

**BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**MAY 13, 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 Jeff Breidinger, Jr were present, Council member Desiree Lake and Junior Council member, Nathaniel Kober were absent. Mayor, Daniel DePaul; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; and Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman were in attendance. Members of the public in attendance: June and William Smith, Bonnie Mammana, James Jankowich, Trude Hargraves, Nancy Stout, Leon Stull, Janie Jones Brown, Rob Mahady and David Bogusky.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved checks #17135 through #17186 from the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Breidinger, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved on-line charges to the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Dees: Council approved charges made through the Debit Account through May 13, 2019. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved check #2082 and #2083 from the Sewer Fund. No discussion: Motion passed 6 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from March 2019. Mr. Dees asked about the sewer penalties on the report is income the Borough is receiving. Mr. Gehman verified that information. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the minutes for the April 8, 2019, Council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Breidinger, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved the April 2019, Treasurer's Report. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

**Public Comment**

**Leon Stull – Second Street** – Mr. Stull asked Council what is being done to fix his sidewalk. Ms. Heebner questioned Mr. Stull about his own private contractor. Mr. Stull stated he did not have a contractor in mind.

**Trude Hargraves – Second Street** – Ms. Hargraves made the comment that Leon’s neighbor is having the same problem as Mr. Stull and it is due to the water runoff from the roof of another neighbor.

**William Smith – Main Street** – Mr. Smith asked what is being done about the Commercial Laundry located at 601 East Street. Mr. Smith commented that there are big balls of lint that are blowing around the Borough from the laundry. He also asked if Council was aware of what was being done on East Street to the building. Mayor DePaul stated that he saw the work being done and assumed it was going to be a laundry. Mr. Dees stated that he could contact the DEP in regards to the air quality. Ms. Heebner stated that our code inspector was at the site today and the owner was again told he must keep the lint door closed and lint cleaned.

Mr. Smith also asked if the treeline was being replaced that was cut down in the previous month. Mr. Smith was told that the property owner was sent a violation notice and he is currently in the time period to take action.

**Constance Bolash – Fourth Street** – Volunteered her clerical services to get the Police Department up and running. Ms. Bolash stated that she is used to dealing with confidential information and doing data entry and typing.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved using Ms. Bolash as a volunteer to get the Police Department up and running. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

### **Engineer’s Report - None**

### **Office Report**

Ms. Heebner read the resignation letter from Councilmember, Desiree Lake. Mr. Lewis provided Council the timeline in making a decision about a replacement.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council accepted the resignation of Ms. Lake. No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 1. (dissenting vote - Mr. Lewis)

Ms. Heebner asked for a motion to have the additional two security camera installed at the Borough’s Municipal building.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Bolash; Council approved spending \$1,230 for the purchase and installation of two additional security cameras at the Municipal Building. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

**Rob Mahady – Police Consultant** – was asked about the progress in purchasing equipment for the Police Department. Mr. Mahady stated that the computers and phone system needed for the Police Station would run about \$14,000 with the addition of purchasing two tasers the price would increase to near \$15,000.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved spending up to \$15,000.00 for computer and telephone equipment for the Police Department. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved spending up to \$3,000 for two tasers for the Police Department. Discussion – Mr. Mahady commented that the one vendor will guarantee the tasers and replace after two and a half years. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded Mr. Lewis; Council approved spending up to \$1,500 for body cameras. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Mr. Gehman provided an update on the Memorial Day observance. Mr. Gehman confirmed that State Representative, Robert Freeman will be in attendance. Mayor DePaul and Council President, Paul James will also be speaking. Ted Veresink has agreed to emcee the event with Father Dan Troylan providing an opening prayer. Resident, Trude Hargraves has offered to read a poem that honors our veterans. The observance will be Monday, May 27, 2019.

### **Policies, Resolutions and Ordinances**

Mr. Dees explained the resolution that he created about vexatious requesters of Right-To-Know.

Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the resolution to amend Right to Know Law and provide relief from vexatious requesters as presented. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Mr. Lewis asked to have the resolution be amended to include Act 3 (from 2008) enacted 1/1/2009. Mr. Lewis also asked to have the wording “Define the words” changed to “Include and define the words.”

Upon motion by Mr. Bolash, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the resolution with the changes. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

### **Solicitor’s Report**

Solicitor Goudsouzian had litigation to be discussed during Executive Session.

### **President’s Report**

Council President Paul James reminded everyone to go and vote on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. James also asked that if anyone had any suggestions regarding the Rental Property Resolution to please forward your comments to him so that the resolution can be reviewed by the Solicitor.

### **Mayor’s Report**

Mayor DePaul mentioned that some Councilmembers spent four days distributing the new recycling bins at the Ridge Street Maintenance Building.

The Mayor thanked Borough resident, Jim Jankowich, for his time in helping with the installation of the handicap ramp at the Police Station.

Mayor DePaul is also investing how to stop the demolition of the Oldenwelder house that was built in 1772 or 1773.

Mayor DePaul stated that Police Consultant, Rob Mahady attended a seminar with him about Police Supervision held in Bath, PA. The Mayor was very pleased with the information that was presented and can be used in supervising our department.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the Council President, Paul James or Borough Manager, Joan Heebner to sign a letter for Rob Mahady authorizing him to act as a purchasing agent for the Borough. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

### **Round Table - None**

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee** – Mr. Lewis scheduled a committee meeting for Tuesday, May 21 at 6:00 pm.

**Highway/Property Committee** – Mr. Bolash did not schedule a committee meeting but he did say that Daniel's Landscaping would be done with the first phase at the War Monument Park in a week to week and a half.

**Public Safety/Personnel Committee** – Mr. Dees scheduled several meeting with Mr. Mahady to discuss weapons and uniforms. The following are scheduled meetings:

Wednesday, May 22 at 6:00 pm  
Wednesday, May 29 at 6:00 pm  
Wednesday, June 5 at 6:00 pm

**Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee** – Mr. James stated the committee met and discussed the Rental Properties resolution and provided input to Solicitor Goudsouzian for developing a final draft that can be approved. Mr. James scheduled the following meetings:

Tuesday, May 21 at 6:00 pm  
Tuesday, May 28 at 6:00 pm

**Utilities Committee** – Mr. Mammana scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, May 29 at 6:00 pm.

**Recreation Committee** – Mr. Breidinger stated that he was attending the Wilson Recreation Board meeting on Thursday, May 16. He did not schedule a committee meeting

**Grants Committee** – Mr. Dees had nothing to report and did not schedule a meeting

### **Old Business**

Mr. Lewis asked to be reimbursed for the Police Supervision Seminar which he attended on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. He paid for the seminar himself after Council did not approve his travel request in April.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council approved to reimburse, \$150.00 to Mr. Lewis the fee for the Police Supervision Seminar. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Mr. Lewis asked if there was a vehicle available for him to use to attend another seminar on Tuesday, May 14. Mayor DePaul told him he could take one of the Borough Jeeps.

**New Business - None**

**Additional Public Comment**

**Leon Stull – Second Street** – Mr. Stull complained that the resident that lives at Tenth and Ridge is not mowing the grass.

**Trude Hargraves – Second Street** – Ms. Hargraves commented that she hopes that there will not be an issue with fireworks on the Fourth of July with her neighbors. She stated that her one neighbor was shooting fireworks directly over her home.

**Nancy Stout – Second Street** – Ms. Stout asked what construction work was being done at Keystone and Second Street. Mayor DePaul said that the Borough received a PA1 call for the project.

**William Smith – Main Street** – Mr. Smith inquired if Main Street could have a double yellow line painted in the center of the street. Mr. Smith said that since the street was resurfaced the line has been gone.

**Executive Session Entered 8:35 pm – Exited 8:50 pm**

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammanna; Council authorized the Solicitor to respond to a settlement of litigation after receiving input from Council. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammanna; Council voted to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

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