

# BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

JULY 8, 2019

## *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, David Bolash and Janie Jones Brown and Junior Council member, Nathaniel Kober were present, Council member 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 in attendance. Members of the public in attendance: June & Bill Smith, Wesley E Beers, Sr., Bonnie Mammana, Marshall & Eleanor Wagner, Nancy Kutz, Trude Hargraves, Nancy Stout, Bruce Walter, Thomas Nodoline, Stephen Mathes, Brandon & Beth Lutz, Leon Stull, Rich Nagy, Ted Phillips, Todd Carver, Nicole Misero, Janice Gallo, Jerry & Gigi Gross, Thomas Woods, Renee Sterling, Jerry Heebner and Dave Bogusky. Abe Atiyeh, Attorney James Preston and Dominic Marfisi were in attendance for the Conditional Use Hearing.

### **Public Comment –**

**-Bill Smith – Main Street** – Mr. Smith reported that pick-up and drop-offs at the Treatment Center are causing traffic issues on Main Street. Vehicles are double parked and they are not able to leave their driveway. Mr. Smith went on to say that a neighbor told him that he saw a resident from the Treatment Center urinating outside. Mr. Smith said he has called the center numerous times to complain and has not received satisfaction.

**-Gerald Gross – Fifth Street** – Former Mayor Gross stated that when the Borough gave permission for the DUI Center all pick-ups and drop-offs were required to be inside the gate. Mayor Gross stated there is a sign posted on the fence outside the Treatment Center which is not being enforced.

**-Abe Atiyeh** said he has direct access to County officials and he needs to know what is going on so that he can take action.

**-Nancy Kutz – Spring Street** – Ms. Kutz reported to Council that residents of the Treatment Center routinely walk through her yard and a neighbors on their way to and from Freemansburg Avenue.

-Mayor DePaul asked Ms. Kutz if the problem has continued since she met with the Mayor and the head of the Treatment Center. Ms. Kutz replied that she has not seen anyone since then.

**-Brandon Lutz – Spring Street** – Mr. Lutz stated that he was to a Council meeting several months ago to complain about residents of the Treatment Center parking in the alley behind his home. Mr. Lutz now reports that residents of the Treatment Center are “stashing” things in the alley; under cars and in the bushes.

**-Wesley Beers – Spring Street** – Mr. Beers told Council that he spent \$600 to have cameras installed around his property after someone from the DUI Center had broken into his son’s car. He also reported that residents from the Treatment Center routinely sit and/or sleep at the bench located across the street from his home on their way back to the Treatment Center.

**-Tom Nodoline – Fifth Street** – Mr. Nodoline stated that he has seen residents of the Treatment Center routinely smoking outside and round the center. Mr. Nodoline stated that because it is a County facility, no smoking should be allowed. Mr. Nodoline feels that are two sets of rules that are being followed.

After completion of the Public Comment, Council President Paul James turned the floor over to Solicitor Goudsouzian for the Conditional Use Hearing. The Conditional Use Hearing started at 6:47 pm and concluded at 8:32 pm. Following the conclusion of the Conditional Use Hearing a brief recess was called.

Council President James gaveled the Council meeting back into session at 8:41 pm.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved checks #17241 through #17298 from the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved online charges to the General Fund, payments X0011 through X0017. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Bolash: Council approved charges made through the Debit Account through July 8, 2019. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved check #2086 through #2089 from the Sewer Fund. No discussion: Motion passed 6 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from June 2019. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the minutes for the June 10, 2019, Council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 1. (Mr. Lewis was dissenting vote – absent from previous meeting.)

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the June 2019, Treasurer’s Report. No Discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

### **Engineer’s Report - None**

### **Office Report**

Ms. Heebner relayed the following information to Council:

-The Fire Company is asking the Borough to pay their insurance bill of \$17,825 because the Social Club is saying they do not have the funds to pay it.

-Mr. Lewis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; for Council to pay \$17,825.00 to Safety First Volunteer Fire Co. #1.

