

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON  
COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 26, 2018

***APPROVED***

The second monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. 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. Nathaniel Kober, Junior Council member was absent. Mayor, Dan DePaul was available by telephone; 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: Bonnie Mammana, June & Bill Smith, Leon Stull, Trude Hargraves, Drew Zavada and Tricia Mezzacappa.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Nodoline; Council approved checks #16419 through #16464 from the General Fund Account. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved check # 2051 from the Sewer Fund Account. No discussion. Motion passed 7 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Ms. Lake; Council approved the minutes with correction from Council meeting held on February 26, 2018.

Discussion – Mr. Lewis asked to have the word “spending” changed to “committed” in the motion pertaining to the \$25,000 set aside for the inspection of the trestles. Motion passed 7 – 0.

**Engineer’s Report –**

Mr. Doug Brown of Barry Isett and Associates attended the Council meeting to provide Council with updated plans for the sidewalks to be put in along Gerald W. Gross Community Park.

Councilman Dees asked if the plans included the rebuilding of the stone wall. Mr. Brown replied that the grant did not include the wall. The total cost of the project is \$40,000. If there is money left over a cut would be made in the curbing along Keystone Avenue to make an easier transition from the street to back vehicles in front of the pavilion.

Councilman Nodoline approved of the plans.

Mr. Brown stated he needs to finalize the plans.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the plans for the sidewalks along Gerald W. Gross Community Park and have the engineer move forward. No additional discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

### **Public Comment –**

**Tricia Mezzacappa of Ridge Street** – Ms. Mezzacappa provided Council with her own update on her legal case with the Borough. She informed Council that she has fired her attorney and after spending two years in discovery the case is now moving to a pre-trial conference. She also reminded Council that the penalties of \$500.00 per day now exceed over \$1,000,000.00.

Ms. Mezzacappa expressed her opinion on Council turning down the treatment center. Solicitor Goudsouzian ~~spoke and~~ said that the decision is public and has been signed by the Council President and Borough Manager.

### **Mayor's Report –**

Mayor DePaul provided his report via telephone. He noted he likes the plan for the sidewalks along Gerald W. Gross Community Park. He also said that Matt is correct that the Borough would be responsible for \$18,750 of the \$25,000 cost for the trestle inspections. The difference would be paid by Wilson Borough. And finally, the Mayor deferred to Councilman Nodoline as to the feasibility of a garage on the Ridge Street property.

### **Solicitor's report –**

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated he had nothing to report other than what needs to be discussed in Executive Session.

### **Office Report –**

Borough Manager, Ms. Heebner reported that there were over 60 children signed up for the Easter Egg Hunt to be held on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Heebner has also followed up with our Code Inspector that if the work is not completed at the Delta Wash Laundry by Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup> a stop work order will be posted on the business.

### **President's Report –**

President James wanted to remind everyone that they should be taking the NIMS training online.

**Policies – None**

**Resolutions –**

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved the Northampton County Livable Landscapes Program Environmental Services Assistance Grant (Resolution 2018-014). No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Ms. Lake; Council approved Wilson Recreation Board to use the baseball field at Gerald W. Gross Community Park upon assurance of proof of insurance. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

**Ordinance – None**

**Round Table – None**

**Committee Reports –**

**Finance Committee** – Committee chair, Mr. Lewis, stated that the Finance Committee did meet and is looking into alternate financial institutions such as Barclay's Funding, Capital One and Marcus.

Mr. Lewis stated no committee meeting is required at this time. Mr. Lewis also stated that the monies that need to be set aside for the trestles can be taken from the Capital Improvement Fund.

**Highway/Property Committee** – Committee chairperson, Henry Nodoline asked to schedule a Highway/Property Committee meeting for Wednesday, March 28 at 10:00 am.

Mr. Nodoline stated that he is not being considered or the committee is not doing its job when Council goes and approves work being done at the Police Station and not giving it to the committee first.

He also mentioned that he has an estimate for a pole barn for \$28,400 and an estimate for a concrete floor could be poured for \$10,400, coming in well under the \$60,000 amount the Borough received from a grant.

**Public Safety/Personnel Committee** – Committee chairwoman, Ms. Lake, stated the committee met and reviewed personnel issues. Mr. Mahady spoke to the committee about the Police Station. The committee recommended sending Mr. Mahady to the training seminar on "Municipal Police Departments Supervision and Oversight."

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council approved sending Rob Mahady to the training seminar, "Municipal Police Departments Supervision and Oversight." No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0

Upon motion by Ms. Lake, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved sending Mayor Dan DePaul to the training seminar, "Municipal Police Departments Supervision and Oversight." No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Mr. Lewis commented that a replacement for Mr. Stull needs to be found for the Zoning Hearing Board.

The committee reviewed Mr. Concolino's emergency plan for the Borough.

Ms. Lake scheduled a Public Safety/Personnel Committee meeting for Tuesday, April 3 at 5:00 p.m.

**Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee** – Mr. Dees suggested that Council vote on the renewal of the Sonicwave fire wall.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the renewal of the Sonicwave fire wall for three years through EZ Micro. No discussion. Motion by 7 – 0.

No meeting was scheduled for the Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee.

**Utilities Committee** – Committee chairperson, Pete Mammana, stated that the committee discussed the quote provided by David Bush and asked if a lower price was possible. Mr. Mammana scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, April 4 at 5:00 p.m.

**Recreation Committee** – Jeff Breidinger, Jr, Committee chairman, stated that the committee did not meet and no meeting will be scheduled until after the Easter Egg Hunt. Mr. Breidinger stated that he would be at Gerald W. Gross Community Park by 10:00 a.m. to assist with the Egg Hunt.

**Grants Committee** – Chairman, Mr. Dees, stated that Council was up to date on the grants and the Recycling grant was due April 7<sup>th</sup>. No meeting was scheduled for the Grants Committee

### **Old Business –**

Mr. Gehman reminded Council to return the forms for the Elected Officials Insurance.

**New Business – None**

### **Public Comment**

**Leon Stull of Second Street** – Mr. Stull asked Council why they were considering changing the way they bill for the sewer.

Council President James stated that Council is looking at the possibility of changing the sewer billing from a flat rate to a usage rate. There has been no decision made and Council will hold a town hall meeting prior to it goes into effect.

Mr. Stull said he would install a diversion meter if the billing is changed.

**Trude Hargraves of Second Street** – Expressed her displeasure with the proposed sewer billing change.

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that it is not official as of yet. Councilman Nodoline commented that why should residents to do not use a large amount of water be penalized for those residents who do.

**Drew Zavada of Ridge Street** – Expressed his displeasure that the power was turned off on Sunday afternoon. He asked if it was possible to be notified prior to the event occurring.

**Entered Executive Session – 7:35 p.m.**

**Exited Executive Session – 7:53 p.m.**

Councilman President James stated that Council discussed scheduling the Conditional Use hearing for the May 14, 2018 Council meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Lake; Council approved to advertise and notify the public of the scheduling of the Conditional Use hearing during the May 14, 2018 Council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Council President James said Council will defer the public hearing on sewer rates (town hall meeting) until after the Conditional Use Hearing is concluded.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council agreed to adjourn. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Meeting ended 7:57 p.m.

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