

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON  
COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 28, 2016

***APPROVED***

The second monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Dan DePaul in Council Chambers of the West Easton Municipal Building, 237 Seventh Street, West Easton, Pennsylvania.

Roll was taken and Council President noted there was a quorum. Present were Council President Dan DePaul, Council Members Matthew Dees, Henry Nodoline and Robert Lewis. Council Members Ron Nixon, Thomas Nodoline and Louis Niko were absent. Mayor Gerald Gross; Interim Borough Manager Pete Rossi; Solicitor Steve Goudsouzian and Carl Pierson, Treasurer were present. Pete & Bonnie Mammana, Leon Stull, Sandi Rossi, Trude Hargraves, Tricia Mezzacappa, Bruce Walter and John Doron were members of the public in attendance.

A motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees, Council approved check # 14865 through 14891 in the General Fund.

Discussion – Mr. DePaul had information regarding check #14883. A liner that was to be used for the playground at the Ninth Street Park was never put down. Mr. DePaul also had copies of prior meeting minutes showing that the Borough had ordered two belt swings and two infant swings. To Mr. DePaul's knowledge, he was unaware of the Borough receiving any infant swings.

Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Rossi wanted to let Council know that the budget amount set aside for Parks has already been exceeded for this year because of the additional invoice for preparing the Ninth Street Park for the installation of the swings. The budgeted amount for 2016 was \$2,500.00.

Mr. DePaul referenced ck#14808 which has been unpaid.

A motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, second by Mr. Dees, Council approved check #14808 for payment.

Discussion – Mr. Lewis stated there was still time to decide on approving the check. Mr. Dees commented that he had no plans on attending the annual conference and wondered if any other Council member had planned on attending the conference. Mr. Rossi also reminded Mr. DePaul that a voting delegate needed to be approved for the conference.

Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. DePaul discussed the annual conference and suggested appointing Mr. Lewis as the Borough's voting representative.

A motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. H. Nodoline; Council approved Mr. Robert Lewis as the voting delegate to the Annual Conference. Motion passed 4-0.

**Public Comment –**

None

**Mayor's Report –**

Progress

**Engineer's Report –**

Mr. Rossi reported that the Engineer from LTAP was here and did the inspection on the railroad trestle over Spring Street but we have not received a report.

**Solicitor's report –**

Solicitor Goudsouzian started out with an update on the Condemnation of the Ridge Street property. His office is in the process of serving interested parties and advertising.

**Office Report -**

Mr. Gehman reported that he spoke with EZMicro earlier in the day and all of the new computer equipment is in with the exception of the server which they expect to be delivered within in the next day or two. As of now, the expected installation of the equipment would be the first week of April.

Mr. Gehman continued that he is still the in process of reviewing the General Ledger accounts and expects to be done by the end of the week.

Mr. Dees asked Mr. Gehman when Dallas would be ready to do the download of the Cassel system. Mr. Gehman expected if the equipment was installed by EZMicro next week that the software could be installed by Dallas the following week.

**President's Report –**

Council President DePaul discussed the meeting on Lehigh Drive that was attended by the representatives of the City of Easton, Borough of Wilson, Palmer Township and Borough of West Easton. Mr. Rossi stated that the City of Easton was

taking control of the project and it was decided that the portion of Lehigh Drive that floods most often would be scraped and the river silt would be pushed back approximately 10 feet. Hugh Moore Park has also scheduled a clean-up day within the park. Because the Borough does not have any equipment to offer to assist the clean-up efforts, the Borough would provide manpower. The Borough has roughly 400 feet we would be responsible for at a cost of approximately \$6,000.

The original plan was to raise the road. Apparently when the new bridge was built a new sewer/drainage system was also installed. It was decided the most efficient and least costly alternative was to clear and push back the debris. This alternative should aid in the road draining properly.

Council President DePaul added that the portion of the road that the Borough of West Easton is responsible for would need to be resurfaced at the Borough's expense anyway.

