

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

**July 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 and David Bolash were present. Council member Kenny Decker, Jr. was absent. Mayor Daniel DePaul, Solicitor Steven Goudsouzian, Borough Manager Joan Heebner, Dane Thatcher (public works) and Police Chief Robert Mahady were present. Members of the public in attendance: Trude Hargraves, Bill and June Smith, Bonnie Mammana, Carl Pierson, Leon Stull, and Robin Strawn.

Mr. James asked for a moment of silence for the Highland Park parade shooting victims and the assassination of the former prime minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe.

Mr. James asked for nominations to fill the vacancy left by Steve Klaver's resignation. The first nomination was of Robert Adams made by Ms. Jones Brown; seconded by Mr. Mammana. Mr. James asked if there were any other nominations. Mr. Bolash nominated Andrew Flood; there was no second. There was then a vote for the nomination of Mr. Adams; vote passed 4-1 with Mr. Bolash voting against the nomination. A motion was made by Ms. Jones Brown to nominate Mr. Robert Adams to fill the vacancy of Mr. Klaver; seconded by Mr. Mammana. Some discussion was had. Motion passed 5-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved expenditures as presented. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from June 2022. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

-Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the minutes from the June 13, 2022, Council Meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

-Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for June 2022. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

**Public Comment (Agenda Items)** – Trude Hargraves asked how they could comment on bills and minutes if they did not have that information before the meetings.

**Engineer's Report** – A motion to approve payment request #7 to Kobalt Construction for the Storage Building Project, in the amount of \$37,932.90 as recommended by engineer, Doug Brown, was made by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Dees. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

**Office Report** – Ms. Heebner shared that Curt Scott had requested a \$7500 deposit toward the cost of the server upgrade and storage equipment and referred to a letter from Fire Chief Bogari, Jr. asking for \$15,000 from the Fire Contingency Fund to cover mandatory testing.

Mr. Dees made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown to approve the payment of a deposit in the amount of \$7500 to Curt Scott of C. Scott's Computer Services for the upgrades to the Borough server and storage of equipment, updating files, etc. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. James asked for a motion to approve the donation for the Fire Company. Mr. Dees asked if council could see the Fire Company's books before granting the request. Discussion was had. Ms. Jones Brown made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mammana to approve payment to West Easton Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 in the amount of \$10,000 from the Fire Contingency Fund, requested by Fire Chief William Bogari, Jr. to cover the costs to perform their annual testing of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), fire pumps, hose and ladders as well as the replacement of fire hoses that may fail the annual testing. Motion passed 5-0. Council will consider awarding the rest of the request once they see the Fire Company's year-to-date books.

**Sewer Report** – Mr. James reported that the EAJSA had an outside audit and that the books looked good. West Easton may get a rebate this year. One of the pumping stations was upgraded in 2017; there are still problems with people flushing the wrong things.

**Solicitor's Report** – Solicitor Goudsouzian reminded Council they can bring their solicitor to zoning hearings if they feel they want representation.

**President's Report** – Mr. James reminded Council to check into PSAB conferences.

**Police Chief's Report** – Chief Mahady shared:

- an update on the motor home in the alley; he has a follow-up hearing soon.
- the officers will be weapons qualified in the near future.
- some residents are back to parking the wrong way again.
- he is getting a vehicle estimate for a possible grant application.
- the officers would like to have "Ice pops with Cops" events.

He formally introduced Officer Al Smith to council and the residents. Due to Covid, Officer Smith had not been formally introduced even though he's been working here since May, 2021.

**Mayor's Report** - Mayor DePaul announced that he would like to have National Night Out this year, August 2<sup>nd</sup> and asked for volunteers. He mentioned that letters should be sent out to residents about their sidewalks.

**Round Table** – Ms. Jones Brown reminded everyone that she is our representative for the Mary Meuser Memorial Library. The Library will have a summer reading program for ages 0-100; every time you check out a book you get a raffle ticket to put toward winning a basket.

Mr. Bolash asked if the Halloween Parade would be coming back this year. He volunteered to help out with the parade.

## **Committee Reports**

**Business and Finance Committee** – None

**Property and Roads Committee** – None

**Public Safety and Personnel Committee** – None

**Legal and Technology Committee** – None

**Utilities and Fire Committee** – Mr. James set up a meeting for August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6pm at Borough Hall. The trash collection contract needs to be discussed.

**Parks and Recreation Committee** – Ms. Jones Brown continues to be happy with the results of the dog waste bags. She thanked those that helped at the rock painting event: Robin Strawn for all the rocks, Sharon Niko and Paul and Deb James for their help; Dane Thatcher and Brandon Moffitt for their help setting up. There were over 20 residents that participated. Ms. Jones Brown felt it was a lot of prep-work but well worth it.

Her committee has worked on patching the storm drain murals. She will meet with an arborist to get advice on trees for our parks. They plan on having a “Chalk up West Easton” event on July 28<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of August 11<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Jones Brown made a motion to approve spending up to \$75 for the event; seconded by Mr. Bolash. No discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

**Grants and Public Relations Committee** – None

**Unfinished Business** – None

**New Business** – Mayor DePaul again mentioned having National Night Out, August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Public Comment (Open)** – Carl Pierson, asked about having a Community Yard Sale. Leon Stull asked about having the manhole covers filled in on Main Street. June Smith mentioned that there are cars and motorcycles blocking the sidewalks in some areas. Trude Hargraves asked how to get a handicapped parking spot. Bill Smith asked if anything is being done about the trailers on Main Street.

**Executive Session** – 7:48pm – 8:06pm. Council discussed the trash contract and personnel.

Upon motion by Ms. Jones Brown, seconded by Mr. Dees, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:08pm.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager

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