

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

July 11, 2016

APPROVED

The regular 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: Ron Nixon, Matthew Dees, Henry Nodoline, Thomas Nodoline, Robert Lewis and Paul James. Mayor Gerald Gross, Interim Borough Manager Pete Rossi, Solicitor Steve Goudsouzian, Borough Secretary Joan Heebner and Senior Borough Clerk David Gehman were present. Chris Geary of Barry Isett & Associates was present to give the Engineer's Report. Pete & Bonnie Mammana, Sandi Rossi, Leon Stull and Bruce Walter were members of the public in attendance.

A motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved check # 15207 through #15278 in the General Fund.

Discussion – Mr. Dees questioned check # 15228 payable to T & M Associates. Mr. Rossi explained that the bond was about to expire on the handicap ramps that were installed for the 2014 CDBG grant and T & M Associates was familiar with the project. An engineer was sent and report was given to the Borough.

Mr. Dees also asked about check #15255 payable to Applied Micro Systems. Mr. Gehman explained that we need to maintain the service contract until the new system is complete.

Motion passed 7 - 0.

A motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis, Council approved check # 2001 through #2005 from the Sewer Fund.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 - 0.

A motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis, Council approved the Deposit & Receipts for June 2016.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

A motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. James, Council approved the minutes from the June 13, 2016 Council meeting.

Discussion – Mr. Dees wanted the minutes corrected from June 13, 2016 to Mr. Gehman stated that he expected the office to be completed with the conversion in about a month.

Motion passed 7 – 0 with noted correction

A motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Nixon, Council approved the Treasurer's Report for June 2016.

Discussion – Mr. Lewis asked if any financial institution consistently had higher interest rates than any other. Mrs. Heebner replied not to our knowledge. Financial institutions will run "specials" from time to time but no one consistently has the highest rate.

Public Comment

None.

Mayor's Report –

Mayor Gross stated that on July 4th he received numerous complaints in regards to open burning. One resident that complained did not want to give their name and address but the resident is an asthma sufferer and the smoke severely worsens their condition. The Mayor referred to Ordinance #338 and stated that the fire pits should be shut down. Mayor Gross asked Council and the Solicitor to investigate what other municipalities such as Palmer Township and Bethlehem Township, who allow fire pits do and how their Ordinances differ from the Borough's.

The Mayor again asked Council to contact either Easton or Wilson Borough with regards to sweeping the streets in the Borough. He stated that both have done it in the past and it would help the "curb appeal" within the Borough.

Mayor Gross wanted to follow-up with the installation of LED lights for the streets. He mentioned that the Utilities Committee should meet with the Met-Ed Construction department and discuss the costs involved. He suggested that a trial area be chosen within the Borough to see how cost effective the new LED lights would be for the Borough.

Lastly, he recommended that Council look into the C.F.A. (Commonwealth Financing Authority). The C.F.A. has provided large sums of money to municipalities at a very low interest rate for numerous projects.

Engineer's Report –

Chris Geary from Barry Isett & Associates reported to Council on the bid process for the road construction projects.

Mr. Geary stated that the projects were advertised in the Morning Call and also on PennBid of as July 6th. To date, 10 contractors had downloaded the bid information.

A meeting would be held on Wednesday, July 13th at 10am at the Municipal building to answer any questions that contractors had. The bids would then be opened on Wednesday, July 20th at 2pm. Council would approve the bid(s) at their next meeting on Monday, July 25th.

The contractor(s) that would be awarded the bids would then have 90 days to sign the contracts.

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated it would be advisable for Council to hold their second monthly meeting to stay on the timeline for getting the contracted work done.

Solicitor's Report –

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that there are two items that need to be discussed during an Executive Session. The first item is the Condemnation of the Ridge Street property to be discussed in Executive Session. The second item is the Mezzacappa litigation which would be discussed in Executive Session.

Office Report

Mr. Gehman notified Council that if they wanted to purchase the 2015 GMC truck outright there would be a significant savings.

Mr. Gehman also reported that the air conditioning system in the Municipal building was not operating properly. Two different air conditioning contractors inspected the units. CHE Mechanical cleaned the two outside units and was able to get the unit up and working. CHE Mechanical also recommended replacing the two units. The expense would be approximately \$25,000.00 to replace the two units.

Dan Emrick was also called out to inspect the units. He also stated the units are old but as long as they can be repaired there is no reason why they need to be replaced.

A motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees, Council approved having Dan Emrick return to provide an estimate for repairing/replacing the air conditioning units.

Motion passed 7-0.

The two estimates for the repair work to the outside wall of the Municipal Building were given to Council.

A motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, second by Mr. Nixon, Council approved to accept the lowest bid provided by Marroni Construction/Mason Contractor Companies to make the repairs to the outside wall of the Municipal Building.

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

Motion passed 6 – 1. Mr. T. Nodoline was the lone dissenting vote.

Council asked that the Office get bids for resurfacing/sealing the basketball court and pavilion at Keystone Park and the bids be given to the Property Committee for review.

Council President Report

Council President mentioned the Borough is receiving a grant from the Chamber Foundation. The Borough will be receiving \$500 from the Foundation and will be matching that amount. Because the Borough is receiving half of the amount requested only three benches and one bicycle rack will be purchased. The Recreation committee would determine the placement of the benches and bicycle rack.

Council Roundtable

None.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee set meetings for Thursday, July 14 at 1pm and Thursday, July 21 at 1pm.

Property/Highway Committee

Mr. H. Nodoline mentioned that Mrs. Wagner had complained about the trees/bushes not being cut back and the some of the curbs and sidewalks being in poor condition

Public Safety/Personnel

The Public Safety/Personnel Committee has scheduled two meetings. The first is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13 at 2pm and the second will be Saturday, July 16 at 10am.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer

The Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee has scheduled two meetings. The first meeting will be Thursday, July 14 at 2pm and the second meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 21 at 2pm.

The deadline for submission for the newsletter is July 20th.

Utilities

No meetings were set for the Utilities Committee but public comment and public interest in converting the street lights to LED lighting would be encouraged.

Recreation

Mr. T. Nodoline stated that the new sign dedicating Keystone Park in honor of Mayor Gross would be approximately \$800.00.

A motion by Mr. T. Nodoline, second by Mr. Lewis, Council approved to rename Ninth Street Park to Louis Niko Park.

Motion passed 7-0.

The Recreation Committee will schedule meetings at the next Council meeting on July 25th.

Old Business

Mr. Lewis asked what the status was of having the tree trimmed behind 710 East Street. He asked if written estimates could be provided by next meeting to have tree trimmed.

The Legal Committee is still working on Codification.

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

Council Entered Executive Session at 8:43 pm

Council Exited Executive Session at 9:21 pm

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated the Condemnation of the Ridge Street property and the Mezzacappa litigation was discussed in the Executive Session.

A motion by Mr. Nixon, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved to adjourn.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

Meeting adjourned 9:22pm.