Mr. DePaul asked about the trestle over Spring Street. Mr. Rossi said the engineer from LTAP did an extensive inspection, climbed around and took plenty of photographs.

Mr. DePaul added that the cameras that were approved by Council to purchase should hopefully be ordered this week.

Council President DePaul stated that the Borough office now had in their possession the forms that need to be completed so that the Borough could receive a reimbursement of expenses from the snow storm.

A motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved the Designation of Agent as Daniel DePaul for purposes of reimbursement of Snow Removal expenses from January. Motion passed 4-0.

### **Council Roundtable –**

Mr. Dees wondered if anyone found information regarding the Ninth Street Park. Mr. Dees mentioned that someone from the public had asked if a swing set could actually be placed at the park.

### **Committee Reports –**

Highway/Property Committee – Mr. H. Nodoline stated there is more garbage thrown off of the Glendon Hill Road. Mr. Nodoline stated that the Borough got the end table and chairs but Wilson got the couch.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer – The committee started meeting over the Codification of Ordinances. Mr. Dees stated that it may take hundreds of hours to complete the process.

The domain name of WestEastonBorough.org is now under the control of the Borough. Mr. Dees also stated that the two domain names could be merged that one domain would point to the other. Mr. Dees also stated that an issue will arise with the emails and it needs to be looked into further.

The Legal/Newletter/Computer Committee will be meeting on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 a.m. and Monday, April 4; Tuesday, April 5 and Wednesday, April 6 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss issues with Codification.

Council President DePaul asked Mr. Gehman when the next utility billing will be done. His reply was May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The billing will occur through the old computer system with a mock billing to verify numbers through the new system.

Council President DePaul asked if anyone had any issues that they wanted to have in the next newsletter, the newsletter needed to be done prior to May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Dees stated that the new website for the Borough is in constant development. He said that if anyone wants to suggest items they want to see to contact him and he will find out if it can be added.

A motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved to send Steve Klaver to the Zoning training in Doylestown

Discussion – Mr. Dees questioned what the actual costs of the training were. Mr. Gehman responded the costs are \$100 for the three day session plus mileage traveling to and from Doylestown.

Motion passed 4-0.

A motion by Mr. Lewis, second Mr. H. Nodoline; Council approved to send Paul James to the Zoning training later this year in Allentown. Motion passed 4-0.

The Minutes of the Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority were given to all Council members. Mr. Gehman stated that Mr. James expected to be in attendance but was not. Council President DePaul wanted to point out that the Borough was being given a rebate in excess of \$15,000 as a result of an audit that was done.

Mr. H. Nodoline questioned why the Borough can't give the money to the residents. Council President DePaul stated that rates could be lowered at the time the budget is prepared.

Mr. Rossi stated that the water was being turned on and the bathrooms will be cleaned and readied as of April 1<sup>st</sup> at the park on Keystone Avenue.

Grant Committee - The CDBG grant is being prepared and it concerns the drainage on Second Street. The Grant Committee meeting will begin after the Legal/Newsletter/Computer meeting is completed on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Lewis asked about the report from T&M Associates regarding the settling of the Borough building. He asked if the report was forwarded to our current Engineer.

Mr. Rossi replied that T&M Associates had a subcontractor, Advanced, prepare the report.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. John Doron of Third Street wanted to bring to Council's attention the water that is running off of Center Street and down the paper alley that is located behind his property. Mr. Doron stated where the alley meets Center Street there is no curb and the water runs freely down the alleyway. He also noted there are two properties that have rain spouting runoff that could contribute to the water runoff.

Mr. H. Nodoline asked Mr. Rossi if he would be able to go along and inspect the alley. Mayor Gross said this was done years ago and the suggestion was made to reshape the alley which was never done.

Mrs. Trude Hargraves of Second Street asked if a letter could be sent to her neighbor to address the smell coming from the garbage that is being stockpiled in the back yard. Council President DePaul stated that he would address the issue.

A motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, second by Mr. Dees; the meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm.