

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON  
COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 27, 2017

**APPROVED**

The second 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, Thomas Nodoline and Bob Lewis. Council member, Paul James was 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: Shawn Sefcik, Pete & Bonnie Mammana, Jim & Elaine Jackovich, Tricia Mezzacappa, Doug Fulmer, Shawn Farullo, Betty Jo Bonners, Virginia Bonners, Don Kerbaugh, Jeff Breidinger, Jr. and Jerry Heebner.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved check #15738 through #15771 from the General Fund Account.

No discussion – Motion passed 5 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved check #2025 from the Sewer Fund Account.

No discussion – Motion passed 5 - 0.

Council President Dan DePaul mentioned that Ron Nixon resigned at the previous meeting. Mr. DePaul said the Borough received four letters of intent from interested residents. The residents were Betty-Jo Bonners, Desiree Lake, Jeff Breidinger and Pete Mammana.

Council President DePaul asked Betty-Jo Bonner why she wanted to be on Council. Ms. Bonner stated that she would like to see the Borough run like it used to be and not give the appearance of being corrupt. She also said to keep things simple.

Council President DePaul remarked that he took offense to her comment about the current council being "corrupt." Mr. Dees asked Ms. Bonner how far in the past did she want to go?

Desiree Lake told Council that she had been a resident since 1991. She has previously held positions on the zoning board including the chair and on the Lehigh Valley Business Council. Ms. Lake also stated that she has previously run for Council.

Mr. Dees asked Ms. Lake as to why she is interested in the seat. Ms. Lake responded her workload has recently lessened and some of the issues she has a personal interest.

Jeff Breidinger was the third candidate who spoke. Mr. Breidinger stated that his grandparents and parents live in the Borough and he has grown up in the Borough. Mr. Breidinger also stated that he is the Borough representative to the Wilson Recreation Board.

Mr. Dees thanked Mr. Breidinger for stepping up to represent the Borough and become the first voting member of the Recreation Board. Council President DePaul mentioned that prior to 2016 the Borough did not have a vote on the Board even though the Borough made a yearly donation.

Mayor Gross stated that he was the first member of the Wilson Recreation Board when he coached the first girl's basketball team. Mr. DePaul asked the Mayor if he had a vote. The Mayor replied, "no."

The final candidate was Pete Mammana. Mr. Mammana was asked the same question. Mr. Mammana replied he wanted to see the formation of the part-time police department, continue to have a balanced budget and to keep tax rates low.

Mr. Dees thanked all the applicants.

Council President DePaul opened the nominations for the seat formerly held by Mr. Nixon. Mr. Lewis nominated Jeff Breidinger, Henry Nodoline nominated Pete Mammana and Thomas Nodoline nominated Betty-Jo Bonner.

Council President DePaul closed the nominations.

The first vote was for Jeff Breidinger to fill the vacant seat. Council President DePaul asked for a voice vote. Mr. Dees – No, Mr. H. Nodoline – No, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. T. Nodoline – No, Mr. DePaul – No. Final vote 1 – Yes, 4 – No.

The second vote was for Pete Mammana to fill the Council seat. Council President asked for a voice vote. Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. H. Nodoline – Yes, Mr. Lewis – No, Mr. T. Nodoline – No. Mr. DePaul – Yes. Final vote 3 – Yes, 2 – No.

No vote was needed for Bette-Jo Bonner.

Mayor Gross swore in Mr. Mammana. Mr. Mammana took his seat at the Council table.

## **Council President Report –**

Council President DePaul had three topics to discuss. The first topic was refuse collection by Advanced Disposal. Mr. DePaul has made Advanced Disposal aware that collection is not to start before 6 p.m. in the Borough. He also noted that he again asked Advanced Disposal that garbage cans be placed on the sidewalk upside down. Mr. DePaul noted that the last several collection days have been extremely windy.

