

# **BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**April 11, 2022**

## ***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; Council President Paul James noted there was a quorum. Council members – Janie Jones Brown, Matthew Dees, Pete Mammana, David Bolash, and Kenny Decker, Jr. were present. Council member Steve Klaver was absent. Mayor Daniel DePaul, Solicitor Brian Panella, Borough Manager Joan Heebner and Police Chief Robert Mahady were present. Members of the public in attendance: Leon Stull, Trude Hargraves, Bill and June Smith, Bonnie Mammana, and Carl Pierson.

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved expenditures as presented. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from March 2022. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved the minutes from the March 14, 2022, Council Meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for March 2022. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

**Public Comment (Agenda Items)** – Trude Hargraves, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, asked where the storage building project is and if she would be able to see it.

**Engineer's Report** – Based on the engineer's recommendation, Mr. Dees made a motion to approve payment #5 to Kobalt Construction in the amount of \$27,450; seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Heebner shared that Kobalt construction had put in four change orders. The first one, to extend utility lines outside of paved area (\$2515) and to seal the concrete floor in the pole barn (\$1650) had been approved by the office and Mr. James. The second change offered was for \$9870, sidewalk improvements to Ridge Street. Mr. Dees made a motion to accept this change order, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. Some discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0. The third change order was \$3168, for an additional area to be paved. Ms. Heebner had checked with Dane Thatcher who agreed it did not have to be done. We can add topsoil and grass. Mr. Dees made a motion to disapprove this change order; seconded by Mr. Mammana. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0. The last change order was an increase for the project in the amount of \$9200. The request is due to higher costs of fuel and concrete and blacktop. Mr. Dees made a motion to table this change order for now; seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

**Office Report** – Ms. Heebner reminded everyone that the Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, at 11am; she thanked Mr. Mammana for offering to help. There will be a zoning hearing coming up. The scholarship committee will meet April 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm to choose a scholarship winner. Ms. Heebner said that Wilson is asking to use Gross Park for their t-ball practice and games again. Ms. Jones Brown made the motion to approve the use of Gross Park by Wilson t-ball; seconded by Mr. Mammana. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

**Sewer Report** – Mr. James shared that EAJSA will be working on projects to help prevent damage to pumps, will pre-screen to keep stuff out so it doesn't ruin the pumps. Reminded us again, only toilet paper down toilets, so-called flushable wipes cause trouble. People are flushing mop heads and towels and other items that should not be flushed, causing problems.

He also said he was looking into having Easton look into our sewer pipes to see if we need work on them.

**Ordinances and Resolutions** – None

**Solicitor's Report** – Solicitor Panella reported he had nothing to report at this time.

**President's Report** – Mr. James thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

**Police Chief's Report** – Chief Mahady reported on the past two months, February and March. He stated that the Borough issued 25 tickets, had 41 calls of service, 7 incident reports and 9 assignment reports. He will be attending mandatory training. The part-time officers will be working more hours in the near future. He has come up with a form for residents to fill out that want the PD to check on their home while they are away on vacation. They will be cracking down on drivers parking the wrong way on East Street.

**Mayor's Report** - Mayor DePaul stated that we would be applying for a grant to improve our curbs, sidewalks and basins. We have a list of the some of the worst sidewalks in the Borough and we should be getting after those residents to fix their sidewalks as well. He said the fire company is now separated from the Social Club and the Social Club and Ladies Auxiliary will be able to help fund the fire company again.

**Round Table** –None.

### **Committee Reports**

**Business and Finance Committee** – Mr. Mammana shared that they continue to check on CD rates, but we still do better with our money in regular checking accounts with Fidelity. No meeting scheduled.

**Property and Roads Committee** – None

**Public Safety and Personnel Committee** – None

**Legal and Technology Committee** – None

**Utilities and Fire Committee** – Mr. James said they continue to look at sewer rates, flat rate vs usage rates. Meeting was set for May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6pm at Borough Hall.

**Parks and Recreation Committee** – Ms. Jones shared a few scheduled events: there will be a community cleanup event on April 30<sup>th</sup>, from 11am-noon; they have scheduled a rock painting event on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 7pm and still need plain and painted rocks. They plan to touch up the drain murals when the weather gets nicer. They have purchased a dog waste holder and bags and are curious to see if it makes a difference in people cleaning up after their dogs. She noted that the two holly plants out front are not doing well; her family purchased and donated two boxwoods.

**Grants and Public Relations Committee** – None

**Unfinished Business** – None

**New Business** – None

**Public Comment (Open)** – Trude Hargraves, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street: Asked what litigation was going on; said we need new equipment at the park; asked Chief Mahady about a gun shot at 1:10am; asked about the fire horn not working.

Carl Pierson, 9<sup>th</sup> Street, mentioned the possibility of recessed covers for Main Street; Leon Stull asked about raising boxes up to grade, checking with the water company.

Leon Stull, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, said some people may have more trash than others, said seniors may have less trash than others.

Chief Mahady addressed possible temporary speed bumps, mentioned bright street lights without shields on them.

**Executive Session** - None

Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Dees, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager

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