

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 12, 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. 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 & William Smith, Bonnie Mammana, Drew Zavada, James Jankowich, David Bogusky, Marshall & Eleanor Wagner, Abe Atiyeh and Christina Tatu of the Morning Call.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved checks #17299 through #17351 from the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved online charges X0018 through X0021 to the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana: Council approved Debit Account charges from July 8, 2019 through August 12, 2019. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved check #2090 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 July 2019. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the minutes for the July 8, 2019, Council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the minutes for the July 22, 2019, Council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the July 2019, Treasurer's Report. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Executive Session Entered 6:36 pm – Exited 6:46 pm

-A motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council to deny the Conditional Use application by West Easton II. No discussion.

Council President James asked for a voice vote. Ms. Jones Brown – Yes, Mr. Bolash – Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. Dees – No, Mr. James – Yes. Motion passed 5 – 1.

Engineering Report –

-A motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council authorized to apply for LSA, Lehigh and Northampton County Grant with Paul James as Designated Official. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-A motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council authorized to apply for LSA, Monroe County Grant with Paul James as Designated Official. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-A motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded as Mr. Dees; Council authorized spending \$18,129 as a match to the grant for phase 2 of the Borough’s Maintenance Building. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Office Report

-A motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved to reimburse the Ladies Auxiliary the amount of \$4,457.00 for paying insurance required by the Safety First Volunteer Fire Co. #1. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-A motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council accepted the resignation of Council Member, Jeffrey Breidinger, Jr. No discussion. Council President James asked for a voice vote. Ms. Jones Brown – Yes, Mr. Bolash - Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. Lewis – No, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. James – Yes. Motion passed 5 – 1.

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 had nothing to report.

Mayor’s Report

Mayor DePaul commented that there are less abandoned cars on the streets of the Borough. He will be keeping an eye on the problem.

Round Table

-Mr. Dees reported seeing an adult woman standing on the water feature at the War Monument Park. A discussion was held for resolving this issue.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. Lewis stated that the committee met and introduced the new council member to the budget. Mr. Lewis scheduled the following meetings Wednesday, August 14th @

6:00 pm, Wednesday, August 21st @ 6:00 pm, Wednesday, August 28th @ 6:00 pm and Wednesday, September 4th @ 6:00 pm.

Highway/Property Committee – Mr. Bolash stated that the committee needs to meet. UGI is entitled to a refund of the bond that was paid when they submitted street opening permits. A meeting was set for Thursday, August 15th @ 6:00 pm.

-Council President James asked Mr. Bolash for the proposed roadwork for 2020 so it can be put into the budget.

-Mr. Bolash added an additional meeting on Wednesday, August 14th @ 6:45 pm to meet with the residents along Main Street to discuss parking issues and solutions.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Ms. Jones Brown commented that the committee had a very good meeting. She scheduled the following committee meetings: Monday, August 19th @ 6:30 pm, Tuesday, August 27th @ 6:30 pm and Thursday, August 29th @ 6:30 pm. Ms. Jones Brown expected Rob Mahady, the Borough Police Consultant, to attend the meetings. Ms. Jones Brown said she would contact Mr. Mahady.

Mr. James asked Ms. Jones Brown for her numbers for the budget.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – Mr. James scheduled a committee meeting on Tuesday, September 3rd @ 6:00 pm.

Utilities Committee – Mr. Mammana scheduled a meeting for Thursday, August 22nd @ 6:00 pm.

Recreation Committee – No report

Grants Committee – Mr. Dees stated Council approved the necessary resolutions to complete the process of applying for \$294,000 in grants to complete the Public Works building. No meeting was scheduled.

Mr. James asked Mr. Dees for any budgetary needs for the Grant Committee.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Public Comment

Jim Jankowich – Ninth Street – Mr. Jankowich expressed concern about Resolution #663 that was posted on vehicles on the street; he had found a copy in the street. He stated that he has another home in Delaware and spends weeks at a time away from the Borough. He asked if his truck would be ticketed.

-Mayor DePaul stated that he had placed letters on vehicles that either did not have an inspection sticker or the inspection sticker was expired.

William Smith – Main Street – Mr. Smith suggested posting a sign at the water feature rather than chaining it off.

Marshall Wagner – Spring Street – Mr. Wagner asked if it was possible to put speed bumps in Spring Alley to slow traffic.

-Mr. Wagner also asked the status of the Police Department. Mayor DePaul stated that the consultant has been working with the computer consultant and the department is almost there.

-Finally, Mr. Wagner expressed concerns about properties not being taken care of. He asked if the Borough owned the property where the slate sidewalks are located behind the War Monument Park and also in front of garages on Spring Street.

Executive Session Entered 7:25 pm – Exited 7:47 pm

-Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved to advertise the opening on Council through the Borough's website and Facebook page. Discussion – Ms. Heebner verified that a letter of intent is needed prior to the next meeting. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Mayor DePaul asked Mr. Dees the status of the Right-to-Know Resolution. Mr. Dees replied that resolutions were approved by PSAB and PSATS.

-Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council voted to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

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