

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 9, 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, Henry Nodoline and Paul James were present. Thomas Nodoline was absent. Mayor, Gerald Gross; Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian of Goudsouzian & Associates; Borough Manager, Joan Heebner; Borough Senior Clerk, David Gehman; and Borough Maintenance Supervisor, Dane Thatcher were present. Members of the public in attendance: Bonnie Mammana, Trude Hargraves, David Bogusky, Drew Zavada, Jim & Elaine Jankowich, Nancy Stout, Clay Brown, Bob Miller and Jerry Heebner.

Mayor Gross recognized Robert Miller of W.C. Miller Hardware and read a Mayoral proclamation acclaiming October 10, 2017 as Robert Miller Day in the Borough of West Easton.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved check #16089 through #16147 from the General Fund Account.

No discussion. Motion passed 6 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. H. Nodoline, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved check #2039 through #2041 from the Sewer Fund Account.

No discussion. Motion passed 6 - 0.

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

No discussion. Motion passed 6 - 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved the minutes from the September 11, 2017 meeting with corrections

No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

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

No discussion. Motion passed 6 – 0.

Public Comment –

Nancy Stout of Second Street – Ms. Stout said “Thank you,” to the Borough Council for the work done on Second Street. She was very pleased with the work done in resolving the water runoff issue.

Trude Hargraves of Second Street – Ms. Hargraves stated there is still problem with flooding on Second Street. During the heavy rain, today, she followed the water flow and found that the water is originating above 23rd Street in Wilson Borough. The water flows down Keystone Street and then down Second Street.

Council President DePaul stated he has witnessed the water flow when the fire hydrant at 23rd and Front Streets was opened.

Mayor Gross suggested that the Borough petition the state and maybe redirect the water flow to be directed down Iron Street catch basins.

Council President DePaul promised to keep an eye on the situation.

Engineer's Report – None

Mayor's Report –

Mayor Gross stated his wife, Gigi, would be available to do her part in the Halloween Parade and also asked Trude Hargraves to assist.

The Mayor would like to have a group photo of the Council taken in November.

Mayor Gross stated that he thinks the Office staff has been doing a good job in handling the day-to-day operations of the Borough.

Solicitor's report – None

Office Report –

Borough Manager, Ms. Heebner, had two resolutions that needed to be approved by Council:

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved Ms. Heebner to submit paperwork for the Open Spaces Grant.

Discussion – Mr. James asked what the total amount was. Ms. Heebner replied that the Borough should receive more than \$6,000.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved to have minute recordings destroyed immediately after the minutes are approved.

Discussion – Mayor Gross suggested that minute recordings be kept at least 30 days. Council President DePaul expressed that recordings be kept longer in case of a legal action.

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that most municipalities agreed that once minutes are approved electronic recordings of the meetings are destroyed.

Council President DePaul requested an amended motion.

Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved to have electronic recordings destroyed no more than 30 days after the approval of meeting minutes.

Council President DePaul asked for a voice vote. Mr. James – Yes, Mr. Dees – Yes, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. H. Nodoline – Yes, Mr. Lewis – No, Mr. DePaul – Yes.

Motion passed 5 – 1.

Borough Clerk, David Gehman, passed out the proposed meeting dates for 2018.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the 2018 meeting dates.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved to advertise the 2018 meeting dates.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

President's Report –

Council President DePaul opened a discussion of the Borough's Travel policy.

Mr. Dees stated that a price per mile must be determined by Council. Mr. H. Nodoline suggested that one of the Borough vehicles be used. Mr. James stated that most companies he has worked for have paid the IRS recommended amount per mile.

Mayor Gross suggested renting a car. Council President DePaul stated that the Borough's account with Enterprise Rent-A-Car has been re-instated and Enterprise currently has a weekend promotion for \$9.99/day and free 100 miles/day.

Council President DePaul suggested to Council that everyone read the policy and be prepared to discuss and approve the new policy.

Policies – None

Resolutions – None

Ordinance – None

Round Table –

Councilman Dees mentioned that the Borough of Emmaus has hired a Code Enforcement Officer to enforce the Borough codes and impose fines.

Solicitor Goudsouzian said to wait to see if the action is upheld or not.

Councilman James said that his wife received a call from her own telephone number. He warned that this is the latest scam in obtaining personal information.

Councilman Lewis wanted to discuss the safety of the Borough vehicles. Mr. Lewis submitted a list of what he felt were safety violations of both vehicles after taking each vehicle to a seminar.

Mr. Lewis stated that there are no sign-in or sign-out sheets used when someone uses a vehicle.

Mr. Lewis stated that he provided a "safety" list to the Borough Manager for the one jeep and recommends that both vehicles be taken out of service until fixed.

