

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 2020

APPROVED

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:39 pm using Zoom videoconferencing, due to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency.

Roll was taken; Council President, Matthew Dees noted there was a quorum. Council members – Paul James, Dave Bolash, Pete Mammana, Janie Jones Brown and Ken Decker, Jr. were present. Council member, Ron Nixon was absent. Mayor Daniel DePaul; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner and Borough Police Chief, Robert Mahady were present. Members of the public in attendance: David Bogusky, Gayle Ryan, Donna and George Johnson.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved checks #17569 through #17588 from the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved payments #A5202 through #A5234 from the General Fund Online bill pay. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved payments #X0051 through #X0056 from the General Fund Online payments. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved activity from 3/9/2020 through 4/8/2020 from the Debit account. No discussion: Motion passed 6 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved payments #B5014 through #B5016 from the Sewer Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from March 2020. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the minutes from the March 9, 2020 Council meeting. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for March 2020. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) - None

Engineer Report - None

Office Report - None

Sewer Report

-Mr. James stated that EAJSA had reduced their staff and that people improperly flushing rags and wipes are making it hard on the sewer system.

Policies, Resolutions and Ordinances - None

Solicitor's Report

-Solicitor Goudsouzian reported that the court system is shut down until at least the end of the month.

President's Report

- Council President Dees gave an update on the Borough's COVID-19 response.
- ETAS was used once at a cost of approximately \$4.00
- Borough Hall remains closed; staff is still working.
- Parks now closed; basketball hoops removed
- Mr. Dees contacted those residents listed on emergency forms indicating most at risk of the coronavirus; all those contacted reported they were well.
- Zoom meeting cost to Borough is \$15, may be used for Committee Meetings as needed.
- Met with AT&T FirstNet to obtain "Priority" phone service contract quote.
- Mr. Dees announced council had award plaques for 3 people and presented the awards: James Jankowich "For Your Volunteer Work for Refurbishing the Police Department"; Dane Thatcher, Road Dept. Supervisor: "Thank you, For all you do"; Joan Heebner, Borough Manager: "You Make the Difference".

Mayor's Report

- Mayor presented an Emergency Declaration. Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. James; Council ratified the Mayor's emergency declaration. Motion passed 6-0.
- Mayor DePaul thanked George Johnson for calling him about a tree that fell across Lehigh Drive.
- IQ Fibers has worked on lowering the noise from their business.
- The garbage along Main Street has been picked up, including the couch that had been there.

Round Table

- Mr. James reminded everyone that simply wearing a mask does not totally protect you from the coronavirus; you still need to heed the social distancing suggestion.
- Ms. Jones Brown thanked Council President Dees for contacting residents, to check on those that live alone and those that have medical conditions. She also reminded everyone to check on their neighbors.
- Mr. DePaul stated that "everyone" at the county level now knows to let him know what is going on at the DUI Center, so we don't have to find out about it in the newspaper or on TV.

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – None

Property and Roads Committee – Mr. Bolash will look into getting in touch with Bubba and Sons about the 2nd Street sidewalk situation.

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – Chief Mahady reported that:

- there were not many people at the parks.
- he signed a mutual aid agreement with other police departments.
- Informant software was installed.
- he is driving around to show a police presence.
- is conducting background checks on potential part-time police officers.
- Covid-19 pandemic is slowing the progress with the county to finalize full police roll-out.

Legal and Technology Committee – None

Parks and Recreation Committee – Chair, Ms. Jones Brown stated that they would cancel all scheduled events in May: rock painting, art in the park and borough clean-up events until further notice. She asks that everyone continue to collect bottle caps and hold them until a later date.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Unfinished Business – None

New Business –

Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council voted to extend the penalty date for West Easton Borough Property Taxes from May 31st to August 31st. Discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0.

Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council voted to waive late fees on sewer/refuse billing for the second quarter billing (of 2020). Discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Dees went over the ATT FirstNet presentation. Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council voted to approve the ATT FirstNet contract for 2 smartphones and 2 data devices for the police department. Discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0.

Public Comment (Open) - None

Executive Session Entered 7:41 pm – Exited 7:47 pm

-Mr. Dees stated the Council discussed legal matters in Executive Session.

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council voted to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager