

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 12, 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, Robert Lewis, Pete Mammana and Paul James were present. Henry Nodoline was absent. Mayor, Gerald Gross was absent. Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; and Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman were present. Members of the public in attendance: Bonnie Mammana, Trude Hargraves, Jeff Breidinger, Jr. and Jerry Heebner.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved check #15842 through #15606 from the General Fund Account.

Mr. Dees questioned check #15855 concerning a fence replacement. Mr. Gehman stated that was the fee paid for the code enforcement fee to approve the zoning application. Council President DePaul asked about check # 15859. Mr. Brown from Barry Isett & Associates said it was Engineering fees associated with preparing a grant application.

Motion passed 6 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Mammana; Council approved checks #2031 through #2033 from the Sewer Fund Account.

No discussion – Motion passed 6 - 0.

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

No discussion – Motion passed 6 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. James; Council approved the minutes from the May 8, 2017 meeting.

Mr. Lewis abstained from the vote because he was not present at the Council meeting.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

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

No discussion – Motion passed 6 – 0.

Public Comment –

Jeff Breidinger, Jr. provided a report on the Wilson Recreation Board. Mr. Breidinger told Council that the Warrior Weekend was well attended and raised money for the sports programs. The Wilson Basketball association is now a committee under the Wilson Recreation Board rather than a separate entity. The association will provide monthly and quarterly reports back to the board.

Mr. Breidinger left after giving his report (6:40 p.m.)

Engineer's Report –

Doug Brown of Barry Isett and Associates was on hand to discuss the Second Street project.

Mr. Brown stated that there are three lateral lines; one for gas, a second for water and a third for the sewer. The gas and water lines are approximately 2.5 to 3.5 feet down the sewer line is 5 – 7 feet down. Mr. Brown thought they may need to go as deep as 7 – 10 feet down if they would not hit rock.

Mr. Brown estimated that the project would cost \$125,000. Mr. Brown also stated that the pre-bid period would be a month.

Mr. Dees asked if the dip in Keystone Avenue that was removed a few years ago will be put back into the street. Mr. Brown stated that the plans call for other ways to divert the water.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Mammana; Council approved to advertise the storm sewer project.

Motion approved 6 – 0.

Mayor's Report –

The Mayor asked Borough Manager, Ms. Heebner, to ask Council two items. The first is to advertise and hire an Emergency Management Coordinator. Second, the Mayor asked that the Borough look into having the National Night Out on August 1, 2017.

Solicitor's report –

None.

Office Report –

Borough Manager, Ms. Heebner asked the Borough Council for a resolution allowing the office to pay the Foreign Fire distribution for the state immediately to the Fire Company.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the office staff to pay out the Foreign Fire Insurance received from the state immediately to the Safety First Volunteer Fire Company

No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

President's Report –

Council President DePaul told Council that Mr. Dees, Mr. Mammanna and himself attended a meeting on the D & L Trail (Delaware & Lehigh) in Northampton. Mr. DePaul passed out a pamphlet with information regarding the D & L Trail.

Mr. Dees stated that some of the representatives wanted to walk the trail and also set up a meeting with the Borough officials. Mr. Dees mentioned that they would help us with obtaining grants for trestle repairs and the conversion into a walking trail but the maintenance would then be the responsibility of the Borough.

Policies –

Senior Borough Clerk, Mr. Gehman presented an office policy to be approved. The office staff asked Council members that when attending a conference or any meeting where vendors are on hand, information be obtained from the vendor rather than providing the vendor with the Borough's office number as a contact. Once written information is received it then can be reviewed by the appropriate committee and the office staff.

A motion was made by Mr. Dees; second by Mr. Mammanna to accept the policy.

A discussion on the policy was held. Mr. Lewis recommended that the appropriate committee review the request.

Upon motion by Mr. James; second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved tabling the office policy until the wording is adjusted.

Motion passed 6- 0.

Resolutions –

Councilman Dees presented a motion to have the World War I memorial plate moved from the back of the War Monument to the front. He also asked that the monument going forward be referred to as the War Monument rather than the War World II Monument.

