

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 12, 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. Members of the public in attendance: Bill and June Smith, Rick and Robin Repsher, Bonnie Mammana, Leon Stull, Bruce Walter, James Jankowich, Drew Zavada, David Bogusky and Jerry Heebner.

Council President James turned the floor over to Solicitor Goudsouzian to conclude the Conditional Use decision. Solicitor Goudsouzian summarized the hearing and then listed concerns that Council presented.

Council President James confirmed the former mayor, Gerald Gross and former Council President, Kelly Gross were very concerned about security when Ordinance #966 was signed in 2013.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council denied the Conditional Use application by West Easton Two, LP.

Council President James asked for a voice vote (Yes vote = Denial). Mr. Breidinger – Yes, Ms. Lake – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. Nodoline - Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes and Mr. James – Yes. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Nodoline, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved checks #16399 through #16418 from the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Nodoline, seconded by Ms. Lake; Council approved check # 2050 from the Sewer Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from February 2018.

Discussion – Mr. Dees asked about sales of Zoning Books. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Nodoline; Council approved the minutes for the February 26, 2018 Council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Nodoline, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the February 2018 Treasurer's Report. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Public Comment –

Bill Smith of Main Street – Mr. Smith commented he was glad that Council voted the way they did. Security should be the main issue.

Engineer's Report –

Borough Manager, Ms. Heebner, discussed a handout from Barry Isett & Associates covering the timeline for the sidewalk improvements at Gerald W. Gross Community Park.

Several of the Council members requested seeing the construction plans before moving ahead with the project.

Mayor's Report –

Mayor Dan DePaul said he met with County Executive, Lamont McClure. Mayor DePaul said he spoke to him about residents' not returning, security and the pickup and drop-off of residents. Mr. McClure spoke about "the call" that residents receive while at work or looking for that are out of resident's control which upsets them therefore they don't return to the Treatment Center.

Mayor DePaul also mentioned that the Borough received \$2,500 from Northampton County District Attorney, John Morganelli.

The Mayor also wanted to thank the Borough residents for their action in the latest snow emergency. The Mayor stated that he and Dane Thatcher each took a person from the Treatment Center and gave notices to the residents on the Snow Emergency Routes. When the Snow Emergency went into effect there was not one car parked on a Snow Emergency Route.

Solicitor's report –

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated the only item he had was for Executive Session.

Office Report –

Borough Manager, Ms. Heebner had two items to pass onto Council. First of all she had received a letter from the Wilson Recreation Board for use of the field at Gerald W. Gross Community Park and she asked for an insurance certificate.

Secondly the Borough received the Liquid Fuels money for 2018 in excess of \$38,000.

President's Report –

Council President Paul James spoke about NIMS training. He told Council and staff that all are required to take the training. Failure to do so could result in the Borough losing FEMA funds in the event of a natural disaster.

Council President James thanked Dane Thatcher on a job well done during the recent snow storm.

Council President James thanked Councilman Matt Dees for setting up a tour of the West Easton Treatment Center. Mr. James remarked on the dedicated staff and that the Deputy Warden is a former Navy Seal. Mr. James also commented on the amount of security – guards, buzzers, magnetic locks and that the outdoor exercise area is actually inside.

Policies – None

Resolutions –

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council approved a \$1000 donation to the Wilson Area Recreation Board. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Nodoline; Council approved moving \$115,482 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund.

Discussion – Mr. Nodoline asked why we were building the fund up. Examples were provided. Ms. Heebner stated the auditor's opinion was the monies held in the Capital Reserve Fund can be used for anything especially unexpected capital items such as a truck, building repair, etc. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Ordinance – None

Round Table –

Councilman Dees mentioned that at the last meeting resident, Trude Hargraves, inquired into declaring the train trestle as a historical landmark. Councilman Dees commented that there are qualifications that need to be met for a landmark to be

declared “historical.” Councilman Dees noted that the grants available for a historical landmark seem to be geared to a home or building.

Councilman Dees noted a website that could be referred to, www.phmc.pa.gov The website is for the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission.

