

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 14, 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 Matthew Dees, Henry Nodoline and Tom Nodoline. Council members Ron Nixon, Robert Lewis and Paul James were 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: Jim & Elaine Jankowich, Bruce Walter, Leon Stull, Pete & Bonnie Mammana, Trude Hargarves and Pete Rossi. Janie Jones Brown and Daniel Redington were invited guests representing the Mary Mueser Library.

Upon motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved check #15474 through #15504 from the General Fund Account.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved check #2014 from the Sewer Fund Account.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. T. Nodoline, second by Mr. H. Nodoline, Council approved check #15473 (The Center for Animal Health & Welfare) for payment.

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

Motion passed 3 - 1.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. H. Nodoline; Council approved the Deposit and Receipts for October 2016

Motion passed 4 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved the minutes from the October 10, 2016 meeting.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved the minutes from the October 24, 2016.

Motion passed 4 – 0

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. H. Nodoline; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for October 2016.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. H. Nodoline; Council approved transferring the maturing CD from Lafayette Ambassador Bank to Merchants Bank of Bangor and increasing the value to \$100,000.

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

Motion passed 3 – 1.

Public Comment –

Bruce Walter of Ninth Street asked if Bean Contracting was going to be used for snow removal and if any other bids were received.

It was explained to Mr. Walter that the Borough has had an agreement with Bean Contracting for snow removal for a number of years. Just because the Borough has the agreement it does not mean that the Borough has to use them exclusively. If the Borough finds someone who can do the job cheaper there is nothing preventing the Borough to use them. The Mayor stated that it is a way to maintain control of the situation.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. T. Nodoline; Council approved the agreement with Bean Contracting for snow removal.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

Trude Hargraves of Second Street wanted to know why the litigation between the Borough and Ms. Mezzacappa has not been settled.

Council President DePaul asked Solicitor Goudsouzian to respond to Ms. Hargraves. Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that several offers were made; the matter has not been settled. Council made an offer and it was refused.

Engineer's Report –

Doug Brown of Barry Isset & Associates was on hand to provide the Engineer's Report.

Upon motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved payment of \$77,851.44 to Gorecon, withholding 10% of the cost until Gorecon provides the Borough with their maintenance bond.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

Mr. Brown also advised Council that the Borough may face issues with the placement of Wireless Cell towers. He advised that a Wireless Cell Tower ordinance be developed. Mr. Brown said he would provide Council with a sample.

Mr. Brown commented that Northampton Township (Bucks County) is involved with a lawsuit pertaining to the wireless cell towers. The company went directly to the PUC to place towers on the public right of way.

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that there are three issues with the Wireless Cell towers. First, the Borough doesn't want to be the first out there. Secondly, no one wants to litigate the issue and finally, prepare an ordinance to address the issue.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. H. Nodoline; Council approved the Solicitor to investigate the matter and report back to Council what he feels the Borough Council should do.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

Guest – Daniel Redington, Director of Mary Mueser Library Janie Jones Brown – West Easton Borough representative

Mr. Redington provided Council with numbers pertaining to the library. He stated 3,680 items have been checked out by West Easton residents. There are 342 active adult members and 144 active child members that take books from the library. The residents of West Easton represent about 9% of checkouts.

Mr. Redington went over the 2017 budget for the library and pointed out that the largest increase in cost was for the Medical benefits for its workers. Mr. Redington stated that the library is tied into the Wilson Borough plan because they do not have enough employees to have a plan.

Mr. Dees asked why the amount shown in Fundraisers decreased for the proposed 2017 budget. Mr. Redington replied that he feels the number being used in the proposed budget is more realistic.

Mr. Redington asked if fundraising flyers could be sent to the Borough office. Borough Manager, Ms. Heebner, offered to put any information pertaining to the library on the borough's website.

Mayor's Report –

The Mayor received a flyer from the County in regards to the Community Development Grant (CDG). The Mayor mentioned there is \$4,600,000 available thru the CDG and another \$1,396,000 for CDBG.

The Mayor said the Borough used to always have a paid Borough animal control person. He felt the Borough should get back to having an animal control person.

The Mayor also wanted to compliment Joan for providing the information he requested when the process began to obtain the LED lighting for the Borough. He also complimented Paul James for getting the job done when it was passed to him.

Met-Ed estimates the job will be done in the next 3 – 6 months.

Solicitor's report –

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

Office Report -

Mr. Gehman reported that all financial information is now up-to-date on the AMS computer system. A certified letter was sent to Dallas Data Systems discontinuing the contract for Caselle with them.

Ms. Heebner spoke to Council in regards to a letter received from Kunsman Companies in regards to an agreement for Kunsman to perform the annual audit for years 2017, 2018 and 2019.

President's Report –

None.

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – None

Highway/Property Committee – Council would like to have the Ridge Street property cleaned and cleared. There is currently a pile of wood on the property. Council had hoped to donate the wood to the Easton High School bonfire but since the wood is treated they would not accept the donation.

Councilman Henry Nodoline has offered to do the work to clear the property. He would need an excavator that would be rented from Action Rental and a dumpster from Advanced Disposal.

Mr. Gehman said he had contacted Advance Disposal. A dumpster would run approximately \$800.00 for the dumpster to be delivered and then picked up.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. H. Nodoline; Council approved up to \$3,000 to clean up the treated lumber on the Ridge Street property.

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

Motion passed 3 – 1.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Mr. Dees responded to a question that was previously raised by Mr. T. Nodoline in regards to paying for State Police coverage. Mr. Dees spoke with the Stockertown Chief of Police and they do not pay for State Police coverage.

Mr. H. Nodoline started a discussion about the amount of tractor trailer traffic in the Borough. He said he is awakened every night between 3:30 – 4:00 am because of the noise of a tractor trailer coming down Seventh Street and turning onto Main Street.

The Mayor suggested having a letter sent to Sunshine Trucking, Johnson Trucking and the Propane company. The letter would ask the companies to please use Lehigh Drive rather than the Borough streets to enter and exit the businesses.

The Public Safety/Personnel Committee – spoke with the Police Chief of Palmer Township and is also taking the advice of the Police Chief of Stockertown in regards to forming our own Police Department.

Mr. Dees asked the Solicitor to clarify the need of a Civil Service Commission.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – None

Utilities Committee – None

Recreation – Mr. T. Nodoline asked about the signs for Gerald W. Gross park.

Grants – None

Old Business –

A discussion regarding the 2017 proposed budget was held. Council President DePaul asked if line item 402-02 Treasurer's Salary could be increased from \$1,800 to \$2,100.

The Mayor noted that the Steel Fabricator is moving to a new Johnson building in Easton while the fencing company is moving into West Easton where the steel fabricator used to be located.

New Business -

Upon motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved to advertise the 2017 Council meeting dates.

Additional Public Comment –

None

Christine Mildner presented a MS-4 Workshop for the Council members, Borough employees and residents in attendance.

**Mr. T. Nodoline left the meeting at the conclusion of the MS-4 Workshop at 9:09pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:09pm because there was no longer a quorum.

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