Mr. Dees stated that he and the Borough's Maintenance supervisor, Dane Thatcher looked at the monument prior to the Memorial Day remembrance. He also mentioned that Mr. Thatcher knew of a person who could provide the Borough with a granite block that the World War I plate could be mounted on.

Upon motion by Mr. James; second by Mr. Mammana; Council approved moving the World War I remembrance plate from the back of the monument to the front and going forward referring to the monument as the War Monument.

Discussion – Mr. Lewis asked if this went through Committee because it was the first time he was hearing of it. Mr. Dees replied, "No."

Mr. Depaul requested a voice vote: Mr. James – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. Lewis – No, Mr. T. Nodoline – No, Mr. DePaul – Yes.

Motion passed 4 – 2.

A resolution was presented to Council to support State bill HR 431 which increases the fines for littering in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Upon motion by Mr. James; second by Mr. Mammana; Council approved to support State House Bill HR 431 to increase fines for littering.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

Ordinance –

Ms. Heebner raised the question on the ordinance for the Formation of the West Easton Police Department. Ms. Heebner stated that at a previous meeting Council approved to advertise the ordinance but the actual copy of the ordinance had not been received from the Borough Solicitor. Ms. Heebner is now in receipt of the ordinance.

Mr. Heebner wanted to verify that Council was ready to move forward with the ordinance so that it can now be advertised. Council President agreed that the ordinance can be advertised and will be discussed and voted on at the next meeting.

Solicitor Goudsouzian explained that Ms. Heebner now has a copy of the ordinance that the public can review in the office. The Solicitor also went on to say that the ordinance has the widest language possible so that it does not need to be rewritten in the future if changes are made to the police department.

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated this ordinance does not need to be advertised again as long as something similar is then passed by Council.

Round Table –

Councilman Lewis provided Council with a report about the Annual Boroughs Conference in Hershey, PA held in June. Mr. Lewis provided information on grants that were available to the Borough. Some of the grants were matching grants. Mr. Lewis also attended seminars on personnel, legal, responsibilities of the Borough with MS4 and fraud prevention.

Councilman Mammana brought to Council's attention that the State Police are cracking down on people driving with ear buds. Mr. DePaul stated that the State Police had a recent check point on Adamson Street. He mentioned that the State Police now check your registration paperwork since the state no longer issues a new expiration sticker for your license plate.

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – Mr. Lewis scheduled a Finance Committee meeting for Thursday, June 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Highway/Property Committee – None

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Council President DePaul will set a committee meeting once the ordinance is advertised.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – Committee chairman, Paul James gave a report on the Committee meeting from May 18. He stated that the Committee is looking to use/update the Borough's current ordinance #338.

Mr. James also stated that drones were discussed at the Committee meeting. Solicitor Goudsouzian stated he would look into the matter but his offer was declined due to samples of drone ordinances being available on the internet.

Ms. Heebner offered to do a mass mailing to her contacts to find out how other municipalities are handling this matter.

Mr. James would like to schedule a meeting for the Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee to following the Finance Committee meeting on Thursday, June 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Utilities Committee – Committee chairperson, Pete Mammana, discussed the prior meeting topics. Council President DePaul mentioned that the street lights are being converted to LCD. He has received some positive and negative comments from the residents. Mr. Dees said one resident told him that the light from the LCD bulbs was too centralized and not diffused.

Ms. Heebner stated that Met-Ed was converting lights in the Borough when they have time in their schedule.

Mr. Mammana scheduled a meeting for the Utilities Committee on Tuesday, June 27 at 6:30 p.m.

Recreation – Mr. Dees and Mr. Lewis agreed that the Recreation Committee should meet regarding ‘First Night Out.’ Mr. DePaul stated we need to get the Block Watch up and running again.

Mr. Thomas Nodoline scheduled a meeting for the Recreation Committee for Monday, June 26 at 5:30 p.m.

Grants – None

Old Business –

Councilman Thomas Nodoline asked the Borough Clerk, Mr. Gehman, if the street opening information was available for the work done by UGI last year.

Mr. Gehman replied that he will pull the information on the Street Opening permits and call Mr. Nodoline.

New Business – None

Additional Public Comment – None

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Mammana; Council voted to adjourn. Council meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

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