

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON  
COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 8, 2018

***APPROVED***

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:30 pm by Council President Paul James in Council Chambers of the West Easton Municipal Building, 237 Seventh Street, West Easton, Pennsylvania.

Roll was taken and Council President noted there was a quorum. Council President Paul James, Council members Matthew Dees, Robert Lewis, Henry Nodoline, Pete Mammana, Desiree Lake and Jeff Breidinger, Jr were present. Junior Council member, Nathaniel Kober was present. Mayor, Daniel DePaul; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman; and Borough Maintenance Supervisor, Dane Thatcher were present. Code Enforcement Officer, Joseph Hoffman of Barry Isett and Associates was in attendance. Lorraine Chromiak was in attendance as stenographer to record the Conditional Use hearing. Members of the public in attendance: Bill and June Smith, John Geiger, James Jankowich, Vinnie Fodero, Bonnie Mammana, Leon Stull, Drew Zavada, Carl Pierson, Tom & Patti Nodoline, Bruce Walter, Ron and Carla Clark, Jamie Horinko, Lawrence O'Toole, George Johnson and Rick and Robin Repsher.

Council President opened the floor for Public Comment not pertaining to the Conditional Use hearing. There was no public comment.

**Public Comment – None**

Council President then turned the meeting over to Solicitor Goudsouzian to conduct the Conditional Use hearing.

At 8:15 pm, Solicitor Goudsouzian adjourned the Conditional Use hearing to be continued at the February 12, 2018 Council meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Nodoline, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved check #16253 through #16296 from the General Fund Account.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Nodoline, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved check #2046 and #2047 from the Sewer Fund Account.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved the Deposit and Receipts for December 2017.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Nodoline; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for December 2017.

Treasurer, Carl Pierson, again offered if anyone had any questions on his Treasurer's report to please call or email him.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Ms. Lake, seconded by Mr. Nodoline; Council approved the minutes from the December 11, 2017 meeting.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

#### **Engineer's Report – None**

Ms. Heebner asked Council to approve \$10,000 for anticipated Engineering fees for the sidewalks and handicap ramps to be installed along Gerald W. Gross Park.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved spending \$10,000 on engineering fees for the sidewalks and handicap ramps to be done through CDBG/CIPP grants.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

#### **Mayor's Report –**

Mayor DePaul asked if Delta Wash has installed the water meters that were requested.

Ms. Heebner stated that it would be approximately two weeks.

Mayor DePaul stated that he had contacted the State Police in Harrisburg to check the status of the Borough's application for their ORI #. After being on hold for about 10 minutes, the Mayor was told the Borough's paperwork was sitting in her supervisor's office. Ms. Pipes said that she would expedite the application.

Mayor DePaul passed out a handwritten list of quotes for work to be done at the Police Department.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved \$6,209.00 for repairs and improvements to the Police Station.

A discussion was held on the motion.

Council President James asked for a voice vote: Mr. Nodoline – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes, Ms. Lake – Abstained, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. Breidinger – Abstained, Mr. Lewis – No, Mr. James – Yes. Motioned passed 4 to 1 with 2 abstentions.

### **Solicitor's report – None**

### **Office Report –**

Ms. Heebner reported that over the last four months the LED street lighting has saved the Borough anywhere from \$150 - \$600/per month.

### **President's Report –**

Council President James thanked Council for their vote. He also reminded Council members to check their emails for information being sent from the office staff.

Council President James asked Council members if everyone has seen the Committee assignments and reminded Council members about attending the PSAB Boot Camp for newly elected Council members.

### **Policies – None**

### **Resolutions – None**

### **Ordinance – None**

### **Round Table –**

Councilman Mammana reminded residents not to throw snow out into the middle of the street when clearing sidewalks and to also make sure that when they are putting trash out for pick-up it is to be in a can.

### **Committee Reports –**

Finance Committee – Committee chairman, Robert Lewis scheduled a Finance Committee meeting for Wednesday, January 17 at 6:30 pm.

Highway/Property Committee – None

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Committee chairwoman, Desiree Lake scheduled a Public Safety/Personnel Committee meeting for Wednesday, January 17 at 7:00 pm.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – None

Utilities Committee – Committee chairman, Pete Mammana, scheduled a Utilities Committee meeting for Wednesday, January 10 at 6:00 pm.

Recreation – Committee chairman. Jeff Breidinger, scheduled a Recreation Committee meeting for Wednesday, January 16 at 1:00 pm.

Grants Committee – Committee chairman, Matt Dees, has scheduled a meeting on Friday, January 26 at 9:30 am or later. The meeting will include Mary Himmelberger from Barry Isett and Associates, representatives from the Rails to Trails, and member(s) of the Wilson Borough Council. Mr. Dees invited members of the Property Committee to join the meeting.

### **Old Business –**

Councilman Dees asked Mayor DePaul if anything has happened in regards to replacing the wooden guardrail along East and Third Streets. Mayor DePaul replied that he has heard nothing from the contractor and would follow-up.

Borough Manager, Ms. Heebner, brought up her concern in regards to rental properties. She stated that Wilson Borough is now 70% rentals. She is concerned that in West Easton Borough is 35% and the number is increasing. Ms. Heebner spoke with the Solicitor and the Borough can collect a business license fee because they are making an income off the rentals but she would like to see something set in place that these rentals be inspected every two years, three years or five years, etc.

Solicitor Goudsouzian commented that once it is developed it must be implemented.

Solicitor Goudsouzian also suggested that the Engineers review the plans that were presented tonight during the hearing.

Councilwoman Lake asked how Barry Isett and Associates became the Engineer for the Borough. Councilman Dees stated that the Borough had some problems with T & M Associates and the Borough let them go. Councilman Henry Nodoline recommended Barry Isett & Associates back in 2016 because of work he had previously done with the company.

## **New Business –**

Councilman Mammana asked about discussing the DEP report in regards to the Hubcap Store.

Ms. Heebner stated that it is such a long report and all Council members should have received copies of the pictures.

Council President James asked everyone to look at the report.

Mayor DePaul wanted to remind everyone that if any changes are to be made to the budget since Council voted to reopen the budget, it must be decided by the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **Additional Public Comment**

**Leon Stull of Second Street** – Asked if the Borough had received the refund from the Sewer Authority and what was the amount.

Senior Borough Clerk, Mr. Gehman, replied that the refund amount was \$34,997.61 for years 2013, 2014 and 2015.

**Andrew Zavada of Ridge Street** – Asked if something can be done regarding the two trucks that are parked along Ninth Street between Ridge and Palmer. He stated that neither vehicle has moved in more than a year. He also noted that there is a car sitting on jack stands in the same vicinity.

Mr. Stull stated that there is a vehicle located at Front and Keystone parked on the street with no license plate.

**Jim Jankowich of Ninth Street** – Asked about the status of the sewer rates being based off of usage rather than a flat rate.

**Entered Executive Session – 9:18 pm**

**Exited Executive Session – 9:27 pm**

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana; seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council voted to adjourn meeting.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:  
David W. Gehman, Borough Senior Clerk