Mayor Gross added the residents should police the area around the property and keep it clean. Mayor Gross stated that Advanced Disposal has done a pretty good job.

Mr. DePaul passed on to Grant Committee Chair, Mr. Dees the letter he received giving the go ahead with the 2016 CDBG grant.

The final topic was the 2016 Budget. Council President DePaul, using the white board explained the results of the 2016 audit and budget versus actual expenditures.

Council President DePaul asked for nominations to fill the Vice-President position on Council. Mr. DePaul opened nominations and nominated Henry Nodoline and Tom Nodoline nominated Bob Lewis. Council President closed the nominations

The first vote was for Mr. Henry Nodoline for Council Vice-President. Mr. Dees – No, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. T. Nodoline – No, Mr. H. Nodoline – Yes, Mr. DePaul – Yes. Final vote was 4 – 2. Mr. Henry Nodoline is Council Vice President.

No vote was needed for Mr. Lewis.

## **Guest –**

Mr. Shawn Sefcik the owner of The Hubcap Store asked to speak to Council regarding the recent code violations and related issues with the Borough. Mr. Sefcik stated that he can only be responsible for his business and not that of his father and sister. He mentioned that the automobile accessories are allowed by code and are part of his business. He also said that most of the trailers parked on the property are his father's business.

Mr. Sefcik was not aware that his sister was denied a zoning variance last summer and her business should have stopped at that time or she should have pursued a zoning hearing for a variance.

Mayor Gross told Mr. Sefick that the Borough's Fire Chief has involved the Department of Environmental Protection. The Mayor is concerned with the large number of tires that are stored on the property and the number of trailers on the property. He mentioned his concern that if a fire would occur, there was no way the Fire

Company could fight a fire. The Mayor said with all the trailers on the property it limits the ability to access the building.

Mr. Sefcik promised to take action. The Mayor was hesitant to take Mr. Sefcik at his word and asked him to provide a time table on the cleanup.

Council President DePaul suggested that Mr. Sefcik read the zoning hearing decision and get the property cleared.

### **Public Comment –**

Tricia Mezzacappa of Ridge Street offered her services to Council rather than having the Borough Solicitor research matters regarding PA State Constables. She stated that she took classes and can answer questions that the Council would have. Ms. Mezzacappa also read a 2013 court opinion.

Secondly, Ms. Mezzacappa again questioned the 2016 budget and insisted that the Borough overspent their budgeted amount even though her opinion was contrary to the Audit report.

Ms. Mezzacappa directed her comment to Council President, "the budget is not an open wallet to stroke your ego." She continued, "she has never seen spending like this in her life over the 18 years."

Council President DePaul asked if she was complaining about spending money to repair roads that were never repaired in over six years. Ms. Mezzacappa agreed.

Ms. Mezzacappa replied that the Second Street residents should spend their own money and take care of their own properties. The Borough is going to be receiving grant money for a problem that doesn't even exist. Ms. Mezzacappa continued that let's see how much money we spend on Engineering fees for the project, like \$20,000.

Council President DePaul asked Ms. Mezzacappa if her property was consistently flooded by rains if she would come down to the Borough office and say something.

Mr. H. Nodoline left the Council meeting at 7:25pm.

Jeff Breidinger, the West Easton Borough representative for the Wilson Recreation Board, presented a report to Council on the activities of the Board. Mr. Breidinger gave details of the upcoming Warrior Weekend which will be held on Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 11am. He mentioned that if the one day event is received well by the community they have plans to extend it over an entire weekend next year.

Mr. Breidinger told Council that the T-ball season starts on April 1<sup>st</sup> and would extend to September 30<sup>th</sup>. He also asked for a Certificate of Insurance be provided to the Board for the ballfield.

**Engineer's Report – None**

**Mayor's Report – None**

**Solicitor's report – None**

**Office Report –**

Mr. Gehman reported that Liquid Fuels, Capital Reserve, Escrow and Community Activities funds were never incorporated into the Borough's computer system until 2016.

