convenience of the citizens of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Easton is authorized by Maryland Annotated Code Article 66B §4.01 *et seq.* to enact and administer a zoning ordinance, which ordinance is Chapter 28 of the Easton Town Code (the “Zoning Ordinance”); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Easton is authorized by Maryland Annotated Code Article 66B §4.01(b) to develop and adopt zoning restrictions to promote the health, safety, morals or general welfare of the community, including the location and use of buildings, signs, structures and land; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Easton currently has nine (9) existing and/or permitted Electronic Signs in Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Easton is considering text amendments to the Zoning

Ordinance regarding Electronic Signs and would like to have additional study and input from local business groups; and

WHEREAS, the Town requires time to ensure that the appropriate study and desired public input can be obtained before establishing effective and enduring textual amendments to the Zoning Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has determined that a temporary moratorium, for a term of six (6) months, is a reasonable length of time to study, receive input and adopt any revisions to the Zoning Ordinance necessary.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town of Easton hereby ordains that:

Section 1. A moratorium on the application for, consideration of, approval of, construction of, expansion of, processing of, or issuance of permits for Electronic Signs, is hereby imposed for a period of six (6) months.

Section 2. During the moratorium, the Town (including the Town Planner's office, the Building Department, the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Board of Appeals, the Town staff, and the Town Council) shall not process, consider, review, or approve any application, permit, or other approval under the Town Zoning Ordinance for an Electronic Sign.

Section 3. The moratorium shall apply to applications currently pending before the Town, as well as, applications filed after the effective date of this Ordinance.

Section 4. This moratorium is adopted to allow sufficient time for the Town to accomplish the following:

- a. Receive public input, specifically to have a committee led by the Chamber of Commerce to review this issue and provide recommendations;
- b. Consider any revisions to the Zoning Ordinance; and
- c. Consider all such other matters as the Town Council, Planning and Zoning Commission, and Town staff deem appropriate.

Section 5. The Town Council shall have and reserves the right to extend or modify this moratorium on Electronic Signs for such additional period or periods and on such terms and conditions as it deems necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Easton.

Section 6. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance, which can be given effect without the invalid section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase, and to that end, all provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

Section 7. In accordance with Article II Section 9 of the Easton Town Charter, this ordinance shall become effective twenty (20) calendar days after approval by the Mayor or passage of this ordinance by the Council over the Mayor's veto.

Malone -
 Leshner -
 Wendowski -
 Cook -
 Ford -

I hereby certify that the above Ordinance was passed by a yea and nay vote of the Council this _____ day of _____, 2012.

John F. Ford, Town Council President

Delivered to the Mayor by me this _____ day of _____, 2012.

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk

APPROVED:

Date: _____

Robert C. Willey, Mayor

EFFECTIVE DATE: _____, 2012.