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – Committee chairman, Mr. Lewis reported that the committee did not meet due to the weather and wanted to schedule a meeting for Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 5:00 pm.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second Mr. Dees; Council agreed not to renew the CDs currently held by First Commonwealth. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Highway/Property Committee –

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council accepted the lowest bid of \$11,100 by M.J. Shisslak Roofing and Siding to replace the Borough’s municipal building roof. No discussion. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Nodoline, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council accepted the lowest bid of \$4,793.00 by Long Fence to repair and replace the guardrail at East and Third Streets. No discussion. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Nodoline, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the purchase of a power washer up to cost of \$500.00. No discussion. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Committee chairwoman, Desiree Lake scheduled a meeting for the committee on Tuesday, March 20 at 5:30 pm.

Mayor DePaul wanted to make the committee aware that during the snow storm a 53 foot tractor trailer got stuck on the Third Street hill. Mayor DePaul suggested that tractor trailer traffic use Lehigh Drive to Main Street to enter and leave the Borough.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – Council President James stated the Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee would not schedule a meeting.

Utilities Committee – Committee chairman, Pete Mammana, scheduled a meeting for the committee for Friday, March 16 at 5:00 pm. Mr. Mammana stated that there are three lights in the Borough that have not been converted to LED lighting. Two of them are on Sterlingworth Terrace and the third is in the alley behind Spring Street.

Recreation – Committee chairman. Jeff Breidinger, stated that the committee did not meet but he did meet with the President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Donna Stamets in regards to the Borough’s Easter Egg Hunt. Mr. Breidinger did not schedule a meeting

Grants Committee – Committee chairman, Matt Dees, reported that he attended the pre-application meeting for the Recycling grant. He has since returned the grant information to the Borough manager.

Old Business –

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved to roll over the Grant until next year and use it as a matching amount.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved committing up to \$25,000 for a safety inspection on the trestles crossing Spring Street and Iron Street.

Discussion – Councilman Dees said that Wilson Borough was willing to pay their $\frac{1}{4}$ of the inspection fees per Wilson Borough Councilman, Scott Palinkas. Mr. Dees also stated that Bob Freeman was going to speak with Easton representatives to get Easton on board with the trail. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved getting quotes for fencing to block off the entrances to the trestles.

Discussion – ABE Fence and Anchor Fence were suggestions to contact regarding a quote. Motion passed 7 – 0.

New Business –

Upon motion by Ms. Lake, seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council approved Mr. Lewis to attend the Annual Conference at the Hershey Lodge, June 10 – 13. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Breidinger, seconded by Ms. Lake; Council approved Mr. Lewis to attend the seminar on Understanding Street Policies on May 8, 2018. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Breidinger, seconded by Ms. Lake; Council approved Mr. Lewis to attend the seminar on Ethics and Open Records Act on May 24, 2018. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Ms. Lake, seconded by Mr. Breidinger, Council approved Mr. Lewis to attend the Municipal Police Department Supervision on April 5, 2018. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Additional Public Comment –

William Smith of Main Street – commented that he recently was in the Hubcap Store and the store is loaded from floor to ceiling.

Rob Mahady, Borough's Police Consultant – reported that he has met with Robert Hulsizer from the County 911 Center. He has looked into the cost of a communication/mobile station and was surprised that the cost was approximately \$3,000.00

Jim Jankowich of Ninth Street – Was not clear why the Borough was spending \$18,750 for the safety inspection of the trestles after having an inspection two years ago. It was explained that inspection was visual only.

Dane Thatcher replied that the inspection found a loose railroad tie and it was removed.

William Smith of Main Street – commented if there are more drugs the Borough will need more police.

Bruce Walter of Ninth Street – asked to explain the condition use process farther.

Solicitor Goudsouzian explained that the Borough Council has denied the conditional use application. A written decision will be completed and distributed to the interested parties. If the applicant would decide to appeal the decision the Appellate Court would then hear the case

Entered Executive Session – 8:05 pm

Exited Executive Session – 8:20 pm

President James stated that pending litigation was discussed during Executive Session and no action was taken.

President James reminded everyone that the next meeting will be Monday, March 26, 2018 at 6:30 pm

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council voted to adjourn. Motion passed 7 – 0. Meeting adjourned at 8:21

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