

BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON  
COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 23, 2017

***APPROVED***

The second 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 and Pete Mammana were present. Paul James called in and was available to cast his vote. Thomas Nodoline and Henry Nodoline were 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, Nancy Stout, Bill Concolino and Jeff Breidinger, Jr.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved check #16148 through #1670 from the General Fund Account.

No discussion. Motion passed 5 - 0.

**Public Comment –**

**Nancy Stout of Second Street –** Ms. Stout asked if deer crossing signs could be posted on Spring Street since she heard a deer was killed at Spring and Iron. She had hoped maybe people would slow down.

**Engineer's Report – None**

**Mayor's Report – Progress**

**Solicitor's report –**

Solicitor Goudsouzian stated that everything went smoothly last year with the transfer of the Nodoline family property on Ridge Street to West Easton and there is really no need for a deed because of eminent domain. The Solicitor could create a Confirmatory deed for the Ridge Street property.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved the Solicitor to create a Confirmatory deed for the Ridge Street property.

Motion approved 5 – 0.

### **Office Report –**

Ms. Heebner reported that the auditor spent two days in the office last week and was very pleased with what she reviewed. She noted the marked improvement over last year. The auditor will be back after the beginning of the year to complete the audit.

### **President's Report –**

Council President DePaul had the black and white jeep (Vehicle 2310) checked over. The mechanic found that the vehicle would need a wheel alignment for \$80. The vehicle could possibly need a tie rod(s) at \$70-80/per tie rod.

Upon motion by Mr. Mammana – Council would approve spending no more than \$400 for repairs to Vehicle 2310 (the black & white Jeep). There was no second.

Mr. Dees suggested that the vehicle be completely gone over and an estimate of repairs be presented to Council at the next meeting.

Council President DePaul discussed two candidates for the Emergency Management Coordinator – Bill Concolino and Desiree Lake.

Bill Concolino was in attendance for the Council meeting. Mr. Concolino provided his background. He was on Borough Council for 7 years and Council President for 2 years. He was with the Fire Company for 8 years, served in the military and was an aide to a State Senator for 5 years.

Council President DePaul asked Mr. Concolino if he would accept the position as Emergency Management Coordinator position. Ms. Lake would be appointed Deputy Coordinator and would fill the position if Mr. Concolino would not be available.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Mammana; Council approved the appointment of William Concolino as the Emergency Management Coordinator and Desiree Lake as Deputy.

No discussion. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Mr. Concolino suggested that the Fire Chief, the Police Chief when appointed and the Emergency Management Coordinator all be part of the Safety Committee.

Mr. Concolino declined the compensation for the position and requests that it be donated to the Fire Company.

Council President DePaul said that Mr. Mammana and he attended a meeting on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at the UGI Auditorium sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Planning

Commission. The meeting attended by municipalities from Lehigh and Northampton Counties was mandatory in the event of Federal funding (FEMA) due to a natural disaster or storm. Only municipalities participating in the Disaster Mitigation will be eligible for the earmarked Federal funds. There will be one meeting a month through December 2018. The next meeting will be November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Policies – None**

**Resolutions – None**

**Ordinance – None**

**Round Table – None**

**Committee Reports –**

Finance Committee – Chairperson, Robert Lewis asked to meet on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm.

Council President DePaul asked if the Finance Committee could meet on Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 pm because he would be unable to make either of the other two meetings.

Upon motion by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. James; Council approved to raise the Mayor's salary, Council President's and Council's salaries by \$300.00.

Discussion – A discussion began and Mr. Lewis withdrew his motion.

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, second by Mr. Lewis; Council approved to raise the Mayor's, Council President's and Council's salaries by <blank.>

Discussion – Mr. Dees explained that every Council member should state the amount they feel the salaries should be increased.

Motion carried 4 – 1. Mr. Lewis was the dissenting vote.

Upon motion by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved to raise the Mayor's salary, Council President's salary and Councilmember's salary by \$300.00

Mr. Dees requested a voice vote. Mr. Dees – No, Mr. Mammana – Yes, Mr. Lewis – Yes, Mr. James – Yes, Mr. DePaul – Yes. Motion carried 4 – 1.

Highway/Property Committee – None

Public Safety/Personnel Committee – Council President DePaul scheduled a Public Safety/Personnel Committee for Tuesday, October 24th at 12 pm.

Legal/Newsletter/Computer Committee – Committee chair, Mr. James deferred any meeting until the 2018 Budget is approved.

Utilities Committee – Committee chairperson, Pete Mammana, asked to reschedule a Committee meeting for Wednesday, November 1 at 6:00 pm.

Recreation – None

Grants Committee – Chairman, Mr. Dees, stated “Nothing to report for grants at this time.”

### **Old Business –**

Mr. Dees asked the status of the situation with the Hubcap Store.

Mayor Gross stated the situation gets worse all the time. It was decided to discuss the situation in Executive Session.

### **New Business – None**

### **Additional Public Comment**

**Trude Hargraves of Second Street** – Wanted to know the status of hiring a Police Chief.

Council President DePaul stated the Borough has received a number of good applications. He hopes that a decision will be made by November 13<sup>th</sup>. Then it will take approximately two weeks to file the necessary paperwork to Harrisburg and receive our ORI number so that the Borough can formally begin our police department.

Ms. Hargraves asked if the gas leak was fixed. Nancy Stout stated that the leak that was detected last week was fixed but there was another leak located at 320 Second Street because the meter was not attached properly. That leak has also now been fixed.

Council President DePaul stated that UGI was asked last year prior to the start of the road resurfacing work if they had planned on doing any work in the Borough. Their response was “no.” Mr. DePaul asked if UGI could be contacted in regards to repaving Spring Street.

Ms. Heebner stated that she has emailed her contact twice with no response.

Mr. Gehman stated that the Borough has another street opening permit which work has not been started.

Ms. Hargraves also commented on MetEd replacing a pole on Second Street. Ms. Stout said the pole has been replaced but MetEd is waiting for RCN and Verizon to move their lines from the old pole.

**Entered Executive Session – 7:16 pm**

**Exited Executive Session – 7:27 pm**

Upon motion by Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Lewis; Council approved to send our Code Enforcement officer to inspect The Hubcap Store and Sunshine Trucking.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

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

Motion passed 5 – 0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

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