

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON  
COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 25, 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 Ron Nixon, Matthew Dees, Robert Lewis and Paul James. Council members Henry Nodoline and Tom Nodoline were absent. Also present were: Mayor Gerald Gross; Interim Borough Manager, Peter Rossi; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian, and Borough Secretary, Joan Heebner. Members of the public in attendance: Leon Stull, Sandi Rossi, Bruce Walter and Jerry Heebner.

A motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Nixon, Council approved checks # 15279 through 15299 in the General Fund. There were no sewer checks.

**Public Comment –**

Leon Stull- Commented on water flowing down sidewalks on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street; talked about weeds in Borough. Mr. Rossi told him it was being addressed.

**Mayor's Report –**

None

**Engineer's Report –**

Chris Geary and Rob Sarnowski, from Barry Isett & Associates, presented bids for street work. Two bids were received on Friday, July 22, 2016, for each of the 2 projects put out to bid. For the Adamson/Spring Street repairs the bids were as follows: Base bid: Gorecon \$53,951.60; Bracalente \$54,925.00; Alternate bid: Gorecon \$93,778.10; Bracalente \$101,052.50. Mr. James made a motion to accept the alternate bid from Gorecon for Adamson and Spring Street repairs for \$93,778.10. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

For the West Easton Borough streets maintenance the bids were as follows: Asphalt Maintenance Solutions, \$130,614.72; and Asphalt Paving, \$154,558.08. The engineers felt Asphalt Maintenance Solutions was the apparent low bidder. There was discussion about

removing Keystone Avenue for a lower price; decision was made to leave it in. Mr. Lewis made a motion to accept AMS bid, leaving Keystone Avenue in, and Mr. James seconded it. Motion passed 4-0 with Mr. Nixon abstaining as he works for AMS.

Engineer- MS4, DEP, starting to make their rounds; be ready.

### **Solicitor's report –**

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that in executive session he will discuss the condemnation of Ridge Street property and the Mezzacappa litigation. He reminded council that for codification they have to first supply updated ordinances. Mr. Rossi asked that the solicitor get prices/proposals from Ecodes. Mr. Lewis has information on more companies.

### **Office Report -**

Ms. Heebner told council that John Mazur came down to do the Liquid Fuel audit. His suggestion was that she be bonded for \$50,000 instead of the previous \$30,000, which she now is. Mr. Mazur will be back to do some free liquid fuel training.

Mr. Rossi spoke with Brian from UGI about the construction work being performed on Fourth Street. . He will have the roadwork and repairs done by August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Tree cutting on East Street, on Borough property: Bids to trim the whole tree were: \$650 from Treeline Tree Service and \$800 from Woodpecker Tree Service. Bids to trim only the left side of the tree were \$300 from Treeline Services and \$500 from Woodpecker Tree Service. Bob Lewis made a motion to have the entire tree trimmed by Treeline; Paul James seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Rossi gave notice of his resignation, effective July 29, 2016. Council declined his resignation and asked him to stay until the next meeting, August 8, 2016. Mr. Rossi agreed and said he would be available for hire as a special consultant in a limited capacity if council chooses. Mayor Gross suggested background checks be done on candidates to make sure we get someone strong with proper training. Mr. Rossi said he feels the council and committees are functioning well and thanked council for all they are doing.

### **President's Report –**

Mr. DePaul got a call from the Fire Company and the 911 Center that a manhole cover was lifted off during heavy rains on Spring Street. Mr. DePaul and Mr. Lewis put the horses/barricades around it.

### **Committee Reports –**

Finance – Working on budget. Meetings scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup> and August 4<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

Highway/Property Committee – None

Public Safety/Personnel – Meetings scheduled for July 27<sup>th</sup> , 1pm: and July 28<sup>th</sup> , noon.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer – Reviewing ordinances. Meetings scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup> and August 4<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

Utilities – Looking into street lighting. No meeting scheduled.

Recreation – Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup> , 7pm.

Grants - None

**Old Business -**

None

**New Business -**

Mr. Lewis made a motion to allow the office staff to work on weekends, up to 4 hours, exclusively on entering data on the new Caselle system, in an effort to get all the data transferred. It would not be mandatory. Mr. James seconded the motion. Council president asked for a voice vote: Mr. DePaul – Yes, Mr. Nixon – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. James – Yes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Council Entered Executive Session at 7:50pm.**

**Council Exited Executive Session at 8:10pm.**

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that the need for the executive session was to discuss the Ridge Street property and the Mezzacappa litigation. No official action was taken.

Mr. Dees made a motion to increase the pay of Hunter Velekei, the seasonal summer maintenance worker, from \$8.75/hour to \$10.00/hour. Ron Nixon seconded the motion. There was discussion. A voice vote was called for by Mr. DePaul. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion by Mr. DePaul, seconded by Mr. Dees, council voted to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.