

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 9, 2017

APPROVED

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of the Borough of West Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 6:30 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, Paul James and Bob Lewis. Council members Thomas Nodoline and Ron Nixon were absent. Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian and Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman were present. Mayor Gross was absent. Members of the public in attendance: Pete & Bonnie Mammana, Bruce Walter, Leon Stull and Justin Fretz.

Upon motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved check #15558 through #15614 from the General Fund Account.

Discussion – Mr. Dees asked about ck # 15595 to EZ Micro for Virus Removal. Mr. Gehman explained that EZ Micro just billed the Borough for services rendered back in July.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. James; Council approved check #2018 and #2019 from the Sewer Fund Account.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. James; Council approved the Deposit and Receipts for December 2016

Motion passed 5 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved the minutes from the December 12, 2016 meeting with correction.

Discussion – Council President DePaul questioned a statement that was attributed to him in error. The statement was removed from the minutes.

Motion passed with correction 5 - 0.

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

Discussion – Mr. Dees questioned the frequency of payments from West Easton Development for the DUI Impact fees payable to the Borough. Mr. Gehman stated that the Borough receives an email from the County regarding the average number per month. Usually a check is received within two weeks of the email.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

Public Comment –

Justin Fretz presented to Council his proposal for growing and wholesaling vegetables on a property that is on Lehigh Drive. Mr. Fretz stated that no permanent structures would be put up except a shed for storage. He would be growing the vegetables either hydroponically or in soil in green houses. The green houses would have a galvanized frame with plastic or Plexiglas windows.

Council President DePaul thanked Mr. Fretz and asked him to await the decision of the Borough Code Enforcement officer, Joe Hoffman of Barry Isett & Associates.

Engineer's Report – None

Mayor's Report – None

Solicitor's report –

Solicitor Goudsouzian provided Borough Council with an ordinance in draft format to be approved by Council. When approved, the ordinance must be advertised before it can be enacted. Mr. James said that the draft should be reviewed by the legal committee.

The Solicitor reported that the report to the Borough's auditor has been completed and sent.

Solicitor Goudsouzian suggested that the International Property Code Ordinance needs to be updated.

An amendment to Zoning also needs to be done to deal with wireless communication towers.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. James; Council approved the Solicitor to begin work on the Codification up to \$10,000.

Discussion – Mr. James asked that the Solicitor provide regular updates with the Codification so that Council has an understanding of what is being changed and/or updated.

Motion passed 5-0.

Office Report -

Ms. Heebner told Council that the office is looking into a new copier/printer for the office. The current Konica-Minolta printer can no longer scan to email. Ms. Heebner has obtained four quotes from local companies that can provide service to the model that we decide on.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. James; Council approved to go with the decision by Ms. Heebner.

Motion passed 5-0.

The first quarter newsletter is scheduled to go out with the quarterly billing for sewer and trash. The bills will be mailed on Friday, January 13th and will be due on Wednesday, February 15th.

Mr. Gehman provided everyone on Council a new W-4 if anyone wants to change their deductions for the coming year.

Applied Micro Systems is in the process of updating the General Ledger so that all items on the budget can be included.

Nancy Kutz, a resident of the Borough, called into the office prior to the Council meeting to express her concern on the person who is double parking on Ridge Street. She stated that vehicles are double parked at all hours and it makes it difficult to safely pass.

Mr. Dees asked if the plaque had been ordered for Mr. Niko years of service. He also asked about the dedication of the Ninth Street Park in his honor.

Ms. Heebner stated that the plaque has not been ordered and that the dedication will be scheduled for the spring.

President's Report –

Council President DePaul first wanted to discuss wage increases for the Borough employees. Mr. James stated that there was a raise built into the 2017 Budget for each of the employees.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. James, Council approved a donation of \$8,400.00 to the Mary Meuser Library.

Motion passed 5-0.

Upon motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved a donation of \$1,000.00 to the Wilson Recreation Board.

Discussion – Due to the Wilson Borough budget crisis, Wilson Borough has opted to cut the donation to the Wilson Recreation Board.

No vote was taken on this motion.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. James; Council approved to table the vote on the donation until the next meeting

Motion passed 5-0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis; second by Mr. James; Council approved a donation of \$250.00 to the Suburban EMS.

No vote was taken on this motion.

During the discussion, a motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved to table the vote on the donation to the Suburban EMS until the next meeting.

Motion passed 5-0.

Round Table –

Mr. Dees offered to develop a policy on advertising for the Borough's website and also in the quarterly newsletter.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved Ms. Heebner to order the webinar schedules for January 11th and 12th for the Borough.

Motion passed 5-0.

Council President DePaul wanted to acknowledge the work done by Councilman Henry Nodoline and Borough Maintenance worker, Dane Thatcher. The pair cleared the property now owned by the Borough on Ridge Street.

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – None

Highway/Property Committee –

Committee chair, Mr. H. Nodoline noted that in 2016 – 60% of the roads in the Borough were repaired. The trestle was inspected. Adamson Street was resurfaced. The Ridge Street property was cleared. Mr. H. Nodoline stated that after 5 years of neglect the Borough was on the correct road to repair.

Mr. H. Nodoline stated in 2017 plans are to mill and repave Seventh Street. He would like to see the property owners along Seventh Street patch and repair their curbs and sidewalks prior to the road work being done.

Mr. Nodoline scheduled a Property/Highway Committee meeting for Wednesday, January 11th at 11am.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – A meeting was scheduled for the Public Safety/Personnel Committee for Wednesday, January 11th at 10am.

Council President DePaul commented on the list on Mr. Dees' blog about the accomplishments of the Borough Council in 2016.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – Councilman Mr. James scheduled public meetings on the Quality of Life ordinance for Thursday, February 9th at 10am and then at 6pm to hear the concerns of the residents on the proposed ordinance.

A meeting was also scheduled for the Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee for Wednesday, January 11th at 12:30pm.

Utilities Committee – None

Recreation – None

Grants – Council President, Mr. DePaul stated that the next round of CDBG grants will be coming up.

Committee Chair, Mr. Dees let Council know that the Borough has received \$125,400 CDBG grant for Storm sewer needs on Second Street. A meeting with the Engineer will be necessary to start the process. Council President DePaul also requested that the Solicitor be included in the meeting.

Old Business –

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council has approved holding the dedication of Gerald W. Gross Park to coincide with Easter egg hunt for the Borough children.

Motion passed 5-0.

The Borough office needs to contact Bob Freeman's office to replace the Pennsylvania State Flag.

New Business -

Mr. Dees presented to Council a proposed policy for late payment forgiveness on Utility payments. The policy will give a resident who has paid the eight previous quarters on time a one day grace period.

Solicitor Goudsouzian offered to review the policy and provide Council with a resolution to pass at the next meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved to have Solicitor Goudsouzian review late payment forgiveness policy.

Motion passed 5-0.

Additional Public Comment –

Bruce Walter of Ninth Street asked about missing Council members. Mr. DePaul stated that one Council member had a medical issue the other had a family situation which prevented them to attend the meeting.

Bonnie Mammana of Tenth Street asked if the faded no parking signs could be replaced. The Borough office would look into the matter.

Upon motion by Mr. James, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved to enter Executive Session

Entered Executive Session – 8:01 pm

Exited Executive Session – 8:19 pm

The Borough Council discussed the wage increases for the Borough employees. A 2% increase was figured into the 2017 Budget. A further review will be done in March.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved to adjourn.
8:21pm

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