

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 8, 2019

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 and Mr. James noted there was a quorum. Council members Matthew Dees, Robert Lewis, Pete Mammana, David Bolash and Junior Council member, Nathaniel Kober were present. Council member, Jeff Breidinger, Jr. and Desiree Lake were absent. Mayor, Daniel DePaul; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman; Borough Maintenance Supervisor, Dane Thatcher; Members of the public in attendance: Bonnie Mammana, Bill and June Smith, Trude Hargraves, Nancy Stout, Leon Stull, Marshall and Janie Brown.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved checks #17080 through #17134 from the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved on-line charges to the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved charges made through the Debit Account through April 8, 2019. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved check #2078 through #2081 from the Sewer Fund. No discussion: Motion passed 5 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from March 2019. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the minutes for the March 11, 2019, Council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved the March 2019, Treasurer's Report. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Public Comment

Trude Hargraves – Second Street – Ms. Hargraves asked if Council was aware that another resident of the Treatment Center did not return. Council President James commented about the situation.

Engineer's Report - None

Office Report

Ms. Heebner asked Council for a motion to approve use of the baseball field by the Wilson Recreation Board.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved Wilson Recreation Board use of the field at Gerald W. Gross Park.

Discussion - Mr. Dees asked if the Borough has received insurance information from the Recreation Board. Ms. Heebner replied that the Borough has received information. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Ms. Heebner also asked Council to make a motion to correct the dollar amount of the CD from PLGIT.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council corrected the amount of the PLGIT CD to \$235,000. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved Mr. Lewis as the Borough's voting delegate at the annual PSAB Conference held June 9 – 12. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Ms. Heebner reminded everyone that the annual Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 20 at noon. Set-up would be 10:30 with registration starting at 11:30.

Councilman Dees started a discussion about the 47 trees that were cut down near 601 East Street. The trees were a buffer zone between the Industrial and Residential areas in the Borough and should not have been removed. Ms. Heebner spoke with the Borough's zoning officer regarding this matter. Hopefully no litigation will be needed to have the trees replaced. Mr. Dees would like to see 12 foot trees used to replace the trees that were removed

Mr. Thatcher was asked about the electric that is going to be re-installed at the War Monument Park. Mr. Thatcher replied that the estimate to do the work was \$4,425.00. The service would be water tight.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved to spend \$4,500.00 for the Electrical service installation for the War Monument Park. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Policies, Resolutions and Ordinances - None

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Goudsouzian had litigation to be discussed during Executive Session.

President's Report

Council President James reminded Council members that the General Assembly of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission will be meeting at Penn State – Lehigh Valley campus in Center Valley on April 30th. Mr. James encouraged anyone who can attend to do so.

Mr. James also reminded everyone on Council and staff that the NIMS training is required by all and should be completed at our earliest convenience.

Mayor's Report

Mayor DePaul discussed grants for generators. Mr. DePaul was told by the County that there is a round of grants coming up that could potentially provide funding for a generator at the Borough's municipal building, fire department and at the police station. The application would be due in August. The grant would be a 75/25 split up to \$100,000.

Mayor DePaul is also concerned about the upkeep of properties in the Borough. The Mayor made reference to the home at the corner of Iron and Fifth Streets that had a disassembled vehicle on the side yard. He suggested that the residents of the Borough be pro-active and take care on their curbs, sidewalks, porches.

Round Table - None

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – No meeting was scheduled.

Highway/Property Committee – No meeting was scheduled.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – In absence of Chairperson, Ms. Lake, Mr. Dees scheduled several meeting for the committee. Meetings were set for Tuesday, April 16, April 23 and April 30 at 6:00 pm.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – Mr. James set a meeting for Tuesday, April 16 at 6:00 pm to look at the Landlord ordinance and codification of the "big book."

Utilities Committee – Committee chair, Mr. Mammana, scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, April 24 @ 6:00 pm. The committee plans to continue the discussion of changing from a flat fee to variable rate for Sewer.

Recreation Committee – No report.

Mr. Gehman commented that he would handle the arrangements for Memorial Day.

Grants Committee – Mr. Dees stated that Ms. Hargraves picked out new playground equipment for the park costing \$15,049 but upon further investigation the Borough would have needed to spend an additional \$10,500 to purchase the equipment (\$6,500 for engineering fees to map and design, lead time would be 1 ½ months; \$3,000 for mulch and \$1500 delivery). The equipment would also come unassembled.

Mr. James suggested that maybe the Engineers should do the mapping now so that we could apply for the grant next year.

Old Business – None

New Business

Mr. Lewis presented three travel requests. Mr. Lewis wanted to attend the following seminars: The Ethics Act for Elected & Appointed Officials on April 11, 2019; Rental Property Inspection Program on April 17, 2019 and Municipal Police Department Supervision on April 30, 2019

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis. There was no second to the motion. Motion died.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved Mayor Dan DePaul and Police Consultant, Robert Mahady to attend the Municipal Police Department Supervision Seminar Wednesday, May 8th.

Mr. Lewis left at 7:17 pm.

No discussion. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Additional Public Comment

Trude Hargraves – Second Street - Ms. Hargraves asked, “How close are you to swearing in the Police Consultant.” Mayor DePaul and Mr. Dees both said “Really close.” Ms. Hargraves also asked he was running for Council. Mayor DePaul listed the candidates. She also wanted to know when the recycling totes would be available. Ms. Heebner told her to check the upcoming newsletter for dates and times.

Leon Stull – Second Street – Mr. Stull asked if Council was aware what was going on Front Street. Office staff was perplexed. Mr. Gehman asked where on Front Street. Mr. Stull stated at Front and Center. Ms. Heebner stated that the resident has a permit for a retaining wall. Then Mr. Stull asked if the Kerbaugh’s were getting their project inspected when required. Ms. Heebner stated the office was not aware of any problems with the project.

Executive Session Entered 7:35 pm – Exited 7:45 pm

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved to sign the settlement agreement with the County. No discussion. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council voted to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

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