

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

May 23, 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, Ron Nixon, Henry Nodoline, Thomas Nodoline and Robert Lewis. Mayor Gerald Gross, Interim Borough Manager Pete Rossi and Solicitor Steve Goudsouzian were present. Pete & Bonnie Mammana, Leon Stull, Bruce Walter, Tricia Mezzacappa, Sandi Rossi and Trude Hargraves were members of the public in attendance.

A motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved check # 15006 through #15034 in the General Fund and check #1952 from the Sewer Fund.

Motion passed 6-0.

Public Comment –

None at present time.

Appointment of New Council member

Council President DePaul introduced Mr. Pete Mammana. Mr. Mammana made a short statement as to what he wanted to see done for the Borough. Mr. Lewis asked Mr. Mammana if he was willing to learn to assist in doing the job of Councilman. Mr. Mammana's reply was Yes.

Mr. Rossi spoke for Mr. Paul James who was not at the meeting due to work. Mr. James was a previous Council member.

Both nominations were accepted. Motions closed.

Voice vote for Mr. Mammana – Mr. DePaul – Yes, Mr. Nixon – No, Mr. Dees – No, Mr. H. Nodoline – Yes, Mr. Lewis – No and Mr. T. Nodoline – No. Motion did not pass.

Voice vote for Mr. James – Mr. DePaul – Yes, Mr. Nixon – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. H. Nodoline – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes and Mr. T. Nodoline – Yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Paul James is our new Council member.

Mayor's Report –

No Report

Engineer's Report –

Chris Geary from Barry Isett & Associates reported to Council on the road repair on Spring Street and also on Adamson Street.

After meeting with the Property/Highway Committee on Friday, May 13th the scope of each project was expanded.

The project on Spring Street was to extend from Iron Street to Keystone Avenue. The project would consist of approx. 100 feet of reconstruction and the remaining surface would be micro-sealed.

The project on Main Street and Adamson Street now extends for approximately 700 feet originally 575 feet. The first 125 feet was to mill and overlay a new surface. The first option would be to mill and overlay a new surface. Cost of the first option would be \$83,000. The second option would be to mill and overlay a new surface on the first 125 feet and to cut out the center of the road and eliminate the railroad ties. Cost would be \$140,000. The third option is total reconstruction. The cost of the third option would be \$240,000.00

Mr. Geary met with Mr. H. Nodoline prior to the meeting. Mr. H. Nodoline suggested advertising options #1 and #2.

Mr. Rossi said that Dane Thatcher traveled with Terry from AMS when he inspected the streets of the Borough. Terry provided a list of eight street sections that he felt needed attention immediately.

Mr. Dees asked Mr. Geary how long each of the options would last. Mr. Geary stated that the first option would last 3-5 years and the second option would be 7-10 years. Mr. Rossi questioned the distance measured for the added area on Adamson Street.

Mr. Geary also reviewed the video of the sewer pipes and the one section is categorized as a "5" which is the worst condition. Mr. Geary stated the pipes can easily be repaired when the road bed is exposed.

A motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. H. Nodoline; Council approved to advertise all four projects (Options #1 & #2 for Adamson Street, Spring Street and Sealing borough streets.)

Discussion – Mr. Lewis asked which options for Adamson Street were being advertised. Options #1 and #2 would be advertised.

Mr. Nixon felt he should abstain since he works for AMS.

Council President DePaul called for a voice vote. Mr. DePaul – Yes, Mr. Nixon – abstained, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. H. Nodoline – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. T. Nodoline – No.

Motion passed 4-1.

Solicitor's Report –

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that there are two items that need to be discussed during an Executive Session. The first item pertains to the Condemnation of the Ridge Street property and the second involves the litigation with Tricia Mezzacappa.

Office Report

Mr. Gehman reported that the annual audit has been completed, filed with the state and advertised.

