

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 10, 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 Henry Nodoline, Matthew Dees, Thomas Nodoline, Bob Lewis, Pete Mammanna and Paul James. Mayor, Gerald Gross; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; and Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman were present. Members of the public in attendance: Bonnie Mammanna, Jeff Briedinger, Jr., George & Kelly Illick, Leon Stull, Trude Hargraves, Bruce Walter, Nancy Stout, Clay Brown, David Bogusky, John & Stacy Agosta, Wayne Deemer and Jerry Heebner.

Upon motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved check #15772 through #15793 from the General Fund Account.

Discussion – Mr. Dees asked about check #15774. Mr. Gehman replied that it was a refund of a duplicate tax payment.

Motion passed 7 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved check #2026 through #2028 from the Sewer Fund Account.

No discussion – Motion passed 7 - 0.

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

No discussion – Motion passed 7 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. James; Council approved the minutes from the March 13, 2017 meeting.

No discussion – Motion passed 7 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. H. Nodoline; Council approved the minutes from March 27, 2017 meeting with corrections.

Discussion – Mr. Dees asked to have Shawn Sefcik added to members of the public in attendance. Mr. Dees also mentioned the corrected spelling for “Google Adsense.”

Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. James, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the Treasurer’s Report for March 2017.

No discussion – Motion passed 7 – 0.

Guests –

Wayne Deemer of the Wilson Recreation Board requested permission for the use of the ball field at Gerald W. Gross Community Park.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved the Wilson Recreation Board use of the ball field at Gerald W. Gross Community Park.

Discussion – Mr. Dees asked if any work had to be done to the field for it to be ready for use. Mr. Deemer replied no. Mr. James asked if Mr. Deemer needed keys to the bathrooms. Mr. Deemer replied that he already had the keys and will keep the bathroom locked when not use.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

Jeff Breidinger, Jr. the Borough’s representative on the Wilson Recreation Board, asked if the Borough’s insurance covered the bleachers that were placed on the field by the Wilson Recreation Board. Mr. Breidinger stated there was no official meeting when the Board last met but he plans to ask the Board “how many children from West Easton” participate in the programs. Mr. Breidinger noted that the Board was in the process of eliminating a supplemental insurance and expanding their blanket coverage to save money.

Public Comment –

Leon Stull of Second Street commented that the Borough streets have as many cracks in them as they did prior to the road work that was done 2016.

Borough Manager, Ms. Heebner stated that the cracks should reseal once we get into warmer weather.

Mr. Stull told Council that there is a large crack on Fifth Street between Iron and Keystone. Mayor Gross agreed with Mr. Stull and stated that it was about 50 - 70 feet vertical crack long the front of Dubs.

Council President DePaul suggested contacting AMS and having them come to the Borough and inspect the streets with the Property Committee and ask them their opinion on the existing cracks. Mayor Gross wanted AMS to address Council and explain why these cracks exist.

Councilman Dees stated that the Council did not expect the streets to be perfect but the work done would extend the life of the streets and reduce issues with potholes.

George Illick of Second Street spoke to Council about the flooding waters on Second Street when there are rain storms. Mr. Illick told Council that several years ago streets were reconfigured and since that time they have received more water during storms. Normal corners are bad enough but the handicap corners were far worse with water runoff. Mr. Illick is concerned that someone is going to fall due to the standing water especially during the wintertime when it freezes. He has salted, swept and shoveled to try and keep his sidewalks clear during the winter months.

Engineer's Report –

Ms. Heebner relayed a message from the Engineers that PA One Call was delayed by one week due to the recent poor weather conditions in marking the streets so that the surveying could begin.

Mayor's Report –

Mayor Gross stated that the Borough received a compulsory letter from Calpine Corporation. The letter that the Borough receives annually lists any hazardous materials that the company uses in case of flooding because the company is located upriver from the Borough. The Mayor indicated that the Borough has been receiving these letters since 1989.

Secondly, the Mayor expressed his concern to Council that before they pass the new Quality of Life ordinance, they review the existing ordinance on nuisances. The Mayor referred to Ordinance #338. The Mayor stated this ordinance defines condition of properties, defines nuisances, abatement and penalty review. Mayor Gross said that this ordinance can be used to send letters out to residents, who are in violation.

Council President DePaul stated the Borough office already references the ordinance when sending out letters to the resident.

Finally, the Mayor read a proclamation claiming Friday, April 21 as PowerTalk21 ® Day started by Mothers Against Drunk Driving for the discussion of underage drinking.

Solicitor's report –

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated he had two items for discussion both could be held for Executive session.

Office Report –

The only bid received for the road project in the Borough was opened. Asphalt Maintenance Solutions submitted a bid for \$110,657.95 for the entire project. The project includes the resurfacing of Seventh Street from East Street to Iron Street and the remaining streets on the North side of the Borough.

Council President DePaul closed the bids.

Council postponed the vote to approve the bid until the next meeting.

Ms. Heebner told the Borough Council that the Borough Fire Chief would like to have the Fire Code updated.

Mr. Goudsouzian agreed that the fire/building codes need to be updated to the most current. He stated the 2015 version is the most recent and he also commented that the updated be worded so that the most recent version be adopted automatically.

Ms. Heebner also stated the Fire Chief would also like to have rental units be inspected when they turnover or at least every 3 years.

Ms. Heebner asked if the Summer Help would be discussed during Executive Session.

Mr. Gehman brought to the attention of Council an issue between neighbors concerning alleyways again. He explained that everyone that lives on the alley has the right to use it and the entrance way cannot be blocked. Council President DePaul said he would speak to the neighbor.

Mr. Gehman gave Council bank CD rates from area banks. The best rate offered was by First Commonwealth Credit Union 1.1% for 11 months.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. James; Council approved taking \$250,000 from the Merchants Bank Real Estate Tax Fund and create a First Commonwealth Certificate of Deposit for 11 months at 1.10%.

Motion passed 7-0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved moving \$100,000 from the Merchants Bank Sewer Fund and create a First Commonwealth CD for 11 months at 1.10%

Motion passed 7-0.

President's Report –

Council President DePaul stated that Council needed to fill the position of Chair for the Vacancy Board. Jeff Breidinger, Jr. volunteered for the position.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. H. Nodoline, Council approved Jeff Breidinger, Jr.

Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Dees asked if the egg hunt was going to take place along with the park dedications.

Ms. Heebner replied that there was more than 20 children signed up for the egg hunt and it will follow the dedication of the Gerald W. Gross Park.

Council President asked Wayne Deemer, of the Wilson Recreation Board, if a schedule of games could be supplied to the Borough office.

Ms. Heebner commented that the Borough office has everything it needs relating to the insurance coverage for the ballfield.

Policies – None

Round Table – None

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – None

Highway/Property Committee – None

Mayor Gross mentioned “Image is everything.” The mayor stated that the Borough should “upgrade” the lawn at the Borough building. The Mayor offered to volunteer and handle the undertaking. The Mayor stated it would be a three step program.

Ms. Heebner asked what he was volunteering to do?

The Mayor offered to provide free fertilizer, seeding and top dressing for the lawn. He also stated that the top soil that was used last year wasn't good soil. The top soil wasn't sifted and it wasn't fine. He recommended that the Borough purchase sifted top soil to level out the lawn.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Council President DePaul scheduled a 10:00 a.m. meeting for the Public Safety Committee for Tuesday, April 11th.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – Committee chairman, Paul James scheduled a 6:00 p.m. meeting for Thursday, April 20th. Mr. James also stated that since the last Council meeting the committee has been working on opening the newsletter and website for advertising and secondly, reviewing the new Quality of Life ordinance.

Size	Newsletter	Website	Combination
1/8 page	\$20/yr	\$40/yr (300 x 60 pixels)	\$50/yr
1/4 page	\$35/yr	\$70/yr (300 x 120 pixels)	\$85/yr
1/2 page	\$65/yr	\$125/yr (300 x 240 pixels)	\$150/yr
Full page	\$100/yr		

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved the recommended advertising rates set forth.

Discussion – Mr. Dees clarified the size of advertisements for the website. Mr. James amended the motion to clarify the size of the ads on the website.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

Utilities Committee – Committee chairperson, Pete Mammana provided with the breakdown of what the Borough is paying to the Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority

Debt service – payments of \$18,749.18 (May, November)
Operating – payments of \$20,481.64 (January, April, July, October)

The total amount of payments is \$119,424,92

Recreation – None

Grants – None

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Additional Public Comment –

Clay Brown of Second Street asked what was going on with the work to be done on Second Street.

Mr. Gehman and Ms. Heebner both replied to Mr. Brown stating that the work is going to be done but with the poor weather, surveying was delayed.

Council President DePaul stated that the engineer will need to develop the specifications for the bid and then report to Council.

Mr. Dees said that the residents' concerns would need to be discussed with the Engineer. Mr. Dees also mentioned that the Borough has received a grant and the work will be done to resolve the residents' problems with water runoff.

Mr. H. Nodoline said that all the water from Second and Third Streets in Wilson all flows into the West Easton Borough.

The Mayor stated that the problem begins on Iron Street in Wilson Borough and the intersections need to be redefined.

Bruce Walter of Ninth Street asked for an update on the installation of the street lights.

Ms. Heebner told Mr. Walter we are on the list for installation but no date as of now.

Kelly Illick asked if the speed limit on Keystone could be reduced. She has noticed that motorists are consistently exceeding the speed limit and many do not stop at the intersections posted with stop signs. They fear a child on a bicycle could be hit.

Trude Hargraves inquired as to why the LANTA bus service was discontinued in the Borough.

Mr. Dees replied that there wasn't enough business/use to continue it.

Council President DePaul asked if a letter could be sent to the West Easton Treatment Center to find out the number of people that use the bus.

Jeff Breidinger, Jr. asked if there was a fee to use the park or facilities.

Ms. Heebner stated there used to be a fee to use the pavilion before it was enclosed.

Mr. Breidinger also asked if there are any guidelines for use of the park.

Mr. DePaul stated there is a sign at the park stating the regulations.

Mayor Gross and Councilman Tom Nodoline left at 7:50 p.m.

Council entered Executive Session at 7:54 p.m.

Councilman Robert Lewis left at 8:02 during the Executive Session.

Council exited Executive Session at 8:17 p.m.

Upon motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, second by Mr. Mammana; Council approved to pay Hunter Velekei, \$11.00/hour for summer help.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. H. Nodoline,

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. H. Nodoline; Council voted to adjourn. Council meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

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