

# BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 9, 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 Vice-President Matthew Dees in Council Chambers of the West Easton Municipal Building, 237 Seventh Street, West Easton, Pennsylvania.

Roll was taken; Vice-President, Mr. Dees noted there was a quorum. Council members Robert Lewis, Pete Mammana, David Bolash and Janie Jones Brown were present. Council President Paul James was absent. Mayor Daniel DePaul; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; and Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman were in attendance. Members of the public in attendance: June & Bill Smith, Bonnie Mammana, Bruce Walter, Trude Hargraves, Leon Stull, Drew Zavada, Jim Jankowich and David Bogusky.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved checks #17352 through #17400 from the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved online charges X0022 through X0025 to the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved Debit Account charges from August 13, 2019 through September 9, 2019. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved check #2091 and #2092 from the Sewer Fund. No discussion: Motion passed 5 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from August 2019. Motion passed 5 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown approved the minutes for the August 12, 2019, Council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the Treasurer's report for August 2019

Discussion – Mr. Dees noted that working capital available to the Borough is now \$2 million. Motion passed 5 – 0.

### **Public Comment**

**Trude Hargraves, Second Street** – Ms. Hargraves asked if the pile of cardboard that she saw on Lehigh Drive was cleaned up. Mr. Gehman replied that the Borough's maintenance supervisor, Dane Thatcher, had removed the pile rather than contacting the property owner.

**Leon Stull, Second Street** – Mr. Stull expressed a concern about cracks he has noticed in the black top patches in the Borough's streets.

**Bill Smith, Main Street** – Mr. Smith asked what type of business was moving in at 601 East Street. Ms. Heebner replied that the business was an Elevator Repair business. Mr. Smith also asked if permits were applied for the work being done. Ms. Heebner replied that permits were issued. Mr. Smith then asked why the permits were not being displayed. Ms. Heebner stated that the Borough’s engineer has been involved through the entire process and that the job has met all the requirements.

-Mr. Smith again asked what is going on to eliminate the lint issue with the laundry service.

-Trude Hargraves – Asked if the DEP needed to be contacted again.

-Finally, Mr. Smith told Council that the noise from the fans started at 5:50 am.

### **Engineering Report** – None

### **Office Report**

Ms. Heebner stated that Trick-or-Treat in the Borough is Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6 – 8 pm and the Halloween Parade will be on Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. The parade will be forming at Front & Iron Streets at 5:30 pm.

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

### **Solicitor’s Report**

Solicitor Goudsouzian had litigation to be discussed during Executive Session.

### **President’s Report** - None

### **Mayor’s Report**

Mayor DePaul stated that he received a letter from “The Miracle League” asking for donations. Mr. DePaul stated that he was not familiar with the organization.

### **Round Table**

-Mr. Bolash expressed concerns with zoning in the Borough. Mr. Dees suggested that Mr. Bolash discuss his concerns at the Property Committee he chairs and bring suggestions for improvement to a future council meeting.

-Mr. Dees read a statement citing his resignation as of December 31, 2019.

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee** – Mr. Lewis stated that the revenues in the budget are basically done and the committee is now working on expenses. Mr. Lewis would like to schedule a meeting every day at 6:15 pm that another committee does not meet. Meetings scheduled – Tuesday, September 17 @ 6:15 pm; Wednesday, October 2 @ 6:15 pm and Wednesday, October 9 @ 6:15 pm

**Highway/Property Committee** – Mr. Bolash stated that the committee needs to meet and the committee reviewed the streets in question. Mr. Bolash also wanted Mr. Thatcher’s opinion on the streets.

-Mr. Bolash scheduled the following meeting dates – Monday, September 16 @ 6:30 pm; Tuesday, September 17 @ 6:30 pm; Wednesday, September 18 @ 6:30 pm; Monday, September 23 @ 6:30 pm and Wednesday, September 25 @ 6:30 pm.

**Public Safety/Personnel Committee** – Ms. Jones Brown stated that the Committee had a very productive meeting with the Borough’s Police Consultant, Robert Mahady, and the Committee is awaiting the completion of the Procedural Manuals.

-Ms. Jones Brown scheduled the following meetings – Monday, September 16 @ 7:30 pm; Monday, September 23 @ 7:30 pm; Monday, September 30 @ 6:30 pm and Monday, October 7 @ 6:30 pm.

**Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee** – Mr. James scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, September 24 @ 6:30 pm to continue working on Codification.

**Utilities Committee** – Mr. Mammana scheduled a meeting for Monday, September 30 @ 6:15 pm. Mr. Mammana stated that the Committee met and discussed the having lines inspected.

**Recreation Committee** – No report

**Grants Committee** – Mr. Dees stated that the final paperwork was submitted on two different grants and no meeting was being scheduled.

### **Old Business - None**

### **New Business**

-Mr. Dees read a letter received from Mr. Ron Nixon expressing his interest in the available Council seat.

-Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council appointed Mr. Ron Nixon to Council. No discussion. Mr. Dees asked for a voice vote. Ms. Jones Brown – Yes, Mr. Bolash – Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes and Mr. Dees – Yes. Motion passed 5 – 0.

### **Public Comment**

**William Smith – Main Street** – Mr. Smith asked what time the zoning hearing was to start on Tuesday, September 10 and asked if anyone can attend.

-Mr. Smith also asked when the Borough will have a Police force.

**Trude Hargraves – Second Street** – Ms. Hargraves had an announcement regarding a fundraiser for the Valor Foundation being run by her son. The benefit is on November 8<sup>th</sup> and tickets are \$25.00. The organization is asking for donations of clean but used winter coats.

**Dave Bogusky – Ninth Street** – Asked if West Easton police cars were already patrolling.

**Andrew Zavada – Ridge Street** – Mr. Zavada asked if anyone is able to see the approved check list. Councilman Dees replied, “Yes.” Mr. Zavada was informed a paper copy required a RTK Request. He could also review them by calling the office for an appointment and make his own copies.

**Executive Session Entered 7:17 pm – Exited 7:35 pm**

-Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council authorized Council President, Paul James, to sign the decision in the third Conditional Use Hearing. No discussion. Mr. Dees requested a voice vote. Ms. Jones Brown – Yes, Mr. Bolash – Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. Dees – No. Motion passed 4 – 1.

Police Consultant Rob Mahady arrived at 7:38. The Borough Council returned to executive session.

**Executive Session Entered 7:39 pm – Exited 8:21 pm**

-Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council voted to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

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