Mr. Rossi discussed the Merchants Bank of Bangor proposal provided to the Borough. Merchants Bank offers a higher rate of interest, no fees and also offers a courier service. Merchants Bank is also Act 72 Compliant, which means, the bank pledges assets to cover the total amount of the Borough deposits.

Mr. Gehman added that Merchants Bank offers a 2-year jumbo CD with a 1.30% interest rate.

A motion by Mr. Nixon, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the office staff to prepare all paperwork to move the Borough's accounts from Lafayette Ambassador Bank to Merchants Bank of Bangor.

Council President DePaul requested a voice vote. Mr. DePaul – Yes, Mr. Nixon – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. H. Nodoline – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes and Mr. T. Nodoline – No.

Motion passed 5 – 1.

Mr. Rossi requested that the Borough add a fourth signer to the bank accounts.

A motion by Mr. Nixon, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved Councilman Matthew Dees to be added as an account signer.

Motion passed 6-0

Mr. Rossi said that the Borough needs to formulate a Violation Appeals Board. With the Borough now sending out weed letters, a resident has the right to be heard. Mr. Rossi felt that the Code Appeals Board should be up and running by July at the latest.

Mr. Rossi let Council know that a letter of intent needs to be sent to the County in regards to the Lehigh Valley Hazard Mitigation plan.

A motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved to send a letter of intent for the Lehigh Valley Hazard Mitigation.

Motion passed 6-0.

A motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis: Council approved the resolution adding Summer Help at \$8.75/hour.

Motion passed 6-0.

Council President Report

None.

Council Roundtable

None.

Committee Reports

Public Safety

A motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees, Council approved to spend \$600 to cut down two trees on Borough property behind Spring Street.

Motion passed 6 – 0

Mr. Lewis if something could be done to the tree on Borough property behind 710 East Street.

Council President DePaul announced there would be Public Safety and Personnel Committee meeting on June 10th.

Old Business

Mr. Dees started a discussion on continuing the Life Insurance.

A motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Nixon; Council voted to retain the Life Insurance but to have Council members pay their own premiums.

Council President DePaul asked for a voice vote. Mr. DePaul – Yes, Mr. Nixon – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. H. Nodoline – Yes, Mr. Lewis – No, Mr. T. Nodoline – Yes.

Motion passed 5 – 1.

New Business

Holy Ghost Church is reviving their Ukrainian Festival. It will be held on Sunday, June 26th from noon – 7pm.

Mr. Dees asked if these items could be followed up on.

Repair to the Borough Hall roof
Portable generator

Mr. Rossi updated Council in regards to Code issues in the Borough. Mr. Rossi stated that the Hubcap Store will be getting a letter that the property needs to be cleaned up and the trailers removed.

Johnson Trucking put up a building for Sunshine Trucking without obtaining any permits. A stop work order has been issued and the contractor has been into the office to speak with Mr. Rossi regarding straightening out the issue.

Mr. Nixon left at 8:30 due to an early work day on Tuesday.

A motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved Solicitor Goudsouzian to contact E-codes in regards to completing Codification.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

Public Comment

Trisha Mezzacappa of Ridge Street - offered to have a State Constable speak to the Borough Council as to what they can and cannot do. She also questioned if the vacancy on the Zoning Board caused by the appointment of Paul James to the Borough Council will be advertised.

Ms. Mezzacappa was informed that Steve Klaver, who is an alternate for the Zoning Board would fill the position now vacant.

Lastly Ms. Mezzacappa asked that Mr. Dees be reprimanded for his bigotry and racism towards her on his blog.

Bruce Walter of Ninth Street wanted to thank Mr. Rossi for his time and efforts as Interim Borough Manager.

Leon Stull of Second Street brought up the homes at Front and Center and also at Third and Center not taking care of their properties.

Council Entered Executive Session at 8:40pm

Council Exit Executive Session at 8:45pm

A motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. H. Nodoline, Council approved to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned 9:00pm.