

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 10, 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, Pete Mammana, Desiree Lake, David Bolash and Junior Council member, Nathaniel Kober were present. Robert Lewis was available by telephone. Jeff Breidinger, Jr. was 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: William & June Smith, Bonnie Mammana, Leon Stull, Trude Hargraves, Bruce Walter, Kelly Hurd, Rob Mahady and Daniel Redington.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Lake; Council approved checks #16853 through #16910 from the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved check #2071 through #2072 from the Sewer Fund. No discussion: Motion passed 6 - 0.

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

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the minutes for the November 12, 2018, Council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

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

Public Comment

Bill Smith, Main Street – Asked Council how the solution to the noise problem with the laundry was coming along. Ms. Heebner stated that he agreed to start running the dryer after 7:00 am in the morning. Mr. James said that Ms. Heebner, Mr. Bolash and himself all met with Vinny Fodero and that he has erected a sound barrier and is cooperating with the Borough in resolving the issue. A noise survey has been discussed.

Kelly Hurd, 7th Street – Thanked Council for addressing the noise issue. He commented that at least he is able to sleep. Mr. Hurd commented there is still an issue citing that he had a reading of 58 decibels the previous week. He also stated that there were mornings that the dryer started at 5:30 am. Ms. Heebner asked that he keep the Borough apprised of what is going on.

Guest – Daniel Redington, Director of Mary Meuser Memorial Library

-Mr. Redington spoke to Council regarding the proposed 2019 budget for the library and requested a donation of \$9,000 from the Borough of West Easton. Mr. Redington stated that the library, even if all the municipalities donate what is asked of them, will need to take \$24,000 – \$47,000 from their endowment fund to fully fund the library for 2019.

-Mr. Dees asked Mr. Redington how they determine what each municipality is asked to give. Mr. Redington replied historical data. Mr. Redington stated if donations drop any lower the library will need to cut programs and possibly fall below state standards.

-Mr. Dees provided numbers from the municipalities that support the library and stated that West Easton pays the highest amount per resident. Mr. Dees asked if he has approached some of the other municipalities that don't donate as much to increase their donations. Mr. Redington made known that he has had private discussions with members of the municipalities but has yet to go "public" with his requests which he agreed would be his next step.

Guest – Rob Mahady, West Easton Borough Police Consultant

-Mr. Mahady provided an update on the Police Department. Mr. Mahady said he has been investigating the cost of police software that is available and believes the most effective way is to use paper reports. He stated that the software can cost up to \$30,000 including installation. Mr. Mahady has also been in contact with the Northampton County 911 Center and is working with them to have the police radios, when obtained, programmed and ready for use.

-Mayor DePaul also mentioned that a vehicle is available from the Northampton County Sheriff's Department. It is a Ford Explorer, either a 2008 or 2009 model; the vehicle comes fully loaded including the police radio. The vehicle is in great condition but has high mileage. The asking price is \$4,000.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved spending up to \$40,000 this calendar year with the condition that purchases are approved by the Personnel/Public Safety Committee first. There was no discussion. Council President James asked for voice vote. Ms. Lake – Yes, Mr. Bolash – Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. James – Yes. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Policies, Resolutions, Ordinance

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana, Council approved Ordinance No. 2018 – 050 approving the millage rate for 2019 as 11.7 mils (no change). No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0, Ordinance No. 2

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Dees, Council passed Resolution No. 2018 – 051, adopting the 2019 budget. No discussion. Council President James asked for voice vote. Ms. Lake – Yes, Mr. Bolash – Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. James – Yes. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Engineer's Report – None

Office Report

Ms. Heebner presented to Council a request by Northampton County to hold a Mobile Paper Shredding Event. Ms. Heebner felt that the Borough does not have adequate facilities to host such an event. Ms. Lake commented that it takes a large number of volunteers to check identifications because these events are for individuals and not businesses and only for residents of Northampton County.

*Robert Lewis disconnected at 7:20 pm

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council unfortunately declined the County invitation to host a Mobile Paper Shredding event due to lack of space. No further discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Solicitor's report

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated he had litigation to discuss in Executive Session.

President's Report

-Council President James again asked for volunteers to fill the following positions: Zoning Board Member, Vacancy Board and Wilson Recreation Board. Mr. James stated that he had been attending the Wilson Recreation Board meeting as the representative for West Easton but has additional restraints on his time and would like to have someone fill the position.

-Mr. Redington added the Wilson Recreation Board has a Senior Bingo every third Thursday of the month at the Community Center.

Mayor's Report

-Mayor DePaul proposed a sign be erected or mounted to the front of the Police Station, formerly the Borough Hall. He said the sign would be made of wood and measure 30" x 34." The cost would be approximately \$275.00

-The Mayor also mentioned that he believes that there are even more abandoned cars in the Borough than was previously discussed. He mentioned several locations of cars that have seemingly been abandoned.

Round Table

Mr. Dees mentioned the Christmas tree for the Borough needs to be replaced. It was mentioned that the former Mayor offered to donate a tree at several past Council meetings.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. James stated that since the 2019 budget has been approved there is no need for the committee to meet at this time.

Highway/Property Committee – No meetings were scheduled.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Ms. Lake scheduled a meeting for Thursday, December 13th at 6:30pm with Rob Mahady. Ms. Lake asked Mr. Mahady to bring with him costs of items needed for the Police Department.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – Mr. James stated that the meeting scheduled for November 20th was canceled and no new meetings are scheduled.

Utilities Committee – No meeting was scheduled.

Recreation Committee – Committee chairman, Jeff Breidinger was absent. No meeting was scheduled.

Grants Committee – Mr. Dees had nothing new for the Grants committee except to accept the grant for the recycling bins.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Ms. Lake; Council accepted the 902 State Grant for the purchase of recycling bins in the amount of \$11,625. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Additional Public Comment

Kelly Hurd, Seventh Street – Suggested the purchase of a radar gun to curb the speeding in the Borough. Mr. Mahady said that the Borough could not use radar but other methods could be used.

Executive Session Entered 7:43 pm – Exited 8:00 pm

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded Mr. Dees; Council authorized the Solicitor to take any appropriate action regarding the collection of fees relating to the DUI Center. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council voted to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

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