

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 10, 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, Robert Lewis, Henry Nodoline and Tom Nodoline. Council member Paul James was absent. Also present were: Mayor, Gerald Gross; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian and Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman. Members of the public in attendance: Pete & Sandy Rossi, Pete & Bonnie Mammana, Leon Stull, Steve & Audrey Kocis, Jim & Elaine Jankowich, David Bogusky and Bruce Walter.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved check #15393 through #15452 from the General Fund Account.

Discussion - Mr. DePaul questioned check #15445. Ms. Heebner commented that the check was to pay for an inspection on a building permit that was started last year.

Motion passed 6 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved check #2010 and #2012 from the Sewer Fund Account.

Motion passed 6 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. H. Nodoline: Council approved the Deposits & Receipts for September 2016.

Motion passed 6 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the minutes from the September 12, 2016 meeting.

Motion passed 6 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for September 2016.

Motion passed 6 - 0.

Public Comment –

Leon Stull of Second Street asked the Borough Council to investigate installing a guardrail at the end of the paper alley at Center Street. Mr. Stull stated that his brother-in-law recently had an accident and drove through the fence around the property at 111 Center Street after exiting the alley.

Mr. Stull also stated that the owner of 111 Center Street has a full oil tank that is sitting on the Borough right-of-way. He was worried that if that tank would leak it could be a costly expense to the Borough, since the owner has not rebuilt the home that burned down in 2012.

Ms. Heebner stated that the Borough has had Barry Isset & Associates do an inspection of the property. Council President DePaul has referred the matter to the Property Committee for further investigation and report back to the full Council.

Engineer's Report –

Doug Brown of Barry Isset & Associates was on hand to provide the Engineer's Report. Mr. Brown reported that the work done by AMS was under the stated contract amount by \$6,377. On the other hand, Gorecon, who was doing the work on Adamson Street, stopped work because they found railroad (trolley) tracks embedded in the concrete down the middle of the street.

Mr. H. Nodoline commented that Gorecon should be held to the agreed upon contract. Their bid was approved by Council and if Gorecon did not want to do the work the Borough should file against their job bond. Mr. H. Nodoline also commented that if Gorecon would lose their bond no insurance company would ever bond them again.

Mr. Dees asked why they couldn't bring in a metal detector to see where the rails are located. Mayor Gross agreed with Mr. H. Nodoline that Gorecon should be held to the original bid.

Mr. Rossi commented that when the Borough had installed water pipes the trench was dug between the rails and through the railroad ties. He also stated that when this was done the roadway was repaired with like material. As an example if the roadway was concrete it was replaced with concrete.

Mr. H. Nodoline wants the street done right. Mr. Dees apologized to the members of the public that were in attendance that he should have paid more attention to the contract.

Doug Brown of Barry Isset & Associates recommended that the Borough Council agree with the new proposal to get the road done now and before the deadline for use of Liquid Fuels monies. Mr. Brown stated that the new proposal should get the Borough seven years of additional use from the road before anything else would need to be done.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved spending \$74,425.90 on the new contraction proposal with Gorecon.

Discussion – Mr. H. Nodoline was not happy and proposed an additional motion.

Upon motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, second by Mr. Nixon; Council proposed having two test holes drilled immediately to find out what exactly the contractor would be dealing with. Mr. H. Nodoline withdrew his motion once it was explained there wasn't enough time.

A voice vote for the original motion is as follows: Mr. DePaul – Yes, Mr. Nixon – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. T. Nodoline – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. H. Nodoline – No.

Motion passed 5 – 1. Mr. H. Nodoline was the dissenting vote.

Upon motion by Mr. Nixon, second by Mr. Lewis; Council gave Borough Manger, Joan Heebner the authority to sign the new contract between the Borough and Gorecon.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

Mr. Brown discussed the Adamson Street Pipe Lining Project. He recommended going with the proposal from SWERP, Inc.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved spending no more than \$9,450.00 to line the pipe including pumping water.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

Mr. Brown discussed the application for the Sewer Grant application and the preparation of the paperwork. The deadline for the application to be filed is October 26, 2016.

Mr. Dees stated that there was \$22,000,000 available from the state and another \$6,000,000 available from the county. There is however, a 15% matching that is needed by the municipality.

The office will look for the report with the recording of the sewer lines that could expedite the paperwork. The problem areas of the sewer system were from Iron Street to the railroad trestle and Palmer and Ridge Streets according to a report done by Don Frederickson.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved to spend up to \$1,400.00 to have the Grant paperwork completed.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

Guest – Joe Leibel from Applied Micro Systems (AMS)

Mr. Leibel introduced himself and explained why he was in attendance.

Councilman Dees told Mr. Leibel that at previous Council meetings prior to this year, Council and the public were led to believe the AMS is not updated and lacked support. They were also led to believe that the current AMS system was DOS based and that PSAB recommended Caselle over AMS to its members.

