

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 14, 2018

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 Vice - President Matthew Dees in Council Chambers of the West Easton Municipal Building, 237 Seventh Street, West Easton, Pennsylvania.

Roll was taken and Council Vice-President Dees noted there was a quorum. Council members Matthew Dees, Robert Lewis, Henry Nodoline, Pete Mammana, Desiree Lake and Jeff Breidinger, Jr were present. Council President Paul James and Junior Council member, Nathaniel Kober were absent. Mayor, Daniel DePaul; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman and Borough Maintenance Supervisor, Dane Thatcher were present. Members of the public in attendance: Bill & June Smith, Bonnie Mammana, Leon Stull, Nancy Kutz, Trude Hargraves, Stephanie Micci, Betty Jo Hockman, Viriginia Bonners, Edmund Ogutu, Tricia Mezzacappa and Jerry Heebner.

The drawings for the Rain Barrels were done. The winners were Trude Hargraves and Ann Mammano. Resident, Leon Stull drew the winning tickets.

Public Comment –

Bonnie Mammana of Tenth Street – Ms. Mammana asked why the bathrooms are not open at Gerald W. Gross Park.

Ms. Heebner stated that the bathrooms are only unlocked when there is an event going on and the coaches should have keys for the bathrooms.

Leon Stull of Second Street – Mr. Stull asked Council if anything was going to be done about the poison sumac on the hillside at Gerald W. Gross Park.

Mr. Dees stated that it would be addressed later in the meeting

Mr. Stull also stated that he is totally against the “Rails to Trails” project. He commented that the Borough does not have the money to spend.

Nancy Kutz of Spring Street – Ms. Kutz stated that she was very upset that a person on Council was telling her neighbors what she had reported to the office. She refused to name the Council person.

Councilman Dees told Ms. Kutz that it was going to be discussed in Executive Session.

Vice-President Dees turned the meeting over to Solicitor Goudsouzian to conduct the Conditional Use hearing for West Easton II LP.

Condition Use Hearing began at 6:36 pm

Hearing was closed at 8:00 pm

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved checks #16516 through #16540 from the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Nodoline; Council approved check # 2056 from the Sewer Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Breidinger, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the Deposits and Receipts from April 2018. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Lake; Council approved the minutes for the April 23, 2018 Council meeting. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Breidinger; Council approved the April 2018 Treasurer's Report. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Guest –

Rob Mahady, Borough's Police Consultant – Mr. Mahady stated that he is frustrated that it has been more than 60 days to receive the final approval from Homeland Security. He stated that waiting for this approval is what is delaying the formation of the Police Department. He spoke to someone that promised to expedite the matter.

Engineer's Report – None

Mayor's Report –

Mayor DePaul commented on the "rumor" of drug activity on Ridge and Spring Streets.

Mayor DePaul had looked at police vehicles. He stated the vehicles are 2014 and 2015 and the price is negotiable.

Councilman Dees asked what equipment was in the vehicles. Mayor DePaul stated that the vehicles had 100,000 miles on them and one of the vehicles had the

cage. Councilman Dees suggested that the Safety Committee review the information provided on the vehicles.

Mr. Mahady mentioned that these vehicles were at one time State Police vehicles and he wanted to check the serial number and check the maintenance records of the vehicles.

Mayor DePaul contacted a landscaping company and discussed with them the vision for the War Monument area.

Solicitor's report –

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated the only item he had to discuss was for Executive Session.

Office Report –

Borough Manager, Ms. Heebner, stated that the Borough is looking for summer help and so far there has been no response. Ms. Heebner stated that Wilson Area High School and the West Easton Treatment Center have been contacted.

Ms. Heebner provided an update on the Hubcap Store and Delta Wash. The Zoning application for the bicycle sales was denied for the Hubcap Store. Delta Wash had a stop work order placed on the door but they are still operating. Joe Hoffman has turned citations into the magistrate but as with everything it takes time.

President's Report – None

Policies – None

Resolutions – None

Ordinance – None

Round Table –

Mayor DePaul reported that the Borough was contacted when a resident of the Treatment Center did not return. He also mentioned that the Borough was contacted when the resident did return and the reason behind it.

Councilman Dees stated that the Borough received an estimate for the removal of a tree and two bushes along Fifth Street that need to be removed for the Sidewalk Project and the poison sumac removed from the hillside between the playground and the trestle. Treeline Tree Service (Shane Klein) provided an estimate of \$1,400.00.

Upon motion by Mr. Nodoline, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved \$1,400.00 for the cutting down of a tree and bushes along Fifth Street and the clearing of the poison sumac trees on the hillside. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – Committee chairman, Mr. Lewis scheduled several tentative meetings for the committee – Friday, May 25 @ 6:30 pm, Tuesday, May 29 @ 6:30 pm and Thursday, May 31 @ 6:30 pm.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Lake; Council approved investing \$225,000 with PLGIT from the General Fund. No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Highway/Property Committee – Committee chairman, Mr. Nodoline stated he had hoped Council would begin black topping roads.

Councilman Dees reminded Councilman Nodoline that the Borough was completing their approved 3-year plan to slurry seal every road in the Borough and next year the Borough would begin a seven year plan to blacktop the roads in the Borough. No meeting was scheduled.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Committee chair, Ms. Lake scheduled a meeting for May 22. Public safety will be at 5:30 pm and Personnel at 6:00 pm

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – No report

Utilities Committee – Committee chairman, Pete Mammana, stated that the Utility Committee did meet. They met with a representative from the Arro Group in regards to having a survey completed to determine a new sewer rate and develop a 10 year capital improvement plan.

Mr. Gehman stated that he had provided the committee the last five years of financial information and water usage.

Mr. Mammana set meetings for the Utilities Committee for Friday, May 25 @ 6:00 pm, Tuesday, May 29 @ 6:00 pm and Thursday, May 31 @ 6:00 pm.

Mayor DePaul reminded Mr. Mammana and any other Council members that the next Mitigation meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 17 @ 1:00 pm at Muhlenburg Hospital.

Recreation Committee – Committee chairman, Jeff Breidinger, stated the committee did not meet and no meeting was scheduled.

Senior Clerk, David Gehman, commented that the office personnel has everything handled for the Memorial Day celebration.

Grants Committee – Committee chairman, Matt Dees, scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, May 16 @ 10:00 am. Mr. Dees stated that he had received an email on a possible grant for Trails and Recreation.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Additional Public Comment –

Trude Hargraves of Second Street – Ms. Hargraves stated that the visitor's sugar coated the truth on the treatment center. She commented that due to personal experience someone addicted to drugs will lie, cheat and steal from you to get what they need.

Nancy Kutz of Spring Street – Ms. Kutz stated that the representatives from West Easton II LP sat there and lied to Council. She stated the people housed at the DUI center leave their garbage everywhere in the Borough.

Ms. Heebner stated that she is more frustrated with the lack of attention being given to the DUI Center. Mayor DePaul stated that there should be signs put up showing that pick-up and drop off should be inside the fenced in area.

Entered Executive Session – 8:08 pm

Exited Executive Session – 9:05 pm

No action was taken on what was discussed in Executive Session.

Senior Clerk, David Gehman, reminded everyone that next Council meeting will be Monday, May 21 at 6:30 pm due to Memorial Day being May 28.

Upon motion by Mr. Nodoline, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council voted to adjourn. Motion passed 6 – 0. Meeting adjourned at 9:07.

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