

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 24, 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, Tom Nodoline, Robert Lewis, Henry Nodoline and Paul James. Council member Ron Nixon was absent. Also present were: Mayor Gerald Gross; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; and Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman. Borough Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian and Borough Engineer, Doug Brown from Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. were also in attendance. Members of the public in attendance: Pete & Bonnie Mammana and David Bogusky.

Upon motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved check #15453 through #15452 from the General Fund Account.

Discussion - Mr. Dees questioned check #15472 and check #15473. Mr. Gehman replied that check #15472 was the purchase of manhole raisers that were needed to complete the construction on Adamson Street. Check 15473 was a charge to the Borough from The Center for Animal Health & Welfare for \$150.00 for a stray that was dropped off by the Police. Council agreed not to pay check #15473 until more information was received about the invoice.

Motion passed 6 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. James; Council approved check #2013 from the Sewer Fund Account.

Motion passed 6 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. James, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved payment to Asphalt Maintenance Solutions LLC from the Liquid Fuels (Highway) Fund.

Motions passed 6 – 0.

Public Comment – None

Engineer's Report –

Mr. Brown reported that the road work on Adamson Street was completed by Gorecon. He also stated that SWERP, Inc. was ready to do the pipe repair on Adamson Street.

Council member Hank Nodoline again expressed his dissatisfaction with the way Gorecon handled themselves with the construction work done on Adamson Street and he did not agree with the final costs of the work done. The Mayor commented that due to Gorecon's actions, the Borough really was put in a corner with no good options. Council President questioned the charges for traffic control. He stated that the Borough's maintenance man, Dane Thatcher, provided the traffic control for the project.

Solicitor Goudsouzian commented that the change order provided the actual quantities used and the unit price could not be changed without violating the original agreement.

Council President DePaul asked if an estimate could be prepared for Seventh Street for next year.

A short MS4 workshop was scheduled for Council members and staff following the Council Meeting on Monday, November 14th.

Mayor's Report – Progress

Solicitor's report –

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

Entered Executive Session at 8:00 pm

Exited Executive Session at 8:40 pm

Council took no action on Executive Session items.

Upon a motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees: Council approved payment to the Nodoline family for payment of the property on Ridge Street.

Council President DePaul asked for a voice vote. Mr. DePaul – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. James – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes. Mr. Tom Nodoline and Mr. Henry Nodoline abstained. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Office Report - None

President's Report –

None.

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee –

Committee Chairman, Mr. Lewis presented the 2017 Budget to Council for review.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. James; Council approved to adjust the line items for Conferences to \$3,000 and Training/Webinars to \$2000.

Discussion – Mr. Dees requested the change so that equipment could be purchased for Council chambers so that the webinars could be viewed at Borough Hall.

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

Motion passed 4 – 2. Mr. T. Nodoline and Mr. Lewis were the dissenting votes.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. James; Council approved \$150,000 for Police Coverage in the 2017 Borough Budget.

Motion passed 4 – 2. Mr. T. Nodoline and Mr. Lewis were the dissenting votes.

Due to the fact there were a number of items that were missing dollar amounts the Budget discussion has been tabled until next Council meeting.

Finance Committee meetings are scheduled for Thursday, November 3rd at 1:00 pm and Thursday, November 10th at 1:00 pm.

Chairman, Mr. Lewis requested that any changes for the budget be given to him by Monday, November 7th so that they can be reviewed by the Finance Committee at their meeting on Thursday, November 10th.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee –

Council President Mr. DePaul stated that the Public Safety committee has met numerous times with Wilson Borough Council members and they will not budge on the

amount that they want to provide Police coverage. Wilson Borough wants \$250,000 per year with a 5% increase each following year

The Borough has three options to consider:

- (1) Stay with current situation.
- (2) Talk to another community to provide Police protection
- (3) Borough start their own Police department

Mr. DePaul stated that the Public Safety Committee met with the Police Chief from Stockertown. Stockertown has their own police force. It consists of a Police Chief and 4 part-time officers. The budget for the police department is \$132,000/year. The Police department provides coverage during the busier times in the Borough and the State Police provide coverage on the off hours.

