

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 24, 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, Robert Lewis, Pete Mammana and Paul James. Council members, Thomas Nodoline and Henry Nodoline were absent. Mayor, Gerald Gross; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian were present; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; and Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman were present. Members of the public in attendance: George & Kelly Illick, Bonnie Mammana, Bruce Walter, Trude Hargraves, Nancy Stout, Leon Stull and Jerry Heebner.

Guests –

Mr. William Bogari, Jr., Fire Chief of the Safety First Volunteer Fire Company was on hand to answer questions regarding the passing of an updated ordinance for the International Fire Code.

Mr. Bogari stated the Borough is currently using the 1987 BOCA fire code. In 2010, Mr. Bogari requested a resolution to update the fire code. The 2010 Council continued using the 1987 BOCA fire code.

Mr. Bogari met with the Borough Solicitor and they worked together to come up with the ordinance that needs to be advertised.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved to advertise the ordinance that will use The International Fire Code.

Discussion – Mayor Gross asked Mr. Bogari who would enforce the updated code. Mr. Bogari replied that our Code officer would provide enforcement and handle follow-up. As of now, inspections cannot be done because the ordinance is not self standing.

Mr. DePaul asked if the new ordinance would provide any more teeth to the situation at the Hubcap Store. Solicitor Goudsouzian replied that the new ordinance would provide for fines up to \$1,000.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved check #15967 through #15989 from the General Fund Account.

No discussion. Motion passed 5 - 0.

Public Comment – None

Engineer's Report –

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

Mr. Brown stated that four bids were received for the Second Street Storm Water Project. Out of the bids received, Mr. Brown recommended to accept the lowest bid by RGC Development. RGC Development's bid was \$103,755.60.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis; second by Mr. Mammana; Council awards the Second Street Storm Water project to RGC Development. The bid amount is \$103,755.60.

Discussion – Mr. Dees asked if the company was local. Mr. Brown replied the company was from Bath.

Mr. Brown stated there could be some unexpected costs such as rock excavation or relocating lateral lines.

Mr. James asked, "How does Council account for differences?" Mr. Brown stated that any changes would have to be voted on and approved by Council.

Mr. DePaul stated that there was significant rock foundation under Second Street.

Mr. Brown requested that RGC Development be given the authorization to proceed. It would take two weeks to have the paperwork processed and contracts signed. The project would be completed by October 5, 2017. Mr. Brown noted unlike last year there is no PennDOT deadline for the completion of this project because no liquid fuels money is being used.

Mr. Brown also commented that the bid included an estimate on pipe needed. If more pipe is required to complete the job it would increase the cost of the project.

Mayor Gross stated that the Borough should take the responsibility of repairing the sidewalks for the greater good.

Mr. Dees asked “If during the dig a sidewalk is damaged who is responsible?” Mr. Brown replied the contractor is responsible for repairs.

Mr. DePaul asked that a representative from Barry Isett & Associates take photographs or video tape Second Street prior to the project beginning.

Finally, Mr. Brown asked Council for the approval of \$6,000.00 in construction observation and contract administration costs based on time and material. He estimated that the project would run six weeks and it would be approximately 20 hours per week.

Upon motion by Mr. James, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved \$6,000.00 for construction observation and contract administration costs.

Discussion – Mr. Dees asked for a clarification on the condition of the sidewalks.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

Christine Mildner of Barry Isett and Associates gave a presentation on MS-4 Permit Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP) for West Easton Borough.

Mayor’s Report –

Mayor Gross commented about having a street sweeper clean the streets. He stated that curb appeal is very important and having the streets swept at least annually would be very important.

The Mayor also asked Council again to advertise and to hire an Emergency Management Coordinator.

Mayor Gross requested a meeting with the Public Safety Committee.

Solicitor’s report –

Solicitor Goudsouzian said the next step to move forward with the Police Department is to approve to advertise the position of Chief of Police

Upon motion by Mr. James, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the Solicitor and Office Staff to place an advertisement for the position of Chief of Police.

No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Office Report –

Borough Manager, Ms. Heebner discussed a letter received from the Safety First Volunteer Fire Company requesting an additional handicap parking space on Sixth Street for people going to events in the banquet hall.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved an additional handicap parking space along Sixth Street.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

The Borough's Senior Clerk, David Gehman, provided some additional information regarding the Revenue and Expense report Council received for the first sixth months of the year.

President's Report –

Council President DePaul reported that Shane Klein took down a tree which had fallen between two cars in the alley behind Spring Street. There was no damage to the cars which haven't been moved for 3 to 6 years.

Policies – None

Resolutions – None

Ordinance – None

Round Table –

Councilman Dees reminded Council members that the discussion of pay raises for the Mayor and Council members was tabled last year until next month's meeting and that Council members should be prepared to vote and if approved, offer recommendations of the amount of a raise.

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – Mr. Lewis scheduled a Finance Committee meeting for Thursday, August 3rd at 6:30 pm.

Highway/Property Committee – None

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Council President DePaul will set a committee meeting for Thursday, August 3rd at 5:30 pm.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – Committee chairman, Paul James scheduled a meeting for Thursday, August 3rd at 7:30 pm. Mr. James mentioned that they will be discussing updating Ordinance #338 and the Quality of Life ordinance.

Utilities Committee – Committee chairperson, Pete Mammana scheduled a committee meeting for Thursday, July 27th at 6:30 pm.

Recreation – None

Grants – Councilman Dees stated that the Grant committee met on July 13th.

Mr. Dees asked the Borough Manager, how much of the grant was left that could still be used for open spaces. Ms. Heebner replied that monies could be spent and 50% would be reimbursed.

Mr. Dees provided suggestions such as a non-denominational winter tree, fencing in a section of the playground for toddlers, replacing the lights at the basketball courts. Borough Manager, Ms. Heebner suggested a gazebo.

The monies from this grant must be used to provide improvement to either a park or open space. Mr. Dees asked that the Recreation committee join with the Grant committee and make recommendations to the full Council.

Mr. Lewis said the Recreation committee thought all the suggestions were good and asked if all are qualified uses for the grant. Mr. Dees replied yes.

Ms. Heebner suggested a gazebo be built at Gerald W. Gross park that could be used or rented out for parties or picnics.

Mr. Dees scheduled the next meeting for the Grant Committee for Thursday, August 3rd at 4:30 pm to discuss a specific use for the remaining grant money to formally present to Council.

Old Business – None

New Business –

Mr. Lewis presented Council with three travel requests for consideration.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Mammana; Council approved to postpone consideration of the travel request to the PSAB Fall Conference until the next Council meeting in August.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. James, second by Mr. Mammana; Council approved Mr. Lewis to travel to the seminars on Municipal Police Departments and Municipal Budgeting.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

Additional Public Comment –

Trude Hargraves of Second Street asked if the Mezzacappa case has been resolved. Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that a motion is being appealed by Mezzacappa.

Leon Stull of Second Street asked Council why he has to be the one to come to the office and tell the office staff about high weeds. Mr. Stull stated that the Borough's maintenance personnel drive around the Borough they should be reporting back to the Office.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council voted to adjourn. Council meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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