-Discussion – Mr. Dees stated if the Social Club does not have the money to pay for the insurance Council should consider giving a lesser amount for the donation at the beginning of the year and then cover the insurance bill. Mayor DePaul said that the Social Quarters turns to the Ladies Auxiliary for money for picnics and barbeques. The Mayor suggested that Ms. Heebner contact the head of the Ladies Auxiliary and have a meeting with her. He also said that the monthly meeting for the Social Quarters would be the following night and he wants to hear the

financial report. –Mr. Nagy, the Assistant Fire Chief, said that the insurance was due mid-August.

-Once the discussion was concluded a decision to table the vote was made.

-National Night Out will be August 6, 2019, from 6-8pm at the Borough parking lot/garage.

-Valor Clinic will be collecting canned goods to get a jump start on Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for homeless Vets.

-We received the grant money of \$60,000 for the pole barn project. We've received the trestle grant money, \$24,500. The paper work for the Casino grant is submitted; we already had that money.

-Mary from BIA will submit the CIPP grant paperwork on July 9<sup>th</sup>; reminder: we are using the LSA grant, \$46,091, and our own money, \$16,609 as a match for the \$112,700 project.

-Asked about donating 2 bikes that were found, no owners ever came forward. Solicitor Goudsouzian said they technically have to be auctioned.

-Thanked Councilman Dees for all his extra help as she's been swamped with RTKs.

### **Policies, Resolutions and Ordinances** - None

### **Solicitor's Report**

Solicitor Goudsouzian had litigation to be discussed during Executive Session.

### **President's Report**

-Council President Paul James reminded Council members to take advantage of training that is available to them.

-President James asked Mr. Lewis for a report about the Annual Conference which he attended in June. Mr. Lewis was not prepared to provide a report at this time.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor DePaul told Council that the second vehicle that was given to the Borough by Palmer Township is currently at Nazareth Ford for several recalls on the vehicle. Mayor DePaul hopes the repairs will be done by the end of the week.

### **Round Table**

-Mr. Dees stated the Borough's Resolution 2019-016 - to amend Right to Know Law and provide relief from vexatious requesters has been accepted by PSAB and they are sending it to the PA House of Representative. Mr. Dees also mentioned that PSAT has enacted a vexatious requester resolution with the backing of 1,400 townships.

-Mr. Dees also asked to have a Town Hall Meeting in the near future to dispel the untruths that are being reported as to the spending by this Council.

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee** – Mr. Gehman asked Mr. Lewis to schedule meetings after July 22<sup>nd</sup> so that the office could have their budget ready for the committee. Mr. Lewis scheduled two meetings the first on Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm and the second on Wednesday, July 31<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

**Highway/Property Committee** – Mr. Bolash reported that at the last committee meeting it was determined that the following streets are next to be resurfaced; Front Street, Main Street to East, Spring Street from East to Ridge and Ridge Street. Mr. Bolash also asked what the issue was with the water feature. He asked that Daniel’s Landscaping be contacted. No meeting was scheduled.

**Public Safety/Personnel Committee** – Ms. Jones Brown scheduled the following meetings for the committee – Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 pm and Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm and asked that Mr. Mahady be contacted in regards to these meetings.

**Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee** – Mr. James scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

**Utilities Committee** – Mr. Mammana stated that the committee did not meet and no meeting was required at this time.

**Recreation Committee** – No report.

**Grants Committee** – Mr. Dees stated that there is nothing new to report and no meeting was required.

**Old Business** - None

**New Business** - None

**Additional Public Comment**

**Wes Beers, Sr. – Spring Street** – Mr. Beers asked about the status of the Police Department.

**Leon Stull – Second Street** – Mr. Stull asked again what is being done about his sidewalks.

**Executive Session Entered 9:15 pm – Exited 9:55 pm**

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved Council President to sign agreement stating terms of cleanup of The Hubcap Store. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council agreed to continue to table the motion regarding the payment of insurance for Safety First Volunteer Fire Co. #1 until next month. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mamman; Council voted to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:57 pm.

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