

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON  
REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
January 4, 2016

***APPROVED***

The reorganizational meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Gerald Gross in Council Chambers of the West Easton Municipal Building, 237 Seventh Street, West Easton, Pennsylvania.

Mayor Gross swore in Ron Nixon to a new term. New Council members, Matt Dees, Robert Lewis and Henry Nodoline were sworn in by District Magistrate, Richard Yetter earlier in the day. Roll was taken and Mayor Gross noted there was a quorum.

Council members in attendance were Daniel DePaul, Ronald Nixon, Matthew Dees, Henry Nodoline, Robert Lewis and Thomas Nodoline. Absent was Louis Niko. Mayor Gerald Gross and Solicitor Christy Schlottman were in attendance. Pete and Sandy Rossi, Bruce Walter, Leon Stull, Pete & Bonnie Mammana, Jamie Horinko and Tricia Mezzacappa of the public in attendance.

Mayor Gross opened the floor for nominations of Council President. Mr. DePaul was nominated by Mr. H. Nodoline. Mr. Dees moved to close nominations second by Mr. Dees. Mr. DePaul is Council President.

Mayor Gross opened the floor for nominations of Council Vice President. Mr. Thomas Nodoline nominated Ron Nixon and Mr. Lewis nominated Matt Dees. Mr. Lewis made a motion to close nominations second by Mr. Thomas Nodoline. Ballot was 3-3. Mayor Gross broke the tie and named Mr. Nixon as Council Vice President.

Mayor Gross opened the floor for nominations of Council President ProTem. Mr. Nixon nominated Matt Dees. Mr. Nixon made the motion to close nominations second by Mr. Lewis.

Mayor Gross turned the meeting over to new Council President DePaul.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees and second by Mr. Nixon the council appointed Paul James on the Borough Zoning Board. Motion carried 6-0.

Council President DePaul began discussion for filling the position of Zoning Officer. Mayor Gross provided information for Barry Isett & Associates. Mayor Gross mentioned that Barry Isett & Associates is the current engineer for Hellertown. Mayor Gross stated that the Barry Isett & Associates would be a possibility for code enforcement. Council President DePaul stated that they also could be a possibility for Borough Engineer.

Mayor Gross told the Council that it is Council President DePaul's responsibility to assign council members to committees.

### New Business

Council President DePaul discussed hiring Joan Heebner as Borough Secretary. Mrs. Heebner worked for the Borough previously from 2007–2009. Mr. Thomas Nodoline wanted the hiring to go through the Personnel Committee.

Council President DePaul asked David Gehman to check out the computers in the Borough office.

Upon motion by Mr. Henry Nodoline, second by Mr. Dees the Council approved to hire Joan Heebner as Borough Secretary. Motion carried 5-1. Mr. Thomas Nodoline dissented.

Council President DePaul recommends that Carl Pierson be the Treasurer for the Borough. Upon motion by Mr. Henry Nodoline, second by Mr. Lewis, the Council approved Carl Pierson as the Borough Treasurer for \$150/month. Councilman Thomas Nodoline spoke out against approving anyone without the Personnel Committee approving the nominees. The council approved the motion 5-1. Mr. Thomas Nodoline dissented.

After checking the office computers it was determined that no financial information was available on either computer. Councilman Thomas Nodoline stated that if David would spend an hour on the computers he could find everything that he needs.

Mr. Dees asked twice if anyone knew what happened to the computers and hard drives that were in the Borough office. There was no response. Council President DePaul also asked the same question with no response.

A motion by Mr. Dees and second by Mr. Nixon the Council approved for a representative from the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) to come out to assist the Council and staff in getting the Borough on track. Motion carried 5-1. Mr. Thomas Nodoline dissented.

Solicitor Christy Schlottman discussed that she had a conflict of interest in representing the Council while representing Councilman Mr. Thomas Nodoline privately. Council President DePaul had three possibilities for a replacement for the Borough Solicitor. All three candidates have prior municipality experience. The first candidate was Elliott and Elliott from Easton, King, Spry, Herman, Freund and Faul from Bethlehem and Goudsouzian & Associates from Easton.

A representative from Goudsouzian & Associates was available at the meeting and answered Council's questions. Goudsouzian & Associates has three attorneys and

seven support staff. Councilman Dees asked if there would be a conflict having a representative attend our Council meetings on the second and fourth Monday of the month. There was no conflict.

A motion by Mr. Henry Nodoline and second by Mr. Dees the Council approved Goudsouzian & Associates as the Borough Solicitor. Motion carried 5-1. Mr. Thomas Nodoline dissented.

Solicitor Schlottman offered to meet with the new Borough Solicitor, Steven Goudsouzian and bring him up to speed with the current issues within the Borough.

Councilman Dees questioned about the letter that former Council President Kelly Gross sent out at the end of the year. Mayor Gross stated that the letter was not a newsletter. Councilman Dees felt that this letter should be sent out at the personal expense of Kelly Gross. Council President DePaul asked our new Borough Solicitor that investigate the letter and offer a legal opinion on it.