Council President DePaul mentioned that part of the Solicitors expenses were bills that were paid to the former Solicitor for work done in 2015. He also mentioned that there were outstanding Engineering bills from 2013, 2014 and 2015 that were paid in 2016.

Mayor Gross stated that in years past there was a 7 year plan in the budget for doing road repairs which was abandoned a few years ago.

Council President DePaul stated that Council plans to complete all the streets between this year and 2018.

**Policies – None**

**Round Table –**

Councilman Dees asked if the plaque was ordered for Mr. Niko. Ms. Heebner answered yes the plaque will be ready for the dedication.

**Committee Reports –**

Finance Committee – Mr. Lewis scheduled a meeting for the Finance Committee for Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

Highway/Property Committee – None

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Council President DePaul scheduled a Public Safety Committee meeting for Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – Mr. Lewis asked that a LNC Committee meeting would follow the Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.

Utilities Committee – None

Recreation – None

Grants – Committee chair, Mr. Dees scheduled a meeting for the Grant Committee for Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am.

Mr. Dees stated that after reviewing the grants that are currently available there are no grants available for sidewalks. Mr. Dees said that the Borough might have to be broken up into “neighborhoods” and then apply for a grant for sidewalks in that particular area of the Borough.

**Old Business –**

Mr. Dees commented on a statement made by Tricia Mezzacappa on February 13, 2017. Mr. Dees stated that he is not the owner of HostGator and that the company is valued at \$225 million. Mr. Dees said that he would not receive income from the ads that would be placed on the Borough website. Ads through “Google Adscense,” are the only type of website ads that someone would derive income from clicking on the advertisement.

Mr. Dees also relayed that he was not paid for the website but was reimbursed for his expenses in creating the website which he paid with his credit card.

**New Business –**

Council President DePaul said with Mr. Mammana now being on Council a replacement would be needed for the Vacancy Chair.

**Additional Public Comment – None**

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

Motioned passed 5 – 0. Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm

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

***"About this advertising on the Borough website, Dan. If somebody advertises that's one thing. If somebody clicks on the ad, revenue goes back to HostGator, which is owned by Councilman Dees." ~ Tricia Mezzacappa, addressing Council President Dan DePaul during "Public Comments" at West Easton Council Meeting of 2/13/17***

## **Revenue**

Only ads provided by Google AdSense reward website owners, in the form of pocket change amounts, for simply "clicking" an advertisement. Google AdSense requires an account to be opened with them to install the coding necessary to display these types of advertisements. I installed no Google AdSense coding on the Borough website – at no charge to the Borough for my service - and no such coding has ever existed on the website.

West Easton will charge a flat yearly rate for displaying advertisements to local businesses that wish to advertise. Any links associated with the ads will direct the visitor to the advertiser's website (if they have a website and provide a link for West Easton to include). No additional revenue is generated for "clicking" their ads.

## **HostGator.com (Hostserver) Ownership**

HostGator was founded in October 2002 by Brent Oxley, who was then a student at Florida Atlantic University. By 2006, HostGator had passed the 200,000 mark in registered domains.

In 2007, the company moved from the original office in Boca Raton, Florida to a new 20,000 square building in Houston, Texas.

In 2008, Inc. Magazine ranked HostGator in its list of fastest growing companies at 21 in the United States and 1 in the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, Texas area. In 2010 an office was added in Austin, Texas. In 2011, HostGator started operations in India with its office in Nashik, Maharashtra and a data center.

On 21 June 2012, CEO and founder Brent Oxley announced the sale of HostGator to Endurance International Group, HostGator was sold to Endurance International Group for \$225 million. .

As of 2013, HostGator hosts over 9 million domains and has over 400,000 customers.

**Submitted By Councilman Matthew A. Dees, for the record. To be attached to the Council Meeting Minutes of 3/27/17**