

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 13, 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, Thomas Nodoline and Bob Lewis. Council member, Henry Nodoline was available via telephone. Council members Ron Nixon and Paul James were absent. Mayor, Gerald Gross; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; and Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman were present. Members of the public in attendance: Pete & Bonnie Mammana, Jim & Elaine Jackovich, Tricia Mezzacappa, Doug Fulmer, Shawn Farullo, Betty Jo Bonners, Virginia Bonners, Don Kerbaugh, Jeff Briedinger, Jr. and Jerry Heebner.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved check #15692 through #15737 from the General Fund Account.

No discussion – Motion passed 5 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved check #2023 and #2024 from the Sewer Fund Account.

No discussion – Motion passed 5 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved the Deposit and Receipts for February 2017

No discussion – Motion passed 5 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the minutes from the February 13, 2017 meeting with corrections.

No discussion – Motion passed 5 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for January 2017.

No discussion – Motion passed 5 – 0.

Public Comment –

Mr. Donald Kerbaugh of Spring Street stated that his son lives on Second Street in the Borough and asked if Second Street Alley could be plowed after a snow storm.

Solicitor Goudsouzian responded “No” to the request. The Solicitor went on to say that the alley is an unordained alley and the Borough cannot plow the alley.

Council President DePaul asked the Solicitor if it is possible to have the alley ordained. Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that it would be possible provided that all the residents would agree to deed the alley back to the Borough.

Mr. Jeff Breidinger, current member of the Wilson Recreation Association representing the Borough stated the Wilson Recreation Board received the donation from the Borough of West Easton.

He mentioned that T-Ball will again be played at the park in the Borough. Pete Mammana asked if players had to provide their own bat, glove and helmet. Mr. Breidinger told Mr. Mammana that players only need to bring a glove to play.

Ms. Heebner asked how many children from West Easton participate in the activities provided. Mr. Breidinger said he will find out and report back to Council.

Tricia Mezzacappa of Ridge Street again asked Mr. Dees for his discharge papers from the military. Council President DePaul told Ms. Mezzacappa that this was asked and answered and asked her not to bring it up at any future Council meetings.

Ms. Mezzacappa again asked about the Quality of Life ordinance. She asked the Solicitor if he had received a letter of threatened legal action if this ordinance is passed.

Solicitor Goudsouzian tried to explain to Ms. Mezzacappa that this ordinance is just a draft. The wording has not been finalized, nor has any decision been made to present the ordinance to Council for passage.

Finally, Ms. Mezzacappa again accused Council President DePaul about lying in regards to the monies spent in 2016. She insisted that Liquid fuels monies spent are spent through the General Fund. Attempts were made to resolve her confusion to no avail.

Engineer’s Report – None

Mayor’s Report –

The Mayor let Council know that he was asked to serve on the Wilson Area School District Hall of Fame Board. The School Board approved the Mayor for a three year term.

The Mayor wanted to inform the Borough Council in regards to The Hubcap Store. The Mayor stated that there are 20,000 used tires in the building and trailers. Mayor Gross said that the DEP is now taking an active role in this matter.

Councilman Dees referenced the letter that Mr. Sefcik provided to the Borough specifying the number of trailers.

Council President DePaul stated that the referenced letter was not part of the Zoning Board decision.

Councilman Thomas Nodoline stated that Council should refer to the stenographers report because Mr. Sefcik said that he would limit the number of trailers on the property.

Solicitor Goudsouzian so that is not necessarily true. It is what the Zoning Board had in its decision that would be binding. Council President DePaul asked if the report from the Zoning Solicitor could be located because that is what both parties would have to abide by.

Mr. Gehman noted that the hearing on the current citations was to be held Thursday, March 23 at 11:00am. (The correct court date was Wednesday, March 22.)

The Mayor also asked the residents in attendance to give the snowplow operators a break during the severe storm expected that night and the next day. He also stated that the snow emergency will remain in effect for as long as it is necessary.

Solicitor's report –

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council established and approved the hiring policies of the Borough Police Department.

Council President DePaul requested a voice vote. Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. Thomas Nodoline – No, Mr. Henry Nodoline – Yes, Mr. DePaul – Yes.