Mr. Dees commented that the first year's costs will be higher because the initial costs. Mr. Dees listed the following items:

- Firearms (pistol, shotgun) - \$1,000
- Vehicle (no cage required)
- Computer/Printer - \$1,500
- State and Federal tie in (provides background checks) - \$2,000
- Radios - \$1,000
- Uniforms/Jackets
- Bullet proof Vests (Borough purchases and part-time officer pays back over time).

The Borough would need to obtain an ORI number from the state. A two telephone line would be needed with a secured line.

The part-time officers earn on average \$19.00/hour, in the area.

No lockup is necessary. Stockertown uses either Nazareth for lock up or takes them directly to the County facilities.

Stockertown contacts the County 911 dispatch when they come on and go off patrol. When they are off of patrol calls go directly to the State Police.

The Stockertown Police Chief recommends that we hire officers that have already obtained their MOPET card. A MOPET card is given to officers who have completed their training and are certified.

Mayor Gross applauded the Public Safety Committee for the work done.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council authorized Council President DePaul to communicate to Wilson Borough that West Easton Borough will not pursue negotiations at this time for police coverage.

Discussion – Mr. H. Nodoline questioned why we want to stop talking to someone before we have our own force. How do we know if we will get a Police Chief, etc.?

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

Motion passed 6 – 0.

Mr. H. Nodoline left Council meeting at 8:25 pm.

Mr. Gehman mentioned that when Council previously planned to start a Police force the Worker's Compensation insurance was going to be canceled by the Borough's carrier because of the start of the Police. Ms. Heebner stated that she has seen the letter from the Insurance carrier stating that.

Highway/Property Committee –

All the road construction in the Borough has now been completed. The lines were painted on Adamson Street, today.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee –

Mr. James, Committee chairperson, stated the committee has met twice since last Council meeting on the Quality of Life ordinance.

Mr. James stated the next Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee meeting is set for Thursday, November 10th at 2:00 pm.

Utilities Committee –

Mr. James stated that everything has been submitted to Met-Ed for the changeover of the street lights to LED lighting.

Recreation –

Mr. T. Nodoline has contacted Barry Mumaw of Mumaw Sign's Inc to do the signs for dedication. Mr. Mumaw needs a copy of the Borough seal to complete the signs.

Grants –

Chairman, Mr. Dees commented that due to time restraints the Borough was unable to apply for a grant to make repairs to the storm sewer drains. Ms. Heebner commented that the reports of the recordings were not found in the file room and the firm that did the work was not able to provide the information readily.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business –

Paul James mentioned a discussion was held at a recent Committee meeting and requests that the salary of a Council member be increased to \$1,200/yr and the salary for the Mayor and Council President be increased to \$1,500/yr beginning for members taking office in January 2018.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. James; Council increased the salary of a Council member to \$1,200/yr and the salary of the Mayor and Council President to \$1,500 in January 2018.

Discussion – Council did not vote on the motion at this meeting because the lack of public in attendance.

Motion tabled 4 – 1 to next Council meeting. Dissenting vote Mr. T. Nodoline

Additional Public Comment

Mr. Bogusky of Ninth Street questioned the cost for the State Police and he also asked where calls would go for the police.

There would be no cost to the Borough for State Police coverage when they are needed to cover West Easton. All emergency calls would go through the 911 call center. If the Borough would have their own coverage then the call goes to Borough if State Police is providing coverage the call would be sent to them. The Borough Police would also have their own general number for non-emergency calls.

Councilman Tom Nodoline stated the State Police told him they would charge for coverage if West Easton had a police force. Councilman Dees believed that not to be the case, but would verify it again with the Stockertown Police Chief and report back to Council.

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

Motion passed 5 - 0. Meeting adjourned at 9:38pm.

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