

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 10, 2020

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, Matthew Dees, in Council Chambers of the West Easton Municipal Building, 237 Seventh Street, West Easton, Pennsylvania.

Roll was taken; President, Mr. Dees noted there was a quorum. Council members - Ron Nixon, Dave Bolash, Pete Mammana, Janie Jones Brown and Ken Decker, Jr. were present. Mayor Daniel DePaul; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman; and Borough Police Chief, Robert Mahady were present. Members of the public in attendance: Bill Smith, Bonnie Mammana, Leon Stull, James Jankowich, Bruce Walter, Robin Strawn, Ken Teskey and Dale King.

Guest – Curtis Scott

-Mr. Scott gave a presentation on providing the Borough information technology support. Mr. Scott's proposal would include support for the Borough office and the Police Station. A discussion was held.

-Mr. Dees stated that Council would look over his proposal and make a decision at the next Council meeting.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved checks #17517 through #17536 from the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Nixon, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved payments #A5138 through #A5158 from the General Fund Online bill pay. No discussion. Motion passed 6 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved payments #X0043 through #X0046 from the Online payments from General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Nixon, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved activity from 1/14/2020 through 2/10/2020 from the Debit account. No discussion: Motion passed 6 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Nixon; Council approved payments #B5011 from the Sewer Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Nixon, seconded by Mr. Decker; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from January 2020. No discussion. Motion passed 6 - 0.

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Nixon; Council approved the minutes from the January 6, 2020 Council meeting. Motion passed 6 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the minutes from the January 13, 2020 Council meeting. Motion passed 6 - 0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Nixon, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for January 2020. Motion passed 6 - 0.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) - None

Engineering Report

-No report from Engineer.

-Upon motion by Mr. Nixon, seconded by Mr. Mammana, Council approved Barry Isett & Associates to develop the specifications for the \$75,000 CDBG grant for Storm Drains. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Sewer Report

-Mr. Dees provided the report in the absence of Mr. James. Mr. Dees reported that the leak discovered in the pipe in the river was repaired.

Office Report

-Ms. Heebner thanked Council President Dees for donating hours of his time to updating the Borough website and then, once again, spending hours setting up the Emergency Testing System.

-Ms. Heebner reminded everyone that the Borough is still collecting items for VALOR.

Policies, Resolutions and Ordinances

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved the Dress Code Policy. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Solicitor's Report

-Solicitor Goudsouzian had several items of litigation to be discussed during Executive Session.

President's Report

-Council President Dees stated the website was redesigned to make it easier to locate information.

-Mr. Dees stated that the Emergency Text messaging system was approved by Council in 2017. A test was held on February 7, 2020 The first test was conducted, and it was a success. Residents that were signed up for the service received either a text message or voice message depending upon the type of telephone the resident had listed. He stated that the texting service is in the event of an emergency only. Examples were given such as a snow emergency or a chemical spill.

Mayor's Report

-Mayor DePaul stated he made inquiries about emergency generators and would forward the information.

-Mayor DePaul also stated that the Borough Truck #2306 requires new tires. He received two quotes, one for recaps of \$640 and a second for new tires and mounting for \$680.

-Upon motion by Mr. Nixon, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved spending up to \$700 for the new tires for Borough Truck #2306. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Round Table

Ms. Jones Brown thanked Councilman Nixon for picking up trash while walking in the Borough.

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – Chair, Mr. Mammana stated the committee met and discussed the 2020 budget. Mr. Mammana scheduled meetings for Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 6:30 pm and Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

Property and Roads Committee – Chair, Mr. Nixon said the committee met and discussed escrow monies being held until UGI correctly seals the work that was done in the Borough.

-Mr. Nixon personally evaluated the trestles. A discussion was held regarding safety of the trestles.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved paying up to \$3,300 to Frank Bubba & Sons for the concrete work being done in front of 308 & 312 (corrected address) Second Street. Discussion – Council President Dees wanted to clarify that the work being done was in two parts. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Mr. Nixon scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 6:45 pm.

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – Chair, Mr. Dees discussed previously held meeting with Police Chief Mahady. The committee discussed the needs and wants of the Police Department.

-Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the purchase and installation of a security camera system at the Police Station by Hi-Tech Security Alarms for \$3,570. Discussion – Mr. Dees asked if this purchase would fall under the grant amount that was approved. Motion passed 6 – 0.

-Chief Mahady provided an update in regard to the Police Department.

-Mr. Dees scheduled committee meetings for Monday, February 24, 2020 at 6:30 pm and Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

Legal and Technology Committee – Chair, Mr. Bolash spoke about the previous meeting. He scheduled meetings, Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 6:30 pm and Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 6:30 pm. Mr. Bolash stated the committee will be reviewing the fine schedule.

Utilities and Fire Committee – Mr. Mammana scheduled a meeting for March 2, 2020 at 6:30 pm in absence of the Chair, Mr. James. He also referred to the minutes from the previous meeting.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Chair, Ms. Jones Brown stated that the committee meeting on January 27, 2020 had members of the public in attendance. They discussed more community involvement and developed a mission statement. The committee also discussed the Borough parks and the availability of garbage cans.

-Two upcoming events – Art in the Park – May 2, 2020 from 2 – 3 pm rain date Saturday, May 9, 2020 and Keep America Beautiful – no date as of yet.

-Ms. Jones Brown scheduled two meetings, Monday, February 24, 2020 at 5:45 pm and Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 5:45 pm.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – Chair, Mr. Decker scheduled a committee meeting for Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

-Mr. Nixon, Mr. Dees and Dane Thatcher met with a sales representative from U.S. Municipal regarding a leaf machine (Xtreme Vac 10 – Model XV8031D). The intent is to apply for a Recycling Grant (10% we pay/90% grant pays) for the cost of the equipment.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved to apply for the Recycling Grant to purchase Xtreme Vac 10 – Model XV8031D. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business

Upon motion by Mr. Nixon, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council appointed Paul James to the Easton Area Sewer Authority until December 31, 2024. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Public Comment (Open) -

Kenneth Teske – Glendon – Mr. Teske asked what is being done regarding the loud noise being generated by IQ Fibers on Lehigh Drive. Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that there is a court date at the end of February in front of the District Magistrate regarding the citation that was issued.

Jim Jankowich – Ninth Street – Mr. Jankowich asked if the Borough could obtain a grant for upgrading the trestles and having them included in the D & L trail. Mr. Dees explained that he investigated the possibility with D&L a couple of years ago. It would cost approximately \$800,000 to restore the trestles to be used for the trail; that is why the Borough had a trestle study done and why D&L showed no interest in pursuing.

Executive Session Entered 7:59 pm – Exited 8:13 pm

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council voted to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

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