Motion passed 4 – 1 (Dissenting vote Mr. T. Nodoline).

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved to advertise the ordinance for the formation of the Police department.

Council President DePaul requested a voice vote. Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. Thomas Nodoline – No, Mr. Henry Nodoline – Yes, Mr. DePaul – Yes.

Motion passed 4 – 1 (Dissenting vote Mr. T. Nodoline).

Councilman Mr. T. Nodoline asked how much money was budgeted for Codification in the 2017 budget. Mr. Gehman replied that \$10,000 was the budgeted amount.

Office Report –

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved to advertise for bids for the road construction on Seventh Street and the remaining streets in the Borough.

Discussion – Seventh Street is expected to be resurfaced from East Street to Iron Street.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second Mr. Dees; Council approved to hire summer time help and giving first opportunity to Hunter Velecki to fill the position.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved to purchase an additional two cameras, with security boxes.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the travel request for Mr. Lewis to attend a seminar in Fort Washington, PA on Managing a Professional Police Department.

No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved Mr. Lewis to attend the Annual Conference in Hershey, PA.

No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

President's Report –

Council President DePaul stated that the Borough is still waiting for the approval of HUD to proceed with the road work on Second Street.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the Borough Engineer to prepare the specification of the road work once HUD approval is received.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

The Mayor requested that Council looks into any grants available to help Borough residents repair or replace sidewalks and curbs

Mr. Gehman read the resignation letter of Ron Nixon.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the resignation of Ron Nixon, with regret.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

Council President DePaul moved to replace Mr. Nixon with Mr. Mammana.

The Mayor suggested that the vacancy be advertised on the Borough website.

Council President DePaul nominated Pete Mammana to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Lewis nominated Billy Jo (Betty-Jo) Bonners to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Dees proposed that no action be taken tonight and to give others the opportunity to express an interest would be the fair thing to do.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council agreed to table nominations until the next Council meeting.

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

Motion tabled until next meeting. 4 – 1 (Dissenting was Mr. H. Nodoline)

Mr. H. Nodoline spoke up finding it disappointing that Council could not reach a decision tonight on filling the vacant seat. He stated that Pete Mammana is at every Council meeting and knows what is going on in the Borough whereas all the other interested candidates never attend meetings.

Mr. Henry Nodoline stated that he was still in a lot of pain from his surgery and was going to hang-up. Mr. Nodoline discontinued his telephone connection at 7:30 pm.

Policies – None

Round Table – None

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – None

Highway/Property Committee – None

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Council President DePaul scheduled a 10:00 a.m. meeting for the Public Safety Committee for Monday, March 20th.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – None

Utilities Committee – None

Recreation – None

Grants – Councilmen DePaul and Dees drove the borough looking at walks and curbs needing repair. The Grant Committee is trying to find a grant that could help residents, who can't afford to repair or replace sidewalks. It is not a surety, but the Committee is looking at one now.

The Mayor praised the efforts of the Grant Committee to investigate possible grants that could assist in residents to pay for curbs and sidewalks.

There will be a second meeting in March. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 27th at 6:30 p.m.

Old Business – None

New Business –

Mr. Dees suggested that the Borough put into use a SMS Resident Alert System. Councilman Dees stated that Wilson is using a trial version of the system and Tatamy is still using a free version. Mr. Dees recommended "Text Magic." This system would also convert a text message into a voice message if the resident does not have a cellphone. Mr. Dees said the system would cost \$4.00/month and 4 cents/text.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved spending \$100.00 in the future for a 6 month trial period of the Resident Alert System, if Borough residents show interest.

Council President DePaul requested a voice vote. Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. T. Nodoline – No, Mr. DePaul – Yes. Final vote is 3 – 1.

Additional Public Comment –

Jeff Breidinger of Third Street stated that he was interested in the vacant Council seat.

Tricia Mezzacappa of Ridge Street mentioned that she was a resident of the Borough for over 18 years and every week her garbage can ends up at the railroad tracks.

Mr. DePaul stated that he will contact Advanced Disposal regarding trash collection.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council voted to adjourn. Council meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

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