Councilman Henry Nodoline asked Council to open up the doors of the Borough Municipal building rather than having the public buzzed-in. Councilman Dees is against unlocking the front door. Keeping the front door locked does provide a final line of security to the office personnel. Mayor Gross stated that the office door be locked at all times.

Council President DePaul highly recommended that all Council members participate in the training provided by the PSAB. He stated that PSAB recently added an additional site in Macungie for the training sessions. Councilman Thomas Nodoline and Ron Nixon expressed their interest in attending the training in February.

Councilman Lewis presented an invoice to Council President DePaul for the Borough to pay for a webinar he would like to participate in on Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. Council President DePaul would like a group to watch and pay one fee rather than several individuals watching the webinar and paying multiple fees.

Councilman Lewis brought up that a Vacancy Board Chair needs to be filled. Council President DePaul asked resident, Pete Mammana to be the Chairperson of the Vacancy Board. Mr. Mammana would be willing.

A motion by Mr. Lewis and second by Mr. Dees, the Council appointed Pete Mammana as the Chairman to the Vacancy Board.

Council President DePaul asked Monica Wall of T&M Associates if there was an Engineer's report. Council President DePaul started a discussion of Mr. Young from T&M preparing the paperwork for a grant that the Borough was later denied for. Mayor Gross told Council President DePaul that he had forwarded an email with the letter stating, Mr. Young could in fact do the work to prepare the grant. Council President DePaul did not agree and would investigate further with the county.

A motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees the Council approved to reopen the 2016 budget. Motion passed 6-0. Mayor Gross said that Paul James did a fantastic job doing the budget for 2016. Council President DePaul has questions concerning the budget and also the amount paid by the DUI Center. Mr. Lewis asked that he be given copies of the last three audits to assist him with preparing for the next council meeting.

Council President DePaul said that no one should be in the office other than the office staff.

Mr. Lewis asked who was Mr. Layman. Council President DePaul told Mr. Lewis that Attorney Layman was the Borough's Right-to-Know officer.

Mr. Lewis questioned that since we have a new trash hauling contract, the Sunshine Law voids the current ordinance regarding trash collection.

Mr. Lewis also stated that we needed an Emergency Manager Coordinator.

Mr. Henry Nodoline wants to look into the payments on the new truck for the Borough.

Solicitor Schlottman stated that she will pass on anything that she receives to the new Borough Solicitor.

### Public Comment

Jamie Horinko of Sixth Street; He has been a Borough resident his whole life. He disagrees with unlocking the front door. Unfortunately we don't live in an age that can be done. He has seen the good, the bad and the ugly. The past has to be put in the past. The bickering back and forth has to stop. The job needs to get done. If he the bickering doesn't stop you can be voted out as fast as you were voted in. Mr. Horinko asked to be careful in hiring an Ordinance Enforcement officer. Bill Bogari, Jr. is highly respected in the County and he should be brought back as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Borough.

Councilman Henry Nodoline had asked Bill Bogari, Jr. to attend tonight's meeting but he was unable to attend. Council President DePaul showed Mr. Horinko that he has plans to speak with Mr. Bogari, Jr. regarding the Fire Company. Mayor Gross applauded Mr. H

Tricia Mezzacappa of Ridge Street; Ms. Mezzacappa did not receive the letter that was sent by Kelly Gross, she felt. There were no criminal convictions and costing the Borough thousands bought eight consecutive docket numbers only to lose them all. She also has three court decisions stating that she is owed money by the Borough and also documents. She has also withdrawn two pending suits against the Borough. She also thanked the new council members.

Mayor Gross brought to the attention of Council the current condition of at The Hubcap Store. Mayor Gross read the letter from the owner of The Hubcap store from several years ago that only 5-10 trailers be allowed on the property at any one time. The Mayor stated that Bill Bogari, Fire Chief informed him that if a fire occurred on the property the fire company had no way to enter the property or be able to fight a fire.

Council Henry Nodoline provided Council members with an ordinance from a neighboring community regarding the upkeep of property by residents within the Borough and an alternative if the property is not maintained. Mr. Nodoline believes that Council should adopt a similar ordinance to prevent the deterioration of the properties. The ordinance covers properties, trash and storage of vehicles.

Mayor Gross stated he is responsible for the Public Safety of the residents of the community. The security of the building and employees is the responsibility of Council President DePaul. Key and alarm codes need to be documented.

Councilman Henry Nodoline mentioned about a pay increase for the Borough's maintenance man, Dane Thatcher. Councilman Tom Nodoline commented that he has received raises and extra paid time off. Further discussion was deferred until the next Council meeting.

Adjournment – A motion by Mr. Nixon, second by Mr. Dees, the Council approved adjournment at 9:20 PM. Motion passed 6-0.