

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 14, 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 Matthew Dees, Robert Lewis, Pete Mammana and Paul James were present. Thomas Nodoline arrived late. Henry Nodoline was absent. Mayor, Gerald Gross was absent. Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman; Borough Maintenance Supervisor, Dane Thatcher were present. Members of the public in attendance: Bonnie Mammana, Dhara Kufuor, Jim & Elaine Jankovich, Trude Hargraves, David Bogusky, Drew Zavada, Roger & Holly Christian, Steve Klaver, Patty Nodoline, Lynn Saxe, Tricia Mezzacappa and Jerry Heebner.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved check #15990 through #16017 from the General Fund Account.

No discussion. Motion passed 5 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, second by Mr. Dees; Council approved check #2036 from the Sewer Fund Account.

No discussion. Motion passed 5 - 0.

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

Discussion – Mr. Dees commented on the sale of two zoning books. Mr. Gehman replied both were purchased in the same day.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

*Mr. Thomas Nodoline arrived at 6:37 pm

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

No discussion. Motion passed 6 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis; second by Mr. James; Council approved the minutes from the July 24, 2017 meeting with correction.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

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

No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Public Comment –

Tricia Mezzacappa of Ridge Street. Ms. Mezzacappa asked why there have not been any townhall meetings or notifications in regards to the formation of the Police Department.

Council President replied that the Borough had third party service from 1966 until 2013 when Easton would not renew its contract with the Borough. At that time the Borough was paying Easton \$158,000/yr for police coverage.

Councilman Thomas Nodoline commented that a neighbor of his called 911 and the State Police responded with Easton as a back-up. Mr. Nodoline also agreed that there should be a townhall meeting in regards to the Police Department.

Ms. Mezzacappa asked about Insurance.

Ms. Heebner responded that liability insurance for the Police Department would be approximately \$2,600.00/year.

Mr. DePaul stated that the cost of Worker's Compensation for the year would be \$6,700.00/year and that it would cover up to five part-time police officers.

Mr. Thomas Nodoline spoke with the Stockertown Police Chief. He stated that Stockertown has fewer residents and they write approximately 100 tickets per month. Their legal fees are \$7,000-8,000 per year. He also mentioned that Stockertown voted to disband their police department when they wanted to unionize. They later voted to reformulate the department when the union backed out.

Council President DePaul asked Maintenance Supervisor, Dane Thatcher if he was directed by the former Council to clean out the garage at the Municipal Building to make room for a Police Department. Mr. Thatcher replied, "Absolutely."

Mr. Thomas Nodoline replied, "Dane, you are the worst person to open your mouth."

Ms. Mezzacappa asked if there was a 3 or 5 year plan for the Police Department, cost of insurance, uniforms, firearms, etc.

Councilman Dees made the comment that many municipalities have received grants for police equipment and the Borough hopes to do the same.

Roger Christian of Ridge Street – Mr. Christian asked what the necessity is. What is the proposal for purchasing cars?

Steve Klaver of Fourth Street – Mr. Klaver stated that 20 years ago a similar discussion was had. He mentioned that they had suggested a citizen's patrol as a solution.

Solicitor Goudsouzian mentioned that a purchase of insurance would be necessary. Council President stated that the State Police would still be providing coverage.

Trude Hargraves of Second Street – Ms. Hargraves asked if anyone has approached Williams Township or Glendon to form a regional department. Ms. Hargraves stated she had a personal concern.

The Solicitor responded the expense of a Regional Police Department would be more than a local police department.

Councilman Dees responded that the borough wasn't going to have a Police Chief and 5 officers to start. The plan is to first start with a Police Chief that would make recommendations on equipment. Then hire an officer. Then as necessity demands add another officer and possibly a third.

Ms. Heebner, Borough Manager, stated the Borough can take advantage of grants both State and Federal for purchasing a police car or other equipment.

Jim Hudack of East Street – asked Council to show the public what they have.

Council President stated the Council has done its research before taking on this task.

Councilman Thomas Nodoline stated it is only fair for Council to show the public what they have.

Holly Christian of Ridge Street – Ms. Christian asked if the Borough had a noise ordinance. She stated that someone had called the police regarding excessive noise. An Easton police officer arrived at the call and stated that the Borough had no noise ordinance and they could do nothing.

Council President DePaul responded there is an existing noise ordinance.

Ms. Christian also asked about the proposed Maintenance Building on Ridge Street.

Council President DePaul stated that they plan to build a building but only to use Grant money to do so.

Engineer's Report – None

Mayor's Report – None

Solicitor's report – None

Office Report –

Borough Manager, Ms. Heebner, reported on the construction projects in the Borough. The road work on Seventh Street is scheduled to begin on Monday, August 21. The UGI work on Spring Street continues as does the Storm Sewer Project on Second Street.

Ms. Heebner also mentioned that the Mayor asked about looking into replacing the guardrail along Fourth and East Streets.

President's Report –

Council President DePaul discussed the National Night Out on Tuesday, August 1st. He wanted to thank Joan Heebner, David Gehman, Dane Thatcher and Hunter Velekei for setup and Councilmen, Pete Mammana, Matthew Dees, Robert Lewis and Paul James for attending along with Mayor, Gerald Gross and Trude Hargraves.

Mr. DePaul stated that the hot dogs, soda and ice were donated by the West Easton Fire Company Social Club and the Ladies Auxiliary donated the hot dog rolls. The owners of the West Easton Mart provided a sheet cake and Dhara graciously served cake.

Mr. DePaul stated this is the first National Night Out that was held in 14 years.

Policies – None

Resolutions – None

Ordinance –

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Mammana, Council approved Ordinance 2017-045 – To advertise the position of Chief of Police in the newspaper.

No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Round Table –

Councilman Dees mentioned that the State Police have one car to provide coverage to Glendon, Williams Township and West Easton.

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – Mr. Lewis stated that they are working on breaking out the budget numbers for the Police Department. The Finance Committee scheduled a meeting on Tuesday, August 22 at 6:30 pm and Tuesday, August 29 at 6:30 pm.

Highway/Property Committee – None

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Council President DePaul provided a handout to Council members. He also scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, August 29 at 5:30 pm

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – None

Utilities Committee – Committee chairperson, Pete Mammana, asked to schedule a Committee meeting for Thursday, August 24 at 6:30 pm

Recreation – None

Grants Committee – Chairman, Mr. Dees, stated that the Committee met and discussed recommendations. The Committee recommends a Gazebo at the War Monument property and to use some of the money for the 50/50 grant. Mr. Dees stated that he would like the land around the War Monument become a park for adults.

Old Business –

Councilman Lewis and Dees provided a comprehensive review of the activities during the most recent seminar “Managing a Professional Police Department.

New Business –

Mr. Gehman left at 7:50 pm.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis, Council approved Councilman James to attend the Fall Conference.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

Mr. Dee's submitted his Travel Request for attending the second day of the PA Municipal Legal Update (Police Track) on August 10, 2017. Mr. Dees stated he had an interested in going but was not sure if he could due to prior commitments

Upon motion by Mr. James, second by Mr. Mammana; Council approved to pay Mr. Dees travel request for attending Managing a Profession Police Department

Discussion – Mr. Lewis asked if he would to go then came back it would be OK to pay it? Mr. Lewis stated that we Council approved a travel policy. Mr. Lewis said that Mr. Dees broke the policy. Mr. Dees replied then vote no. Mr. Lewis objected to paying Mr. Dees expenses because it was not approved prior to the event.

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

Motion passed 4 – 2.

Additional Public Comment – None

Upon motion by Mr. Dees; seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council voted to adourn meeting.

Mostion passed 6 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

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