

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 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 Mr. James noted there was a quorum. Council members Matthew Dees, Robert Lewis, Pete Mammana, Jeff Breidinger, Jr. and David Bolash were present. Desiree Lake and Junior Council member, Nathaniel Kober were absent. 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: Jim Jankowich, William & June Smith, Trude Hargraves, Nancy Stout, Leon Stull, Bruce Walter, Bonnie Mammana, Drew Zavada, Kelly Hurd, Bill Concolino, Renee Foust and David Bogusky.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved checks #16803 through #16852 from the General Fund. Discussion: Mr. Dees questioned check # 16828. Mr. Gehman replied that check was for street lighting and the credit given for the World War monument was applied to the amount. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council approved check # 2070 from the Sewer Fund. Discussion: Mr. Lewis questioned why only one check. Mr. Gehman replied just timing of when invoices came in for payment. Motion passed 6 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Breidinger, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from October, 2018. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the minutes for the October 8, 2018, Council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the October 2018 Treasurer's Report. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Public Comment

Leon Stull, 2nd Street – Asked what is up with leaf collection. Mr. Gehman replied that the vacuum had a mechanical problem and it took a few days to get the part. The part was replaced and pick-up continued as of Friday, November 9th. Mr. Stull again asked what is being done regarding the excessive water that he claims to be running down to his property. Mr. Dees stated that the excessive water is coming from his neighbors rain spouting and is not the result of the construction done on Second Street. Mr. Dees offered possible solutions to Mr. Stull.

Kelly Hurd, 7th Street – Asked Council what is being done with resolving the noise issues with the laundry service located at 601 East Street. Mr. Hurd stated that he is losing sleep every night because of the excessive noise coming from the laundry service. Mr. Hurd provided Council with decibel readings. Mr. Bolash stated his highest reading he recorded was 82 decibels. Mr. James said that he spoke to the owner of the business and they are working on duct work to resolve the noise issue. Mayor DePaul made the comment that there are more issues than that with the laundry service.

William Smith, Main Street – Mr. Smith told Council he has stopped at the laundry and has offered help with resolving the noise issue. Mr. Smith commented that the business should be shut down. He also had concerns with safety and garbage collection.

Trude Hargraves, 2nd Street – Ms. Hargraves asked if the Delta Wash water issue was ever resolved; Mr. James said it was.

Drew Zavada, Ridge Street – Mr. Zavada reported to Council that the concrete bench at the Ninth Street Park was turned over and the concrete table was cracked.

Guest – William Concolino, Emergency Management Coordinator

-The Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator, Mr. Concolino, spoke to Council. Mr. Concolino asked to be reimbursed for his travel expenses for training workshops he has attended. He also asked Council to provide funds to purchase a portable radio and consider a radio to be mounted in his truck.

-Mr. Concolino also suggested that the Borough provide IDs for all their officials, employees and appointees so that people could identify that they represent the Borough.

-Mr. Concolino also expressed concerns about the Borough's storm drains filling up with leaves and debris (MS4). He also talked about low hanging tree limbs, line of sight problems and parking at intersections impeding emergency vehicles traveling through the Borough. The final concern was flooding along Lehigh Drive. Mr. Concolino spoke about PennDOT closing a portion of Lehigh Drive permanently and the difficulty of George Johnson Trucking to remove trucks and trailers from his business in the event of flooding.

Engineer's Report –

-Ms. Heebner asked, on behalf of Mary Himmelberger of Barry Isett & Associates, if there were any grants that needed to be prepared. Mr. Dees stated that there are no grants to be applied for at this time.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the final plan for the Borough's Maintenance building. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Office Report

-Ms. Heebner presented Council with a copy of a landlord ordinance from a nearby municipality for their consideration. She said that she would like the Borough to get something on the books to protect renters in the Borough.

-Ms. Heebner provided Council with a chart that showed the contributions made by each municipality to the Mary Meuser Library. The numbers show that the West Easton and Wilson provide a higher amount per resident than the other municipalities.

-Ms. Heebner told Council that a new Havahart trap has been purchased for the Borough. She would like a policy developed so the residents could “borrow” the trap.

Solicitor’s report

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that all he had was Mezzacappa litigation for Executive Session.

Entered Executive Session at 7:34 pm; Exit Executive Session at 8:00 pm

-Council President James stated that pending litigation with regards to Ordinance 966 was discussed during the Executive Session.

-Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council approved to pay up to \$450 of the Emergency Management Coordinator’s expenses. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis, Council authorized the Solicitor to collect sewer fees from a resident. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Breidinger, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Solicitor to enforce Ordinance #966. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

President’s Report

-Council President Paul James wanted to take a moment and recognize veterans serving on Council and also present in the public for their service to the country.

-Mr. James also mentioned that the Mayor was on television giving an interview regarding the Borough’s World War Monument.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved moving the electric supply to Constellation. Mr. Bolash warned that after the 48 month period the rate would become variable. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Mayor’s Report

-Mayor DePaul yielded the floor to Rob Mahady, Police Consultant. Mr. Mahady stated that the Borough received correspondence from Harrisburg on November 1st that the West Easton Borough Police department was now a go. He stated that the Police Department is the first new department formed in the state in nearly 30 years. Mr. Mahady said the Wilson Police chief has assisted him in getting certified and getting the necessary credentials to start the department.

-Mr. Mahady also stated that he has been in contact with the Northampton County Communications Center, has spoken to computer consultants as to the needs of the department and attended a meeting on records management.

-Mayor DePaul asked Dane Thatcher the status of the Police Department building. Mr. Thatcher replied the main office is painted but the lobby area stills needs to be finished.

-Mayor DePaul told Council that the Chief of Police from Palmer Township has offered two patrol cars to the Borough for free. There is about \$3,000 of repairs needed to the two vehicles.

The vehicles come fully loaded. The Palmer Chief has also provided maintenance reports for both cars and the Mayor has already had a mechanic look at both vehicles.

-Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved to take possession of the two vehicles from Palmer Township. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Mayor DePaul asked Council to pass the resolution regarding the 2018 Lehigh Valley Mitigation Plan. Mr. DePaul said this plan came out of the meetings that Mr. Mammana and he had attended throughout the last year. Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the 2018 Lehigh Valley Mitigation Plan. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the 2019 Council meeting dates to be advertised. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Policies, Resolutions, Ordinance – None

Round Table

-Mr. Dees cautioned Council members about providing specific dates when talking to the public.

-Council President James noted that the Borough is expected to receive a \$9,000 rebate for the Easton Joint Sewer Authority.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. Lewis reviewed the highlights of the budget with Council. Mr. Dees directed a comment to Mr. Bolash, the chair of the Property/Highway Committee that Council might want to consider delaying the Nova chip of the roads for a year to build up additional monies from Liquid Fuels. Mayor DePaul stated that the Borough is an entitled community and is eligible for additional monies from CDBG grants for road improvement.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved to advertise the budget with corrections.

-Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved to increase the amounts for Emergency Management Coordinator Reimbursement to \$600 and Emergency Management Equipment & Supplies to \$2,400. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved no change in the millage for 2019 and approved to advertise. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Mr. Lewis did not schedule any meeting for the Finance Committee.

Highway/Property Committee – No meetings were scheduled.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Mr. Dees scheduled two times for the Public Safety/Personnel Committee meeting depending upon the availability of Committee Chair, Ms. Lake and Police Consultant, Mr. Mahady. The meeting times are Monday, December 3rd at 6:30pm and Wednesday, December 5th at 6:30pm

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – Mr. James scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, November 20th at 6:30pm

Utilities Committee – No meeting was scheduled.

Recreation Committee – Mr. Breidinger deferred any meeting until after the first of the year.

Grants Committee – Mr. Dees said that the Borough has been approved for the grant to purchase recycling bins. The grant was for \$11,625.00 and the bins would be delivered in late spring. Mr. Dees did not schedule a meeting for the committee.

Old Business - None

New Business – None

Additional Public Comment

Leon Stull, 2nd Street – Asked what is being done with the rebate from the Sewer Authority. Mr. James replied that it would go into the Sewer Fund. Mr. Stull also stated that he would be contacting the County in regards to getting some satisfaction to his “issue” with his sidewalks since the Borough is not willing to take action and the Second Street project was a grant using County funds.

Trude Hargraves, 2nd Street – Inquired about purchasing new playground equipment for Gross Park.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the purchase of a portable radio for the Emergency Management Coordinator. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Mayor DePaul told everyone that he presided over his first marriage ceremony.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council voted to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:03pm.

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