Mr. Lewis made a motion to take the vehicles out of service. There was no second to the motion.

Council President DePaul asked the Borough Maintenance Supervisor, Dane Thatcher, if he agreed with Mr. Lewis's suggestion. Mr. Thatcher replied for what he uses the vehicles for in the Borough he has not noticed any of the issues. Mr. Thatcher also stated that he does not drive either vehicle on the highway or travel long distance like Mr. Lewis recently did.

Mr. James asked if the vehicles are inspected. They are. Mr. Mammana asked who inspects the vehicles. Kichline's Garage did the inspections.

Mr. Lewis refuses to use either vehicle when traveling to the Fall Conference.

Mayor Gross suggested that he rent a car.

Mr. Thatcher stated that the "Police" vehicle is the better of the two vehicles.

Mr. Dees took both vehicles for a drive. Mr. Dees stated he had no problems controlling Vehicle 2310. Mr. Dees agrees with Mr. Lewis that a checklist should be used for each vehicle and that Vehicle 2309 should not be used for long trips.

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated you are discussing the difference between using a personal vehicle versus a rental vehicle.

Council President DePaul commented that Mr. Thatcher drives the Borough vehicle daily and Dan took the vehicle on a trip to Doylestown and did not find anything wrong with the vehicle.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana, seconded by Mr. Dees; Council approved to have a mechanic inspect the Vehicles 2310 and prepare an estimate for repairs.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

Mr. Jankowich asked if the one jeep will be used for the Police Department. Council President DePaul answered, "No."

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – Chairperson, Robert Lewis asked to meet every day this week and next week at 6:30 pm. Mr. Lewis also directed a question to Mr. Dees of the Grant Committee for amounts needed for matching grants.

Mr. Lewis explained the time line for the adoption of the 2018 budget.

Highway/Property Committee – Chairperson, Henry Nodoline stated that he will be resigning from Council after the first of the year. He will be moving to Arizona.

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Council President DePaul scheduled a Public Safety/Personnel Committee for Thursday 10:30 am on October 12, 19 and 26.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – Committee chair, Mr. James scheduled a meeting for Friday, October 12 at 7:30 pm

Utilities Committee – Committee chairperson, Pete Mammana, asked to schedule a Committee meeting for Wednesday, November 1 at 6:30 pm. Mr. Mammana also mentioned that he needed to correct the minutes from his previous meeting. The meeting date was September 26 instead of the 20th.

Recreation – None

Grants Committee – Chairman, Mr. Dees, stated he submitted a letter of his own in regards to the Monroe County Casino Grant in hopes to offset the letter from a disgruntled resident trying to kill the grant. Mr. Dees also commented, “There are no other grants being looked at right now.”

Old Business –

Council President DePaul asked Councilman Mammana if he would be able to attend a manatory meeting for the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission on Thursday, October 19th at 3 pm. The meeting is being held at the UGI Auditorium at 2121 City Line Road, Allentown, PA. Mr. Mammana agreed to attend.

Councilman Dees asked about starting the Emergency Alert System. Mr. Dees asked the Borough manager, Ms. Heebner, as to the number of residents that have signed up for the system. Ms. Heebner replied about 100.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded Mr. James; Council approved \$200 to start the Emergency Text Alert System.

Motion passed 6 – 0.

New Business – None

Additional Public Comment

Trude Hargraves of Seconded Street – Asked the Solicitor about to the status of the Borough vs. Tricia Mezzacappa. Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that the briefs are filed and the Appellate Court hearing is scheduled for December 4, 2017.

Ms. Hargraves thanked Mayor Gross for initiating the conversion of the street lights to LED.

Ms. Hargraves also mentioned that she heard a gunshot coming from the east at 7:30 in the morning. She said the gunshot echoed through the neighborhood.

Entered Executive Session – 8:07 pm (for Council only)

Councilman Lewis left at 8:15 pm

Council H. Nodoline left at 8:30 pm

Exited Executive Session – 8:38 pm

Personnel issues were discussed during the executive session. There were no decisions made at this time.

Councilman James stated that the next meeting, Monday, October 23rd was necessary to discuss budget issues.

Mayor Gross told Mr. Thatcher to get 2 or 3 men from the West Easton Treatment Center and clean up the bank at Gerald W. Gross Park. He mentioned the sumac should be cleared about 20 feet up the hill.

Mr. Dees also asked about moving the World War I plaque from the back of the War Monument to a new granite block to be placed in front of the World War II monument.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved spending \$1,875 to relocate the World War I plaque on the War Memorial.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

Upon motion by Mr. James; seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council voted to adjourn meeting.

Motion passed 4 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

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