Mr. Leibel responded to Mr. Dees accordingly. The AMS program that the Borough currently uses is Windows based, constantly being updated and can run on a variety of systems. The monthly maintenance payment that the Borough pays gives the office staff telephone support; updates to the computer program are automatically done.

Mr. Gehman spoke with Ed Knittel, President of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. Mr. Knittel stated that no endorsement of ANY program was ever given by PSAB. He went on to mention that AMS and Caselle are both non-voting association members of PSAB and PSAB would NEVER give its members a recommendation of any kind as to the software they should use.

Ms. Heebner told Council that the office recently received the annual maintenance agreement from Dallas Data Systems, the vendor providing the Borough with Caselle, and the cost for 2017 would be \$9,500.00. The maintenance agreement with AMS is \$186.00 per month or \$2,232.00 per year.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Nixon; Council approved the cancellation of the contract with Caselle.

Council President DePaul asked for a voice vote. Mr. DePaul – Yes, Mr. Nixon – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. T. Nodoline – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. H. Nodoline – Yes.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

Mayor's Report –

The Mayor spoke with Matt Cartwright, U.S. Congressman and Mr. Cartwright said there are grants available through Homeland Security. The Mayor has already spoken with Fire Chief Bill Bogari, Jr. and the fire company has already begun to apply for the grants for the purchase of Scott Air Packs. The Mayor passed the information onto the Grant Committee.

Mayor Gross told everyone to visit the Miracle League Field in Palmer Township. The sports field was designed so disabled children and adults have a place to play baseball. He asked in addition to the stipends that the borough gives to the Wilson Area Recreation Board that a donation be given to Palmer Township for the continuation of this field. The Mayor passed the information onto the Recreation and Finance Committees.

The Mayor commented that he has reviewed the 2017 Northampton County proposed budget. Mayor Gross noted that there is a reduction of \$5,000,000 between the five county grant areas.

The Mayor also took the time to thank Council for approving the conversion of the street lights to LED. The LED lighting will actually provide more lighting and cost less than the existing light fixtures.

Mr. Dees asked Mr. T. Nodoline as to the status of the sign for the dedication of Keystone Park as Gerald W. Gross Park. Mr. T. Nodoline responded that he has now gone to Barry Mumaw to have the sign created.

Solicitor's report –

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that in executive session he will discuss the Mezzacappa litigation and the Condemnation of the Ridge Street property.

**Councilman Thomas Nodoline left at 8:35pm due to an early work start the following day.

Office Report -

Mr. Gehman reported that the business location signs that were placed on Lehigh Drive to direct traffic to West Easton businesses have been stolen. He asked Council if the signs should be replaced at the Borough's expense.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Nixon; Council approved replacing the signs at the Borough's expense, one time, and going forward it will be at the expense of the business.

Motion carried 5 – 0.

Mr. Gehman also asked Council for direction on the Life Insurance for elected offices.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Nixon, Council approved Mr. Gehman to develop a policy regarding the Life Insurance for Elected Officials and present it at the next Council meeting.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

**Mr. Henry Nodoline left 8:50 due to a medical necessity.

President's Report –

None.

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee –

Chairman, Mr. Lewis reported that there will be no action taken as to the buyout of the 2015 GMC truck at this time.

Scheduled meetings for Thursday, October 13th at 1:00 pm and Thursday, October 20th at 1:00 pm.

Highway/Property Committee – Council President DePaul stated there is a meeting scheduled for the Highway/Property Committee on Wednesday, October 19th at 7:00 pm.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Will be meeting with Wilson Borough Council on Monday, October 17th to continue discussions on Police protection.

The Personnel/Public Safety Committee scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, October 19th at 6:00 pm

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – in absence of Committee chair, Paul James; Bob Lewis noted there will be no farther action taken on the outstanding amount owed on the Stacy Sprague roof permit.

Mr. Lewis also said that there are two meetings scheduled for the committee. The first will be Thursday, October 13th at 2:00 pm and then the following week, Thursday, October 20th at 2:00 pm.

Utilities Committee – Mr. Nixon reported that the Borough is waiting on Met-Ed to get in touch with the Borough to start the work on the conversion.

Recreation – None

Grants – Chairman, Mr. Dees scheduled a committee meeting for Tuesday, October 11th at 6:00 pm.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Additional Public Comment

Pete Rossi asked about the repair of the apron on the Second Street alley.

Council President noted that Mr. H. Nodoline and the Borough maintenance man, Dane Thatcher would be doing the work.

A motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved spending a maximum of \$500.00 to complete the repair on the Second Street alley.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

Entered Executive Session at 9:05 pm

Exited Executive Session at 9:21pm

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that the Mezzacappa litigation and the Condemnation of the Ridge Street property were discussed during the Executive Session.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Nixon; Council voted not to take any action on the matters discussed during Executive Session.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Nixon, second by Mr. Lewis; Council voted to adjourn.

Motion passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:32pm.

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