

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2021

APPROVED

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:35pm 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, Pete Mammana, David Bolash, Janie Jones Brown and Ken Decker, Jr. were present; council member Ron Nixon was absent. Mayor Daniel DePaul; Solicitors Steve Goudsouzian and Brian Panella of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner and West Easton Borough Police Chief, Robert Mahady were present. Members of the public in attendance: Carl Pierson and Leon Stull.

Council President Dees asked for a moment of silence for Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick who lost his life defending the Constitution, during the assault by insurrectionists on the Capitol.

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

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

-Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the minutes from the December 14, 2020, Council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for December, 2020. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – None

Engineer Report – None

Office Report – Ms. Heebner thanked Mayor DePaul for the many hours of volunteer work he has put in for the borough, from salting and plowing during snow and ice events, to handling the flooding situations on Lehigh Drive as they occur. His dedication to the borough and its safety is much appreciated.

Sewer Report – Mr. James reported that the EAJSA is working on 2 different projects: a disc filter system costing approximately 3.3 million dollars, which they voted to advertise, and the buying of a sump pump at a cost of \$75,000 due to people that continue to flush improper items into the system. He asks that people be conscious of what they flush as it makes a big difference.

Resolutions - Mr. James made a motion to approve Resolution – 2021-01, Approve \$20,000 Donation to Safety First Volunteer Company. Ms. Jones Brown seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Mammana made a motion to approve Resolution – 2021-02, Approve \$9,000 Donation to Mary Meuser Library. Ms. Jones Brown seconded the motion No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. James made a motion to approve Resolution – 2021-03, Approve \$150 Donation to Suburban EMS. Mr. Mammana seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. James made a motion to approve Resolution – 2021-04, Approve \$1000 Donation to West Easton Scholarship Fund. Ms. Jones Brown seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Mammana made a motion to approve Resolution – 2021-05, Approve Pay Rates for Borough Employees. Mr. James seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. James made a motion to approve Resolution – 2021-06, Approve Disposition of Records. Mr. Mammana seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Goudsouzian had items for Executive Session.

President's Report – Mr. Dees mentioned that:

-Ron Nixon had offered his letter of resignation; this should be discussed during the Council Round Table.

- The Emergency Text Alert System (ETAS) was used a few times in the past month due to the snow/ice events and a car hitting a telephone pole that caused part of the Borough to lose electricity. The response from residents in using ETAS was favorable.

-He thanked Mayor DePaul for his volunteer work in the borough, including the plowing and salting of the roads, and handling the flooding situation on Lehigh Drive.

Police Chief's Report – Chief Mahady reported that:

-he is still looking into the radar/speed signs which will be discussed later.

-he is looking into complaints about Louis Niko Park on 9th Street.

Mayor's Report - Mayor DePaul stated that:

-there was a garbage problem last Thursday with a lot of garbage not being picked up, supposedly due to all the work UGI is doing in the borough. The Mayor and our seasonal helper drove around and loaded all the garbage up in one of our trucks.

-someone dumped mattresses and plastic tubs on Lehigh Drive on the Wilson Borough section.

-UGI is working in two separate locations of the borough.

Round Table – Council President Dees reported that Mr. Nixon's letter of resignation was received, but recommended no action be taken by Council to formally accept it. He advised if no action is taken, its acceptance will happen automatically after 45 days, allowing Council to appoint a resident, as late as the 2nd meeting in February.

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – None

Property and Roads Committee – None

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – Zoom meeting scheduled for February 3rd, 6pm.

Legal and Technology Committee – None

Utilities and Fire – Scheduled a meeting for January 21st, Borough Hall, 6pm.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Ms. Jones Brown reported that:

-the committee enjoyed handing out the gift cards and signs to the winners of the Holiday Light Contest; it was enjoyed by all.

-she wanted to recognize Louis Niko for all his work for the Borough and offered condolences to his family. She mentioned what a great worker his daughter Sharon has been as well.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None

Public Comment (Open) – Leon Stull thanked council for his award in the Holiday Light Contest.

Executive Session Entered 7:25pm – Exited 7:44 pm

Council discussed personnel, legal, and litigation matters.

Mr. James made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-07, Adopt a Code of Conduct for the Borough of West Easton Police Department. Ms. Jones Brown seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. James; seconded by Mr. Mammana, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
