

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 8, 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, Pete Mammana and Paul James were present. Bob Lewis was available by telephone. 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 Mammana, Leon Stull, Trude Hargraves, David Bogusky, Kevin Christie and Jerry Heebner.

Upon motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved check #15821 through #15841 from the General Fund Account.

No discussion – Motion passed 7 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. James, second by Mr. Mammana; Council approved check #2029 from the Sewer Fund Account.

No discussion – Motion passed 7 - 0.

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

No discussion – Motion passed 7 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. James; Council approved the minutes from the April 10, 2017 meeting.

No discussion – Motion passed 7 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved the minutes from April 24, 2017 meeting.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. James, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved the Treasurer's Report for April 2017.

No discussion – Motion passed 7 – 0.

Guests –

Mr. Terry Crouthamel of Asphalt Maintenance Solutions provided a presentation to Council and the public in attendance in regards to the work done in the Borough last summer. Mr. Crouthamel answered questions and concerns about the quality of work done and the condition of our roads. Mr. Crouthamel stated the Borough saved many of the roads by doing the work last year and he estimated that the work done would extend the life of the roads another 5 – 7 years.

Mr. Lewis disconnected his call at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment –

Trude Hargraves of Second Street asked Council if the issues with Tricia Mezzacappa had been resolved.

Solicitor Goudsouzian told Ms. Hargraves that it has not been resolved. The Solicitor said that Ms. Mezzacappa has appealed the judge's decision and we are awaiting a decision on the appeal.

Engineer's Report –

Doug Brown of Barry Isett and Associates was on hand to discuss the Second Street project. Mr. Brown told Council that Second Street has been surveyed and the plans are in progress.

Council President DePaul asked Mr. Brown if the handicap ramps will need to be re-installed/relocated. Mr. Brown made the comment that a final decision has not been made.

Mayor Gross stated that the water flow originates above Iron Street in Wilson Borough. Iron Street has five catch basins which could easily handle the water if it was diverted down Iron Street.

Solicitor Goudsouzian said moving forward he would prepare the necessary legal documents once the final plans are in place.

Mr. Brown was asked when he anticipated final plans. Mr. Brown said he hopes to have them in three to four weeks. He hoped the final plans would be available for the next Council meeting.

Mayor's Report –

Mayor Gross brought to the attention of Council that tractor trailers making deliveries to the Fire Company Social quarters and Dub's are using Fifth Street and Sixth Street rather than using Seventh Street and turning onto Keystone Street. The Mayor mentioned that the borough streets are not built to withstand the weight of these trucks. He asked if the office could send out letters to the Fire Company and to Dub's to have them ask their delivery people use Seventh to Keystone.

Mayor Gross asked Council what is the status of the Police department. Is it moving forward?

Council President DePaul stated that the Borough is waiting to have the ordinances to formally start a police department and to hire a police chief advertised.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. James; Council approved to advertise the ordinances for forming a Police Department and also hiring a Police Chief.

No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Mayor Gross made the comment that the Council had a five year plan for the streets.

Council President DePaul stated the he hopes that all the roads will be done by the end of 2018 and then a five or seven year plan will be put in place to maintain the Borough's roads.

Solicitor's report –

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that he met with the Fire Chief in regards to updating the Fire Code. Solicitor Goudsouzian plans to have the resolution ready for the next Council meeting.

Office Report –

Ms. Heebner stated that UGI will be digging up Spring Street to replace the gas main beginning June 5th. The work is expected to last until July 21st.

Mayor Gross questioned as to why now, after the road was resurfaced last year.

Ms. Heebner told Council that Pete Rossi has not turned any bills into the Borough for payment as a consultant. He has "donated" his time and experience to get things done.

Ms. Heebner informed Council that on May 1st, Deanne Werkheiser, the Borough Secretary of Tatamy, contacted the Borough in regards to money available for open spaces. Ms. Werkheiser recently met with a county representative and knowing the condition that the Borough was left in asked if West Easton had monies available.

Ms. Werkheiser told us the Borough had \$21,109.38 still available for use but lost an additional \$20,000. Ms. Heebner stated that the Borough is entitled to recoup some of the monies spent since March 2013.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Mammana; Council approved sending Deanne Werkheiser a thank you letter.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

President's Report – None

Policies – None

Round Table –

The Borough was notified of a meeting for the Delaware & Lehigh Trial Alliance on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at the Northampton Borough Administration building.

Council President DePaul along with Council members, Mr. Dees, Mr. James and Mr. T. Nodoline indicated that they would be attending.

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – None

Highway/Property Committee – Committee chair, Mr. H. Nodoline noted that he has seen numerous trees and limbs that are hanging over sidewalks that need to be cut back. Mr. H. Nodoline said that residents on Seventh Street also need to repair or replace their sidewalks and curbs.

Mr. H. Nodoline scheduled a Property Committee meeting for Thursday, May 18 at 9:00 a.m.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Council President DePaul scheduled a 5:00 p.m. meeting for the Public Safety Committee for Thursday, May 18.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – Committee chairman, Paul James scheduled a 7:00 p.m. meeting for Thursday, May 18.

Utilities Committee – Committee chairperson, Pete Mammana scheduled a meeting for the Utilities Committee for Thursday, May 18th at 6:30 p.m.

Recreation – None

Grants – Committee chairman, Mr. Dees stated that the grant for the Public Works building was denied. He expects another round of grants that can be applied for the building will come due in July.

Mr. Dees also mentioned that the only grants available at this time are related to the Fire Company.

Sealing the basketball court is a possibility to use some of the open spaces monies that are still available.

Old Business –

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. H. Nodoline; Council rescinded the authorization for the engineer from Barry Isett & Associates to inspect the Borough Municipal roof.

No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. H. Nodoline; Council approved to get at least three estimates from certified roofing contractors for the Borough Municipal building roof.

No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Mr. T. Nodoline asked when the work was done by UGI at 320 East Street. Mr. Gehman stated that he would get back to Mr. Nodoline with the information.

New Business – None

Additional Public Comment – None

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Mammana; Council voted to adjourn. Council meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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