

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 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. Council President Dan DePaul, Council members Henry Nodoline, Matthew Dees, Thomas Nodoline, Robert Lewis, Pete Mammana and Paul James were present Mayor, Gerald Gross was absent. Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian was absent but Robert Eyer of Goudsouzian & Associates filled in for Mr. Goudsouzian; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman; Borough Maintenance Supervisor, Dane Thatcher were present. Members of the public in attendance: Bonnie Mammana, George & Kelly Illick, Clay Brown, Nancy Stout, Bruce Walter, Leon Stull, Trude Hargraves, Jim & Elaine Jankowich and Jerry Heebner.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved check #15907 through #15966 from the General Fund Account.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. James, second by Mr. Mammana; Council approved checks #2034 through #2035 from the Sewer Fund Account.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 - 0.

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

No discussion. Motion passed 7 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. James, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved the minutes from the June 12, 2017 meeting.

No discussion. Motion passed 7 - 0.

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

No discussion. Motion passed 7 - 0.

Public Comment –

Kelly Illick of Second Street commented that she and her husband told the Borough Council in a previous meeting that the “STOP AHEAD” sign has been missing from in front of their home since Hurricane Sandy. Dane Thatcher stated that the sign was on order.

Engineer’s Report –

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

Mr. Brown stated that the Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 11th at 10 a.m. The Pre-Bid Meeting is open to anyone who wants to attend.

Mayor’s Report –

The Mayor noted that he counted five locations in the Borough that sludge from the garbage truck was left in the streets. He stated that what was left behind smelled badly and needed to be cleaned up by Advanced Disposal. He also stated that it could be a health hazard. The Mayor felt that Advanced Disposal should be put on notice regarding this issue.

The Mayor stated that he would reserve his comments on the police situation until a later date.

Solicitor’s report –

None.

Office Report –

Borough Manager, Ms. Heebner, reminded Council that the updated Fire Ordinance was sent to them via email and needs to be voted on.

The work being done on Spring Street is expected to start at the end of July and will continue for about a month.

The road resurfacing being done by AMS will be done the last week of July.

Attempts to contact the Easton Suburban Water Authority regarding the depth of the water lines were left unreturned.

President's Report –

Council President DePaul discussed the hole that had opened up on Iron Street over the Fourth of July weekend. The hole is temporarily repaired but UGI never answered their emergency number when the hole was discovered. PennDOT was also contacted on the holiday and the hole was reported to them.

Council President opened the floor to additional public comment regarding the formation of the part-time police department.

Trude Hargraves of Second Street asked Council why such an important decision was not put on the ballot so residents could vote on it.

Council President DePaul stated the Borough had its own police department until 1966. Wilson Borough and later the City of Easton provided coverage for the Borough. Since 2011, the State Police has provided coverage.

Mr. DePaul stated that in 2011, Council then increased the millage to 14.2% and the millage remained the same even though no police force was created.

Mr. DePaul mentioned that fireworks were an issue in the Borough over the Fourth of July holiday. He stated that fireworks were being set off until 2:30 a.m. and there were areas in the Borough that they were being set off in the middle of the street.

George Illick of Second Street told Council that he had called 911 between 2 – 2:30 am in regards to an intruder in the alley and no one from the State Police ever came to check out the situation.

Bruce Walter of Ninth Street asked what schedule would the police work or would it be up to the Police Chief.

Mr. DePaul stated that the Borough would have 24/7 coverage. The State Police would provide coverage when the Borough's police are not on duty.

Jim Hudack of East Street asked Mr. DePaul if starting a Police department was "set in stone" or is the idea still up in the air?

Council President DePaul stated that Council has been working on this for about a year. He read a list of items that were necessary for the Borough to complete to be eligible to start their own force. Mr. DePaul also stated that he has received offers of help from the Stockertown, Tatamy and Palmer Police Departments to get the Borough's department up and running.

Mayor Gross stated this Council needs to do this right: find a Chief of Police and prepare an actual and accurate budget. The Mayor also warned about the pending

legislation in Harrisburg requiring municipalities that use the State Police to pay for the coverage.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. H. Nodoline, Council approved Ordinance No. 2017-030 – Establishing the Borough of West Easton Police Force

Council President DePaul requested a voice vote. H. Nodoline – Yes, M. Dees – Yes, T. Nodoline – No, R. Lewis – No, P. Mammana – Yes, P. James – Yes, D. DePaul – Yes. Motion passed 5 – 2.

Policies –

None

Resolutions –

None

Ordinance –

None

Round Table –

None

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – The previous committee meeting was cancelled. Mr. Lewis has scheduled a Finance Committee meeting on Wednesday, July 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Highway/Property Committee – None

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Council President DePaul scheduled a meeting for Thursday, July 13 at 5:00 p.m.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – None

Utilities Committee – Committee chairperson, Pete Mammana, noted the previous meeting was cancelled. No meeting was scheduled.

Recreation – Mr. Lewis stated that the Recreation Committee met. The Committee members felt the “National Night Out” should be handled by the Community Activities Committee.

Grants Committee – Chairman, Mr. Dees, told Council the Committee met with Frank Brooks of Northampton Council in regards to grants.

Mr. Dees scheduled a Grant Committee meeting for Thursday, July 13th at 6 pm.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Additional Public Comment –

Jim Jankowich of Ninth Street asked the status of the conversion of the street lights to LED.

Ms. Heebner replied some of the Borough have been converted and the remaining lights will be scheduled as Met-Ed has time.

Trude Hargraves of Second Street commented on the crack in the street in front of Nancy Stout. The Borough's Maintenance worker, Dane Thatcher, was directed to fill the crack with cold patch to temporarily resolve the problem until the road construction begins.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Mammana; Council voted to adjourn. Council meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

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