

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 2022

APPROVED

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:31pm using Zoom videoconferencing, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Roll was taken; Council President Paul James noted there was a quorum. Council members – Janie Jones Brown, Matthew Dees, Pete Mammana, David Bolash, and Steve Klaver were present. Council member Kenny Decker, Jr was absent. Mayor Daniel DePaul, Solicitor Steve Goudsouzian, Solicitor Brian Panella and Borough Manager, Joan Heebner were present. Members of the public in attendance: Father Paul Makar from Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church, Ted Veresink, Ihor Mirchuk, Irene Tomori, Marissa Donnelly, Marlene Lightcap, Cathy, and Leon Stull.

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

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

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

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

Guest - Father Paul Makar from Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church spoke about the situation in Ukraine. He mentioned the Church has been in the borough for just over 100 years. He shared a few personal stories of friends and parishioners. He thanked council for the resolution drawn up by Councilman Dees. He hopes to have a shipping container to send over donations to the people of Ukraine. Suggestions of donations include: medical supplies, infant formula, baby and adult diapers, thermal underwear. Father Makar shared that they continue to pray for those involved in the governance of our country and borough.

Mr. Dees made a motion to allow the Ukrainian Church to receive a special permit to allow a shipping container on the street for collection of donations; seconded by Mr. Klaver. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Public Comment (Agenda Items) – None

Engineer's Report – Based on the engineer's recommendation, Mr. Mammana made a motion to approve payment #4 to Kobalt Construction in the amount of \$15,300; seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Office Report – Ms. Heebner informed Council that the Ladies Auxiliary would have their Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16th. She mentioned the April newsletter would be the long one for the year as the Borough must educate the residents on MS4 each year. If anyone has anything extra to add to the newsletter, they should let her know by the end of March.

Sewer Report – Mr. James shared that EAJSA has approved advertising for bids for an administration building; the cost will be offset with bonds.

Ordinances and Resolutions –Mr. Dees made a motion to approve **Ordinance 2022-12: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON, COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, RECOGNIZING THE WEST EASTON VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 AS THE FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVING THE BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON; PROVIDING FOR ITS FINANCIAL SUPPORT; AUTHORIZING IT TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES; AND SETTING FORTH RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING ITS ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS**, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. Discussion was had. Motion was approved 6-0.

Ms. Jones Brown made a motion to approve **Resolution – 2022-16: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA, SUPPORTING PROHIBITING THE USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS ON THE BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON’S OWNED AND OPERATED PLAYGROUND AREAS AND SIMILAR FACILITIES**; seconded by Mr. Mammana. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Dees made a motion to approve **Resolution – 2022-17: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON, COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, SUPPORTING THE COUNTRY OF UKRAINE IN THE UNPROVOKED WAR STARTED BY RUSSIA**; seconded by Ms. Jones Brown. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Solicitor’s Report – Solicitor Goudsouzian reported that he had legal matters to discuss in Executive Session.

President’s Report – Mr. James asked for a motion to have council meetings at Borough Hall again, starting in April. Discussion was had. Mr. Dees made a motion to have meetings in public at Borough Hall starting in April, recommending masks, and following PA Health Department Guidelines; seconded by Mr. Mammana. More discussion was had. Motion passed 6-0. We will look into getting air purifiers.

Police Chief’s Report – Chief Mahady was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

Mayor’s Report - Mayor DePaul stated that he has a lot of work to do due to the separation of the fire company and the social club. He has a letter prepared to explain his involvement with the social club. It’s a volunteer position; he receives no compensation, no gifts. His involvement is purely to save the club so that it can begin to support the fire house again

Round Table – Ms. Jones Brown thanked Dane Thatcher and Brandon Moffitt for the job they did with plowing and salting of the sidewalks during Saturday’s snow. She feels they did an excellent job.

Committee Reports

Business and Finance Committee – None

Property and Roads Committee – Mr. Klaver would like to keep up with the sidewalk reports.

Public Safety and Personnel Committee – None

Legal and Technology Committee – None

Utilities and Fire Committee – Mr. James feels the ordinance for sewer rates will have to be looked over. Meeting scheduled for March 23rd, 5pm, at Borough Hall.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Meeting scheduled for March 22nd, 5pm, Zoom. Ms. Jones Brown reminded everyone that every day is Earth Day and to help clean up parks, sidewalks, etc.

Grants and Public Relations Committee – None

Unfinished Business – Mr. James stated that the Utility Committee continues to work on sewer rates; they are working to resolve issues.

New Business – None

Public Comment (Open) – Leon Stull, 2nd Street, spoke about manholes on Main Street being way down. He suggested using cold patch to fill them up. He said the cold patch does not get hard and you can scrape it off if you need to get in there; they are seldom opened. He said there are several on Main Street that are really low. He stated that the one by the fire house is also down. Mr. James asked Ms. Heebner to check with Dane as to what we can do. Mr. James shared that he's worked with this situation, and it is hard to get them up under normal circumstances. Ms. Heebner reminded Mr. Stull he did not have to wait until a meeting to let the office know of his concerns; they've been working in the office all along.

Executive Session Entered 7:29pm – Exited 7:33pm

Council discussed ongoing litigation and Delta Wash. Mr. Mammana made a motion to approve Mr. James and Ms. Heebner, representing the Borough, sign an agreement with Delta Wash owner and landlord for the repayment of money due and owing, seconded by Mr. Dees. No discussion. Motion passed 6-0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Ms. Jones Brown, no discussion, Council voted to adjourn the meeting by a vote of 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joan Heebner, Secretary/Manager
